



William F. Ford

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KANSAS CITY

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Assistant

Maria Vargas
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PRACTICE AREAS

Environmental Law
Environmental Insurance
Analysis & Recovery
Environmental Litigation
Environmental Regulations
Superfund
Environmental Issues in
Transactions
Litigation
Contaminants & Toxic Tort
Class Action Defense
PFAS (per- and polyfluoroalkyl
substances)

INDUSTRIES

Education
Agribusiness & Food
Higher Education
Media & Entertainment

Bill Ford has more than 30 years of litigation experience in complex dispute resolution including environmental, general business litigation, and products liability. He successfully represents clients throughout the country.

In the environmental area, Bill represents several multinational clients as both plaintiffs and defendants in environmental cost recovery litigation, negotiations with government agencies, allocation proceedings, PRP searches and remediation coordination. Bill has extensive experience in underground storage tank litigation and administrative proceedings with governmental remediation funds. He has experience with both hazardous and non-hazardous waste and water treatment issues, Clean Water Act Section 404, dredge and fill permits, RCRA, Supplemental Environmental Projects and alleged Oil Pollution Act violations.

In general business litigation, Bill has represented business interests of both plaintiffs and defendants in numerous multimillion-dollar lawsuits, including defense of multidistrict class action litigation alleging billions of dollars in damages. Bill has substantial experience representing clients in the agribusiness and defense industries.

Presentations

- Panelist, "Right-Sizing & Streamlining Allocation Procedures (There Must Be a Better Way, Right?)" Environmental Health Symposium Sediment and PRP Summit, September 22, 2022
- Presenter, "Environmental Justice: The Federal and State Governments' Renewed Focus and the Regulated Industries' Perspective.," Illinois State Bar Association, June 23, 2021

COURT MEMBERSHIPS

- Missouri
- U.S. District Court for the District of Kansas
- U.S. District Court for the Western District of Missouri
- U.S. Court of Appeals for the Third Circuit
- U.S. Court of Appeals for the Eighth Circuit
- U.S. Court of Appeals for the Tenth Circuit
- U.S. Supreme Court

EDUCATION

Villanova University School of Law, J.D., *cum laude*, 1985

- Order of the Coif
- *Villanova Law Review*, Member and Editor

University of Kansas, B.A., 1982

- Environmental Studies Honors Program, University of Kansas

- Panelist, *"Federal vs. State Liability Protections and Due Care Obligations During Property Acquisitions: How 'Certain' is Certain?"* American Bar Association, Master Class on Complex Environmental Liability Resolution: State of the Art Strategies from Superfunds to Brownfields in Atlanta, June 12, 2019
- Speaker, *Superfund Back in the Limelight*, 2018 Midwest Environmental Compliance Conference, Kansas City, Missouri, April 2018
- Speaker, *EPA Enforcement and Regulatory Update*, Conference on Worker Safety, Human Resources and the Environment, American Meat Institute Foundation, April 9, 2014

Publications

- Author, *Worse Can Be Better For Nonjudicial CERCLA Allocation*, Law360, August 6, 2021
- Author, *Every Ship a PRP? The Working River Sediment Site*, American Bar Association, Natural Resources & Environment, Volume 31, Number 4, Spring 2017
- Author, *Kansas Environmental Law Handbook, Solid Waste Chapter, Government Institutes*, 1990
- Author, *Alcohol Suppliers Liability in Missouri*, 45 J.Mo. Bar No. 3, 193 (1989)
- Author, *State and Federal Regulations of Hidden Camera and Microphone Reporting in the States of Kansas and Missouri*, Media and the Law Seminar, 1989, University of Missouri—Kansas City, School of Law

Client Alerts And Blog Posts

- U.S. Supreme Court Restricts EPA's Power Under Clean Water Act May 26, 2023
- Federal Government and Private Sector Climate Change Developments March 17, 2021
- Environmental Alert: Supreme Court Issues Important Superfund Ruling May 1, 2020
- EPA Response Actions: Interim Guidance on Site Field Work Decisions Due to Impacts of COVID-19 April 14, 2020

