



Matthew A. Walker

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PRACTICE AREAS

Environmental Law

PFAS (per- and polyfluoroalkyl
substances)

Environmental Litigation

Environmental Regulations

Superfund

Environmental Issues in
Transactions

Contaminants & Toxic Tort

Class Action Defense

INDUSTRIES

Manufacturing

Agribusiness & Food

COURT MEMBERSHIPS

- Illinois

EDUCATION

University of Illinois, J.D., *cum
laude*, 2016

Matt Walker's practice includes all areas of environmental law, including litigation, regulatory compliance, and assistance with corporate transactions. He utilizes his background working for environmental regulatory agencies to advise a wide range of clients on environmental matters under federal and state law, and in judicial and administrative forums.

Matt is well-versed in litigation matters involving the core environmental laws, including suits under the Clean Water Act, contaminants and toxic tort, enforcement actions for waste violations and issues surrounding state and federal CERCLA claims. Matt also focuses on monitoring state and federal investigation and regulation of PFAS, and helps businesses develop strategies to adapt to regulatory developments.

Matt's environmental regulatory work has involved handling complex site investigation and remediation projects, Clean Air Act and Clean Water Act permit modifications and compliance counseling and enforcement disputes. Relying on his technical background in environmental science, he works closely with consultants and state and federal government agencies to amicably resolve potential claims. Additionally, he assists buyers, sellers and financial institutions identify risks through environmental due diligence and negotiate contractual protections related to the sale and acquisition of businesses and property in a variety of industries.

Prior to joining Lathrop GPM, Matt served as an Assistant Attorney General with the Environmental Bureau of the Illinois Attorney General's Office, where he litigated matters relating to environmental, land use and energy disputes.

University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign, M.S., Natural Resources and Environmental Science, 2016

University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign, B.S., Natural Resources and Environmental Science, 2013

While in law school, Matt worked as a law clerk at the EPA (Region 5); the Environment and Natural Resources Division, Environmental Crimes Section, U.S. Department of Justice; the Aviation, Environmental, Regulatory and Contracts Division for the City of Chicago Department of Law; and Division of Legal Counsel, Office of Emergency Response of the Illinois Environmental Protection Agency.

Events

- PFAS & Food Packaging – What Franchisors and Restaurant Chains Need to Know
August 10, 2022
- PFAS & Cosmetics – What the Personal Care Products Industry Needs to Know
March 15, 2022
- State of Litigation Virtual Event Series
Session 1 - Wednesday, June 9; Session 2 - Wednesday, June 16;
Session 3 - Wednesday, June 23
- Exploring PFAS in Food
May 5, 2021

Presentations

- Co-presenter, "PFAS Update for the Practitioner: What's in Store for 2023?" Illinois State Bar Association 21st Annual Environmental Law Conference, May 11, 2023
- Presenter, "Environmental Justice: The Federal and State Governments' Renewed Focus and the Regulated Industries' Perspective.," Illinois State Bar Association, June 23, 2021
- Presenter, "PFAS - Emerging Contaminants of Concern," Illinois State Bar Association Environmental Conference, May 13, 2021
- Presenter, "Regulatory and Technical Strategies in Detecting and Quantifying Per- and Polyfluoroalkyl Substances," webinar, May 2020
- Presenter, "The Evolving PFAS Regulatory Landscape, Chicago Bar Association Young Lawyers Division," January 2020
- Presenter, "Environmental Enforcement Trends and Liability," June 2019
- Presenter, "The Evolving PFAS Regulatory Landscape webinar," June 2019

