



## **KANSAS CITY**

2345 Grand Blvd.  
Suite 2200  
Kansas City, MO 64108

T: 816.460.5710  
F: 816.292.2001

*Assistant*  
Donna Herd  
816.460.5413

## **PRACTICE AREAS**

Litigation & Dispute Resolution  
Class Action  
Product Liability & Tort Litigation

## **INDUSTRIES**

Agribusiness & Food

## **COURT MEMBERSHIPS**

- Missouri
- Kansas
- Texas
- U.S. District Court for the Northern District of Illinois (Trial Bar)
- U.S. District Court for the District of Kansas
- U.S. District Court for the Eastern District of Missouri
- U.S. District Court for the Western District of Missouri

# **J.A. “Jay” Felton**

Partner | [jay.felton@lathropgpm.com](mailto:jay.felton@lathropgpm.com)

Jay Felton has served clients for more than 20 years, providing legal advice that is responsive, strategic and efficient. Jay brings his breadth of skills and experience to every client engagement. He focuses his practice on litigation, representing a number of Fortune 1000 and other fast-growing companies in complex commercial, product liability and class action matters. He also has extensive experience in a wide variety of both internal and external investigations.

A company's legal decisions are, first and foremost, business decisions. That's why Jay works diligently to understand each client's unique people, history, products, processes and markets, as well as the opportunities and threats. In some instances this means visiting clients on his own time, serving on internal client Six Sigma teams, or walking the manufacturing line (or field, or laboratory) to ensure he understands and represents each client in a way that is consistent with its business strategy and core values.

Jay delivers bottom-line value to his clients by using strategies customized to meet their needs. He regularly utilizes lean staffing on his matters, with a dedicated team of associates, paralegals and, when necessary, partners with specialized knowledge to get the job done. He incorporates technology and knowledge-sharing to more effectively and efficiently represent his clients. Furthermore, Jay works with his clients to structure alternative fees arrangements.

Whether creating the opportunity for decisive, favorable dismissal of an opponent's claims or facing a lengthy jury trial, Jay handles multimillion-dollar and "bet the company" matters for his clients, working with them to determine, pursue and achieve their goals.

- U.S. Court of Appeals for the Fourth Circuit
- U.S. Court of Appeals for the Sixth Circuit
- U.S. Court of Appeals for the Eighth Circuit
- U.S. Court of Appeals for the Tenth Circuit
- U.S. Supreme Court

## EDUCATION

University of Virginia School of Law, J.D., 1989

- University of Virginia School of Law, Hardy Cross Dillard Scholar
- *Virginia Journal of International Law*, Notes Editor

University of Missouri-Columbia, B.A., *magna cum laude*, 1986

- Phi Beta Kappa

## CLERKSHIP(s)

Law Clerk to the Honorable John R. Gibson, Circuit Judge, U.S. Court of Appeals for the Eighth Circuit from 1989-1990

Recent examples of Jay's experience include:

- Serving as national panel counsel for product liability and warranty matters for a \$20 billion multinational manufacturer with matters across the United States involving investigations as well as commercial, product liability and class action litigation.
- Representing a multinational manufacturer as national product liability counsel, coordinating defenses of three class action lawsuits and numerous product claims.
- Serving as national panel counsel for a multinational agribusiness, natural resource and manufacturing company for environmental and product liability litigation and incident investigations.
- Serving as national panel counsel for a multinational agribusiness company on product liability, tort and intellectual property litigation and related investigations.

Beyond serving his clients in the courtroom or boardroom, on the factory floor or at the production facility, Jay's connections and contributions to his family, friends and fellow attorneys are driving forces in his life. He enjoys serving as a member of the firm's Executive Committee. Jay is also a fifth-generation farmer and remains actively involved in his family's row crop operation.