- Environmental Alert: EPA's Temporary Policy – COVID-19 Implications for EPA's Enforcement and Compliance Assurance Program
April 1, 2020

In The News

- Bloomberg Law Quotes Bill Ford on Delaying Superfund Work
April 10, 2020
- Bill Ford Featured in Missouri & Kansas Super Lawyers Magazine on Beekeeping Hobby
December 26, 2019
- Law360 Speaks to Bill Ford on the Biggest Environmental Decisions of 2019
December 19, 2019
- Natural Resources & Environment: Every Ship a PRP? The Working River Sediment Site
April 21, 2017
- InsideCounsel: Bill Ford Moderates Executive Leadership Development Panel at SuperConference
May 13, 2015
- Kansas City Business Journal: Lathrop Gage Obtains Summary Judgment in 'Hot Fuel' Cases
July 26, 2013

News Releases

- Eight Lathrop GPM Attorneys Named Lawyer of the Year, 89 Ranked as The Best Lawyers in America®
August 17, 2023
- 14 Lathrop GPM LLP Practice Groups and 35 Attorneys Ranked in Chambers USA 2023
June 1, 2023
- 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 PFAS Team Honored in Top Legal Innovations Awards by Missouri Lawyers Media
December 8, 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 Recognized as a Leading Law Firm by Chambers USA
May 3, 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
- Super Lawyers Recognizes 71 Lathrop Gage Attorneys
October 14, 2013
- 81 Lathrop Gage Attorneys Named “Best Lawyers in America”
August 15, 2013
- Lathrop Gage LLP Receives Honors from Chambers USA
May 24, 2013
- Lathrop Gage Rapidly Closes Two Hospital Acquisitions in Kansas
City Area
April 2, 2013
- 75 Lathrop Gage Attorneys Named Missouri & Kansas Super
Lawyers
October 15, 2012
- 80 Lathrop Gage Attorneys Named “Best Lawyers in America”
August 22, 2012
- Lathrop Gage Receives Leading Law Firm and Lawyer Rankings
from Chambers USA
June 7, 2012
- 54 Lathrop Gage Attorneys Named Missouri & Kansas Super
Lawyers
November 1, 2011
- Lathrop Gage Receives Top Rankings from Chambers USA
June 10, 2011
- 62 Lathrop Gage Attorneys Recognized by Super Lawyers
Magazine
October 13, 2010
- 59 Lathrop Gage Attorneys Named Best Lawyers in America
August 6, 2010
- Lathrop Gage Obtains Leading Law Firm Ratings from Chambers
USA
June 11, 2010

- 56 Lathrop Gage Attorneys Named Best Lawyers in America August 3, 2009
- Chambers USA Names Lathrop Gage a Leading Firm in Ten Practice Areas for 2009 June 11, 2009
- Lathrop Gage's National Chambers USA Roster Grows in 2008 June 13, 2008

Professional Affiliations

- Agricultural Business Council of Kansas City, 2015-2018; Board Member, 2019
- Central Missouri State University, Adjunct Professor, 2003
- University of Kansas, Adjunct Professor, 1990-1993

Community Involvement

- The Don Bosco Centers, English as a Second Language Teaching Assistant, 2016 - Present
- The Nature Conservancy of Missouri, Trustee, 1998-2003; Chair, 1999-2002
- Lawyers Encouraging Academic Performance, Mentor, 1997-2001
- Cradles & Crayons® Daycare Center for Special Needs Children, General Counsel, 1993-1995
- Kansas City Chamber of Commerce, Centurions Leadership, 1988-1989

Honors

- *Missouri Lawyers Media*, Top Legal Innovations Award, Emerging Practice Areas, PFAS
- Selected among *The Best Lawyers in America*®, 2008-2024
 - "Lawyer of the Year," 2014, 2019-2020
- Selected for *Super Lawyers*, Corporate Counsel Edition, 2008
- Selected as a Finalist for *Lawdragon 500 Better Than The Best*, 2008
- Selected for Missouri/Kansas *Super Lawyers*, 2006-2020
- *Chambers USA: America's Leading Lawyers for Business*, Missouri Environmental, 2006-2023
- Martindale-Hubbell® "AV" Rating