



Kurt U. Schaefer

Partner | kurt.schaefer@lathrogpm.com

JEFFERSON CITY

314 E. High Street
Jefferson City, MO 65101

T: 573.761.5008
F: 573.893.5398

Assistant
Tanya Smith
469.983.6024

COLUMBIA

3610 Buttonwood Drive
Suite 200
Columbia, MO 65201

T: 573.886.8997
F: 573.886.8901

PRACTICE AREAS

Government Relations
Local & State Representation
Contaminants & Toxic Tort
Environmental Law
Investigations & White-Collar
Defense
Political Organizations &
Election Law
Health Law
Odor Nuisance

INDUSTRIES

Cannabis
Agribusiness & Food

COURT MEMBERSHIPS

Kurt Schaefer's practice focuses on litigation, environmental, health care, administrative, agricultural, business and public utilities. He has litigated bench and jury trials of all kinds and complexities in numerous circuit and federal courts throughout Missouri and elsewhere. He has briefed and argued over 100 appellate actions before all three districts of the Missouri Court of Appeals and Missouri Supreme Court and handled more than 90 administrative proceedings before various state permitting and licensing agencies and the Missouri Public Service Commission. Kurt routinely organizes and manages trial and other legal teams on such matters as defending toxic torts, prosecuting consumer fraud, and legal and financial business organization.

In addition to his litigation and regulatory legal practice, Kurt is a partner of Lathrop GPM Consulting, a subsidiary of Lathrop GPM LLP that focuses on government affairs and communications.

Kurt formerly served as a State Senator, Assistant Missouri Attorney General, Special Assistant US Attorney, General Counsel and Deputy Director of the Missouri Department of Natural Resources, Special Counsel to the Governor and Special Counsel to the Missouri Department of Agriculture.

Career Highlights

Kurt served two terms as the State Senator for Missouri's 19th Senate District. He was Chairman of the Appropriations Committee for a record six years, each year composing and passing a balanced state budget of approximately \$27 billion. He oversaw every aspect of the State's annual budget including all costs associated with the employment and

- Missouri
- U.S. District Court for the Northern District of Illinois
- U.S. District Court for the Eastern District of Missouri
- U.S. District Court for the Western District of Missouri
- U.S. Court of Appeals for the Eighth Circuit
- U.S. Supreme Court

EDUCATION

Vermont Law School, M.S.L.,
Environmental Law, *magna cum laude*, 1996

Vermont Law School, J.D., 1995

University of Missouri-Columbia,
B.A., 1990

benefits of 55,000 state employees, all operating budgets, program expenditures, grants and other funds for every state agency and all three branches of state government, all state contracts and all state capital improvement and bonding expenditures. He also composed and passed a broad range of legislation and served on numerous standing and interim committees, including the Judiciary Committee. On several occasions, he engaged the rarely used investigative authority of the Senate to uncover government abuse of power and neglect.

As the previous General Counsel and Deputy Director for the Missouri Department of Natural Resources, he was responsible for all legal aspects of a state agency with over 1900 employees, including: litigation, environmental, administrative, employment, personal injury, Sunshine Law, contracts, property and land acquisition, criminal, constitutional law, public information and media communications. He oversaw a legal staff of eight attorneys and investigators, developed policy and legislative initiatives and developed annual operating budgets of approximately \$320 million. He oversaw the emergency response, environmental remediation and cleanup of the destruction caused by AmerenUE's Taum Sauk Reservoir failure in December 2005, and was lead counsel in negotiating settlement for the State's natural resource damages and park restoration of Johnson's Shut-Ins State Park, valued in excess of \$170 million. Furthermore, he served as lead counsel for the department in negotiating state- and federally-required sewer infrastructure capital improvements with the City of Kansas City and the St. Louis Metropolitan Sewer District, valued in excess of \$3 billion and \$4.2 billion, respectively.

As a Special Criminal Prosecutor for the Missouri Attorney General's Office, Kurt worked closely with local elected prosecutors and law enforcement. He successfully prosecuted felonies at the trial and appellate levels, including capital murder, kidnapping, assault, forgery, stealing, worker's compensation fraud and public corruption. He counseled and represented the Missouri State Highway Patrol, Department of Public Safety, Peace Officers Standards and Training Commission, Division of Alcohol and Tobacco Control and Department of Natural Resources in civil litigation in state and federal courts.

Additionally, he was cross designated as Special Assistant United States Attorney for the Eastern District of Missouri for developing and prosecuting federal criminal cases. He was also a key member of the Attorney General's criminal task force for developing state assistance to local governments in addressing high-crime areas of the state.