Publications

- Co-author, "State PFAS Requirements for Consumer Products Set to Go Into Effect in 2023 and Beyond," ALM | Law.com, January 27, 2023
- Co-author, "PFAS in Agriculture: What Agri-Business Sector Needs to Know about the Latest Emerging Contaminants," Agricultural Business Council of Kansas City, November 29, 2022
- Co-author, "The PFAS and the Furious: Evaluating EPA's New PFAS Lifetime Health Advisories and Implications for the Future of PFAS Litigation," American Bar Association Section of Environment, Energy & Resources (SEER), September 2022
- Co-author, "Food Packaging Emerges as PFAS Battleground," Food Industry Executive, May 24, 2021
- Co-author, "Illinois Issues One of the Lowest Health Advisory Guidance Levels in the Nation," Illinois State Bar Association Environmental Law Newsletter, March 2021
- Co-author, "What You Need to Know About PFAS Remediation in 2021," Industry Today, January 28, 2021
- Author, "What to Expect from an Illinois Environmental Enforcement Action: A Review Amidst Covid-19 Confusion, The Illinois Manufacturer," November 2020
- Co-author, "No Balance Required: A Review of Injunctive Relief Under the Illinois Environmental Protection Act," Illinois State Bar Association Environmental Law Newsletter, August 2020
- Co-author, "*A Nudge or a Shove: Environmental Federalism and Non-Point Source Pollution*," 28 San Joaquin Agricultural Law Review 1-41 (2019)
- Author, "The Wetter of Two Evils: Evaluation of the Necessity Defense Under the Clean Water Act," ABA YLD SEER Newsletter, Spring 2017
- Co-author, "A Tale of Three Watersheds: U.S. EPA's Contrasting Approaches to Agriculture Nutrient Pollution," 2 WIREs Water 47, 2015
- Author, "*Where We're Going, We Don't Need (More) Roads*," 2 Land Conservation Foundation 5, 2014

Client Alerts And Blog Posts

- EPA Poised to Expand Federal Superfund to Include Key PFAS April 18, 2024

- EPA Finalizes First-Ever Federal Enforceable Drinking Water Standard for Certain PFAS
April 17, 2024
- EPA Poised to Expand Federal Superfund to Include Key PFAS
April 16, 2024
- EPA Finalizes First-Ever Federal Enforceable Drinking Water Standard for Certain PFAS
April 11, 2024
- EPA Unveils New Proposed National Limits for PFAS in Drinking Water
March 16, 2023
- What the Agri-Business Sector Needs to Know About PFAS
December 2, 2022
- EPA’s New Lifetime Health Advisories for PFOA and PFOS Rely on Health Outcome Associations Rejected by the National Academies of Sciences, Engineering, and Medicine
September 22, 2022
- EPA Adds Five PFAS Compounds to its List of Regional Removal Management Levels and Regional Screening Levels
July 14, 2022
- Quick-Service Restaurant Franchisors Targeted by “Forever Chemical” Class Action Litigation
June 16, 2022
- PFAS Contamination Found in Michigan Cattle Operation: *From Effluent to Sludge to Crops to Beef*
April 4, 2022
- Wisconsin State Natural Resources Board Adopts Rule Setting Limits in Drinking Water, Approves Rule Limiting PFAS in Surface Water, and Rejects Proposed PFAS Groundwater Rule
March 18, 2022
- Superfund Enforcement of PFAS Moves Closer as EPA Submits Proposed Hazardous Substance Designation to OMB
January 14, 2022
- EPA Requests Science Advisory Board Review Health Effects of PFOA and PFOS — Likely Leading to New Drinking Water Standards
November 19, 2021
- EPA Responds to Petition for PFAS Rulemaking
November 5, 2021

- Biden Administration Unveils Strategic Roadmap to Address PFAS
October 21, 2021
- FDA Issues Warning to the Food Packaging Industry on PFAS Use
Following Growing Attention to PFAS in Food Packaging
August 25, 2021
- Illinois Takes Action to Regulate PFAS in Firefighting Foams
August 16, 2021
- EPA Heightens Efforts to Increase PFAS Data Transparency
August 3, 2021
- California Proposes Strict Guidelines for Limiting PFAS Compounds
in Water
July 30, 2021
- Maryland, Maine and Vermont Advance PFAS Legislation
July 19, 2021
- ATSDR Releases Final Toxicology Profile for PFAS
May 14, 2021
- EPA Administrator Regan Announces Development of New EPA
PFAS Council
May 4, 2021
- PFAS Action Act of 2021 Announced with Bipartisan Support
April 29, 2021
- Proposed PFAS Accountability Act Would Create Medical
Monitoring Program for PFAS Exposure
April 19, 2021
- EPA Seeks Comment on Developing Effluent Limitations Guidelines
for PFAS Manufacturers and Formulators
March 17, 2021
- Illinois Issues One of the Lowest Health Advisory Guidance Levels
in the Nation for PFAS in Drinking Water
March 10, 2021
- EPA to Set Enforceable Drinking Water Standards for PFOA and
PFOS
March 4, 2021
- EPA to Set Enforceable Drinking Water Standards for PFOA and
PFOS
March 4, 2021
- Minnesota Calls for Stronger State Regulation of PFAS Chemicals
February 17, 2021