## Presentations

- Speaker, "Nuclear Verdicts and Rapid Defense," RIMS Memphis Lunch & Learn, May 10, 2023
- Panelist, "Our Best Investing Ideas for 2022 and Beyond," FARMCON, January 5, 2023
- Panelist, "Top Business Minds, CEOs and Executives Talk Shop," FARMCON, January 16, 2020
- *Blockchain 101*, Maryville, MO, April 2018
- *Attorney-Client Privilege and Attorney Work Product for the In-House Attorney*, Indianapolis, IN, November 2016; Wichita, KS, June 2017
- *Table of Experts: Agribusiness*, Kansas City Business Journal, Kansas City, April 2016
- *Impact of the 2015 Amendments to the Federal Rules of Civil Procedure*, Indianapolis, IN, March 2016

- *Trends in how to Best Utilize Outside Counsel*, Wichita, KS, September 2015
- *Successful Ways to Define Outside Counsel Work Projects*, Inside Counsel SuperConference, Chicago, IL, May 2014
- *Business Succession Planning*, Maryville, MO, April 2014
- *E-discovery Strategy & Tactics*, Indianapolis, IN, November 2013
- *Ag Industry Trends*, Kansas City, MO, September 2013
- *Lathrop Gage's State of Litigation Conference*, Kansas City, KS, June 2013
- *Establishing Value Criteria*, Inside Counsel SuperConference, Chicago, IL, April 2013
- *Attorney-Client Privilege and Attorney Work Product Issues and Recent Developments*, Indianapolis, IN, April 2012
- *Strategies for Effective Internal Investigations*, Kansas City, MO, September 2011
- *Assuring Satisfaction in Litigation*, Association of Corporate Counsel Annual Conference, Boston, October 2009

## Publications

- Co-author, "Convergence from the Inside and Out: Two Veterans Look at an Evolving Trend," *ACC Docket*, June 2015

## Client Alerts And Blog Posts

- Far-Reaching Executive Order Pushes Toward National "Right to Repair"  
July 14, 2021

## In The News

- Agri-Pulse Quotes Jay Felton and Tedrick Housh on Ransomware Attacks Against Ag and Food Companies  
July 14, 2021
- Corporate Counsel Quotes Tedrick Housh and Jay Felton on the Roles of General Counsel in Cybersecurity  
July 14, 2021
- The New Yorker Quotes Jay Felton  
July 17, 2018
- KCBJ: Jay Felton Talks Agribusiness and its Regional Economic Impact  
May 1, 2016

- ACC Docket: Jay Felton Provides Outside Perspective on Convergence  
June 6, 2015
- Drovers Cattle Network: Lathrop Gage Survey Reveals Key Risks and Opportunities in Agribusiness  
December 17, 2013

## News Releases

- Lathrop GPM Attorneys Named 2022 Missouri & Kansas Super Lawyers and Rising Stars  
November 14, 2022
- Six Lathrop GPM Attorneys Named Lawyer of the Year, 95 Ranked as The Best Lawyers in America®  
August 18, 2022
- Chambers USA 2022 Names Lathrop GPM a Top Law Firm, Franchise Group Ranked Nationwide  
June 1, 2022
- Lathrop GPM Partner Jay Felton Named BTI Client Service All-Star  
February 10, 2022
- Missouri & Kansas Super Lawyers Recognizes 30 Lathrop GPM Attorneys  
November 16, 2021
- Seven Lathrop GPM Attorneys Named Lawyer of the Year, 100 Ranked as The Best Lawyers in America®  
August 19, 2021
- Chambers USA 2021 Names Lathrop GPM a Top Law Firm, Franchise Group Ranked Nationwide  
May 20, 2021
- Missouri & Kansas Super Lawyers Recognizes 34 Lathrop GPM Attorneys  
November 16, 2020
- Lathrop GPM Attorneys Named to The Best Lawyers in America®, Lawyer of the Year, and Ones to Watch for 2021  
August 20, 2020
- Chambers USA 2020 Names Lathrop GPM a Top Law Firm, Insurance Recovery Team Earns New Recognition, Franchise Group Ranked Nationwide  
April 23, 2020
- Missouri & Kansas Super Lawyers Recognizes 42 Lathrop Gage Attorneys