Events

- State of Litigation Virtual Event Series
Session 1 - Thursday, July 16; Session 2 - Thursday, July 23;
Session 3 - Thursday, July 30
- 2018 Missouri Legislative Forecast Breakfast - Columbia
January 19, 2018

Presentations

- Moderator, "To Quo or Not to Quo? That is the Question," The Federalist Society, Jefferson City Lawyers Chapter, April 13, 2023
- Presenter, "Agricultural Land Foreign Ownership Considerations," Missouri Bankers Association Legal Risk Management Conference, November 2022
- Co-presenter, "2022 Supreme Court Update," The Federalist Society, Jefferson City Lawyers Chapter, September 13, 2022
- Panelist, Legal and Regulatory Considerations, Utilities Technology Council National Broadband Workshop, August 2019
- Moderator, 2017 Springfield Legislative Forecast Breakfast, February 2017
- Panelist, 2016 St. Louis Legislative Forecast Breakfast, February 2016
- Panelist, 2016 Springfield Legislative Forecast Breakfast, January 2016
- Panelist, 2016 Columbia Legislative Forecast Breakfast, January 2016
- Panelist, 2016 Kansas City Legislative Forecast Breakfast, January 2016
- Panelist, 2015 Columbia Legislative Forecast Breakfast, January 2015
- Panelist, 2015 Kansas City Legislative Forecast Breakfast, January 2015

- Panelist, 2014 Kansas City Legislative Forecast Breakfast, January 2014
- Panelist, 2014 Columbia Legislative Forecast Breakfast, January 2014
- Moderator, *Emerging Legal Issues Panel*, Lathrop Gage Agricultural Roundtable, September 2013
- Speaker, Lathrop Gage State of Litigation, June 2013
- Panelist, 2013 Columbia Legislative Forecast Breakfast, February 2013
- Panelist, 2013 Kansas City Legislative Forecast Breakfast, January 2013
- Panelist, 2012 Columbia Legislative Forecast Breakfast, January 2012
- Panelist, 2012 Kansas City Legislative Forecast Breakfast, January 2012
- Panelist, 2011 Columbia Legislative Forecast Breakfast, January 2011
- Panelist, *State of Water in Missouri*, Fifth Annual 2010 Missouri Water Seminar, September 2010
- Panelist, 2010 Kansas City Legislative Forecast Breakfast, January 2010
- Panelist, 2010 Columbia Legislative Forecast Breakfast, January 2010
- Speaker and panelist, Energy Panel on Clean Coal, Missouri Energy Summit, University of Missouri, April 2009

Client Alerts And Blog Posts

- West Virginia v. EPA: Court Determines EPA Regulations Limited Under the Clean Air Act
June 30, 2022
- States Increasingly Considering COVID-19 Liability Protections
March 4, 2021

In The News

- Missouri Lawyers Media Names Partner Kurt Schaefer to The POWER 100 List 2023
January 11, 2023
- Missouri Times Profiles Kurt Schaefer
June 11, 2021

- The Missouri Times: Kurt Schaefer and David Sweeney Appear on TWMP
October 31, 2015
- The Kansas City Star: Uber Benefits from State Bill Sponsored by Kurt Schaefer
March 26, 2015
- Kurt Schaefer Named Influential Lawyer By Missouri Lawyers Weekly
January 17, 2014
- Missouri Ruralist: Jean Paul Bradshaw and Kurt Schaefer Speaking at Swine Institute
October 24, 2011
- Missouri Lawyers Weekly: Jury Rules in Favor of Firm Client in Hog Farm Lawsuit
July 19, 2011
- Trenton Republican-Times: Jury Rules in Favor of Firm Client in Hog Farm Lawsuit
June 24, 2011

News Releases

- Eight Lathrop GPM Attorneys Named Lawyer of the Year, 89 Ranked as The Best Lawyers in America©
August 17, 2023
- Kurt Schaefer Named to 2023 Missouri Power List for Lobbyist Work
January 12, 2023
- Four Attorneys Named to Missouri Top POWER 100 Attorneys List
December 19, 2022
- Two Attorneys Named to Missouri Power List for Environmental and Energy Law
November 29, 2022
- Three Firm Attorneys Named to Missouri Power List for Lobbyist Work
February 1, 2022
- Three Firm Attorneys Named to Missouri Power 30 List for Lobbyist Work
January 28, 2021
- Lathrop GPM Attorneys Named to The Best Lawyers in America©, Lawyer of the Year, and Ones to Watch for 2021
August 20, 2020