- What You Need to Know About PFAS Remediation in 2021
January 28, 2021

In The News

- Attorney At Law Magazine Features Lathrop GPM Attorneys Promoted to Partnership
January 8, 2024
- Chemical Processing Quotes Jessica Rosell and Matthew Walker on Chemical Regulations to Watch in 2023
February 6, 2023
- Franchise Times Quotes Ally Cunningham, Craig Miller and Matthew Walker on PFAS and the Restaurant Industry Following Webinar
September 2, 2022
- Food on Demand Quotes Ally Cunningham, Craig Miller and Matthew Walker On Best Practices Regarding PFAS Regulations In The Restaurant Industry
September 1, 2022
- Nation's Restaurant News Quotes Matt Walker on Federal Bill to Prohibit PFAS in Foodservice Packaging
June 16, 2022
- "Fast Food Chains Sued Over PFAS in Food Packaging," Food Quality & Safety
April 28, 2022
- Environmental Health News Covers Firm Webinar on PFAS Litigation in the Cosmetics Industry
March 18, 2022
- Law360 Quotes Matthew Walker on Water Contamination Trial
February 11, 2022
- Insurance Journal Mentions Lathrop GPM's PFAS Playbook
September 16, 2021
- Food industry Executive Features Article by Mara Cohara, Ally Cunningham and Matt Walker
May 24, 2021
- Inside TSCA Features Article on PFAS in Food Based on Recent Lathrop GPM Webinar
May 13, 2021
- Industry Today Publishes Article by Allyson Cunningham, Sarah Lintecum and Matthew Walker on Federal PFAS Action
January 28, 2021

News Releases

- Three Lathrop GPM Attorneys Named 2024 Illinois Super Lawyers and Rising Stars
January 25, 2024
- Lathrop GPM Strengthens Tort, Insurance & Environmental Practice with Four Additions, Three Promotions
January 18, 2024
- Four Lathrop GPM Attorneys Promoted to Partnership
January 8, 2024
- Two Lathrop GPM Attorneys Named to Illinois Super Lawyers and Rising Stars
February 2023
- Lathrop GPM PFAS Team Honored in Top Legal Innovations Awards by Missouri Lawyers Media
December 8, 2021
- Lathrop GPM Launches Blog Focused on Quickly Evolving PFAS Landscape
March 12, 2021
- Lathrop GPM Adds Six Attorneys in Environmental & Tort Practice Group
March 4, 2021

Professional Affiliations

- Illinois State Bar Association, Environmental Law Section, Council Member
- ABA Section of Environment and Energy Resources, Young Lawyers Division, Former Vice Chair
- Air & Waste Management Association, Lake Michigan States Section

Honors

- Selected among *The Best Lawyers in America*®, "Ones to Watch," 2024
- *Illinois Super Lawyers*, "Rising Star," Environmental Litigation, 2023-2024
- *Missouri Lawyers Media*, Top Legal Innovations Award, Emerging Practice Areas, PFAS
- Environmental Moot Court, *Editor*, Awarded Best Brief and Best Overall

- CALI Award, *Top grade in class*, Moot Court and Energy & Natural Resource Transactions
- University of Illinois Men's Lacrosse Team, Team Captain, MCLA Scholar-Athlete Award recipient