November 13, 2019

- Best Lawyers in America 2020 Names 72 Lathrop Gage Attorneys;  
13 Lawyers of the Year  
August 15, 2019
- Lathrop Gage Recognized as a Leading Law Firm by Chambers  
USA  
May 3, 2019
- Super Lawyers Recognizes 47 Lathrop Gage Attorneys in Missouri  
and Kansas  
November 14, 2018
- Best Lawyers in America Recognizes 70 Lathrop Gage Attorneys  
August 15, 2018
- Lathrop Gage Announces 2018 Executive Committee Members  
July 23, 2018
- Lathrop Gage Recognized as a Leading Law Firm by Chambers  
USA  
May 3, 2018
- J.A. "Jay" Felton Recognized by Corporate Counsel with Client  
Choice Award  
February 8, 2018
- Super Lawyers Recognizes 57 Attorneys from Lathrop Gage in  
Missouri and Kansas  
November 9, 2017
- Best Lawyers in America Recognizes 78 Lathrop Gage Attorneys  
August 15, 2017
- Lathrop Gage Recognized as a Leading Law Firm by Chambers  
USA  
June 8, 2017
- Best Lawyers in America Recognizes 78 Lathrop Gage Attorneys  
August 16, 2016
- Lathrop Gage Recognized as a Leading Law Firm by Chambers  
USA  
June 3, 2016
- Chambers USA Recognizes Lathrop Gage as a Leading Law Firm  
May 20, 2015
- Four Lathrop Gage Partners Honored as Best of the Bar  
September 26, 2014
- 54 Lathrop Gage Attorneys Named Missouri & Kansas Super  
Lawyers

November 1, 2011

- 62 Lathrop Gage Attorneys Recognized by Super Lawyers Magazine  
October 13, 2010
- 10 Lathrop Gage Attorneys Named National Finalists for Lawdragon 500 Leading Lawyers in America  
February 12, 2010
- Jay Felton Selected for U.S. Air Force National Security Forum  
May 7, 2008

### Professional Affiliations

- Kansas City Area Development Council, Life Sciences Advisory Council, Chair, 2014-2016; Board of Directors, 2013-2016, 2018-2020
- Missouri Biotechnology Association, Board of Directors, 2006-2012
- University of Missouri, Jefferson Club, Executive Committee, 2004-2010
- University of Missouri Honors College, Adjunct Faculty Member, "Issues for the 21st Century," 1997-2005
- University of Missouri Alumni Association, Executive Board, 2001-2003

### Community Involvement

- Kansas City Area Development Council, Life Sciences Advisory Council, Chair, 2014-2016; Board of Directors, 2013-2016, 2018-2020, 2023
- Aligned, Board of Trustees, 2019-present
- University of Missouri, The Missouri 100, Advisory Board, 2014-present
- Aphasia Hope Foundation, Board of Directors, 2003-present
- Kansas City Sports Commission, Board of Directors, 2008-2018
- Derrick Johnson's Defend the Dream Foundation, Executive Board, 2016-2017
- Boy Scouts of America, Pony Express Council Advisory Board, 1996-2015

### Honors

- Selected among *The Best Lawyers in America*®, 2017-2023

- *Chambers USA: America's Leading Lawyers for Business*, Missouri Litigation, 2015-2022
- "Client Service All-Star," BTI Consulting Group, 2022
- *Missouri & Kansas Super Lawyers*, 2008-2011, 2015-2022
- "Missouri 100," University of Missouri, 2012-2022
- "50 Missourians You Should Know," *Ingram's*, 2020
- Acritas Star Lawyer, 2016-2019
- *Client Choice*™ Award, Missouri Litigation, 2018
- "Business Litigator of the Year - Missouri," *Acquisition International*, 2014
- "Best of the Bar," *Kansas City Business Journal*, 2014
- Industrial College of the Armed Forces, National Security Strategy Exercise, 2009
- U.S. Air Force Air War College, National Security Forum, 2008
- Martindale-Hubbell® "AV Preeminent" Rating