- Best Lawyers in America 2020 Names 72 Lathrop Gage Attorneys; 13 Lawyers of the Year
August 15, 2019
- Best Lawyers in America Recognizes 70 Lathrop Gage Attorneys
August 15, 2018
- Best Lawyers in America Recognizes 78 Lathrop Gage Attorneys
August 15, 2017
- Best Lawyers in America Recognizes 78 Lathrop Gage Attorneys
August 16, 2016
- Super Lawyers Recognizes 71 Lathrop Gage Attorneys
October 14, 2013
- 81 Lathrop Gage Attorneys Named “Best Lawyers in America”
August 15, 2013
- Eric Schmitt and Kurt Schaefer Re-Elected to Senate
November 16, 2012
- 75 Lathrop Gage Attorneys Named Missouri & Kansas Super Lawyers
October 15, 2012
- 80 Lathrop Gage Attorneys Named “Best Lawyers in America”
August 22, 2012
- 54 Lathrop Gage Attorneys Named Missouri & Kansas Super Lawyers
November 1, 2011
- Jean Paul Bradshaw and Kurt Schaefer to Speak at Swine Institute
October 24, 2011
- Kurt Schaefer to Receive Legislative Award from The Missouri Bar
August 30, 2011
- Lathrop Gage Legislators Lead Senate Committees
February 28, 2011
- Kurt Schaefer Receives Geyer Public Service Award
January 27, 2011
- Aimee Davenport, Kurt Schaefer Present at 2010 Missouri Water Seminar
September 21, 2010
- Attorney General’s Symposium Hosts Kurt Schaefer on Water Quality Protection
August 19, 2010
- 59 Lathrop Gage Attorneys Named Best Lawyers in America
August 6, 2010

- Kurt Schaefer a Featured Panelist at Midwest Energy & Climate Policy Conference
June 18, 2010
- Missouri Chamber Names Kurt Schaefer Freshman of the Year
November 24, 2009
- 56 Lathrop Gage Attorneys Named Best Lawyers in America
August 3, 2009
- St. Louis Business Journal Honors Kurt Schaefer with 2009 Legislative Award
June 25, 2009
- Three Lathrop Gage Attorneys Successfully Conclude 2008 Election Races
November 5, 2008

Professional Affiliations

- American Bar Association
- Boone County Bar Association
- Cole County Bar Association
- Kansas City Metropolitan Bar Association
- The Missouri Bar
- Springfield Metropolitan Bar Association
- Boone County Energy & Environment Commission, Past Member
- City of Columbia, Missouri Environment and Energy Commission, Past Member
- U.S. Attorney's Office, Environmental Crimes Task Force, Past Member

Community Involvement

- Boy Scouts of America, Great Rivers Council, Board Member
- Missouri Chamber of Commerce and Industry
- The State Historical Society of Missouri, Trustee

Honors

- Selected among *The Best Lawyers in America*®, 2010-2021, 2024
- *Missouri Lawyers Media*, Top 100 POWER List - Lawyer-Lobbyists, 2023
- *Missouri Lawyers Weekly*, The Power List, - Environmental and Energy Law, 2022

- Selected for Missouri *Super Lawyers*, 2011-2014
- Missouri Sheriff's Association Senator of the Year, 2012, 2016
- Missouri Judicial Conference Special Recognition for Support of the Judicial Branch, 2016
- Missouri Policy Council's Family Champion Award, 2015
- Missouri Cattlemen Legislator of the Year, 2015
- Missouri Pork Association Legislator of the Year, 2015
- Missouri State Historical Society Trustees Appreciation Award, 2014
- Missouri Conservation Federation Legislator of the Year, 2014
- Missouri Lawyer's Weekly, Influential Lawyer Award, 2014
- Boys and Girls Club Legislative Award, 2013
- University of Missouri Flagship Council Award, 2012
- Alzheimer's Association Leadership of the Year, 2012
- Missouri Judicial Conference Award, 2010-2011
- Missouri Bar Legislative Award for Outstanding Service to the State, 2010-2011
- Missouri Chamber of Commerce Legislative Spirit of Enterprise Award, 2010
- University of Missouri Geyer Award, 2010
- American Cancer Society Legislator of the Year, 2010
- March of Dimes Legislative Champion Award, 2010
- Missouri Judicial Conference Award for Contribution to the Advancement of Administrative Justice, 2009
- Missouri Chamber of Commerce Freshman of the Year, 2009