



## MATTHEW J. REH

**PARTNER, LITIGATION PRACTICE GROUP LEADER**

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Matt Reh heads the firm's Litigation practice group and focuses his practice on real estate litigation, tort litigation and municipal law.

Representing banks, developers, pipeline companies and a wide range of governmental entities, Matt provides assistance in condemnation matters. His work most frequently includes using eminent domain for community redevelopment projects, public infrastructure and utilities.

Matt serves property owners, from individual homeowners to national retailers, architects, engineers and other professionals in disputes involving mechanic's liens. His real estate experience extends to annexation, contract, easement, lease and zoning disputes for commercial and residential property owners.

In Missouri and southern Illinois, Matt handles tort matters. He regularly defends claims for products liability for clients who manufacture food materials, home appliances, industrial products, law enforcement devices and recreational equipment.

Matt also represents municipalities around the region. He has served as the City Attorney for the City of Lake Saint Louis, Missouri for a decade. He has served as the Prosecuting Attorney for the City of Crestwood, Missouri for two decades. He also works as special counsel to other cities in complex municipal litigation matters. Matt was recognized by The Best Lawyers in America<sup>®</sup> as Lawyer of the Year for Municipal Law for 2023.

Matt has invested significant time in providing legal services to charitable organizations and individuals on a pro bono basis. He represented a shelter for victims of domestic violence in a probate dispute, securing approximately \$200,000 in funds for the shelter and its residents. In connection with the Land Clearance for Redevelopment Authority, he acquired property using eminent domain for the construction of a community health center in north St. Louis, Missouri. In addition, he prosecuted a claim for race and sex discrimination on a pro bono basis, trying the case to a jury in federal court.

Matt was elected by his peers to serve a six-year term on the St. Louis County Judicial Commission, a five-person group responsible for nominating judges to the bench in St. Louis County. His term runs through 2027.

Matt provides frequent legal commentary for drive-time programming on KTRS Radio in St. Louis, Missouri.

### SERVICES AND INDUSTRIES

Litigation

Mass Tort and Catastrophic Loss

Outside Corporate Counsel

Product Liability

Real Estate

Securities Regulation and Litigation

Real Estate, Development, Construction

Energy and Utilities

### ADMISSIONS

Missouri

Illinois

U.S. District Court, Eastern District of Missouri

U.S. District Court, Southern District of Illinois

U.S. Court of Appeals, Seventh Circuit

U.S. Court of Appeals, Eighth Circuit

## EDUCATION

- Saint Louis University School of Law (J.D., 1998)
- University of Notre Dame (B.A., 1995)

## PROFESSIONAL ACTIVITIES

- The Missouri Bar
- Inns of Court (Master)
- St. Louis County Bar Association (Past President)
- Missouri Organization of Defense Lawyers
- Lawyers Association of St. Louis
- Litigation Counsel of America (Fellow)
- Women Lawyers' Association
- Bar Association of Metropolitan St. Louis (Co-Chair, Bench & Bar, 2022)

## CHARITABLE AND CIVIC INVOLVEMENT

- Clayton Chamber of Commerce (Past Member, Board of Directors)
- Multiple Sclerosis Society (Past Corporate Achiever)
- Armstrong Teasdale United Way Campaign (Past Chairman)
- City of Crestwood, Mo. (Prosecuting Attorney, 2002-present)
- City of Lake Saint Louis, Mo. (City Attorney, 2012-present)
- St. Peter Catholic School (Past Member, School Board)

## ACCOLADES

- *Missouri/Kansas Super Lawyers*®, Real Estate (2022)
- *The Best Lawyers in America*®, Eminent Domain and Condemnation Law, Municipal Law, Personal Injury Litigation - Defendants (2021-present); Lawyer of the Year, Municipal Law (2023)
- Honored as a 2021 “Law Firm Leader” by Missouri Lawyers Weekly, a recognition awarded to chairpersons, managing partners or other law firm executives who demonstrated extraordinary vision, innovation and leadership during the year
- Honored as an “Up and Coming Lawyer” by Missouri Lawyers Weekly, a recognition conferred on attorneys under 40 who make a difference in the quality of justice and who exemplify the highest ideals of the legal profession
- Recipient of the John Shepherd Professionalism Award, an honor given to a young lawyer who exhibits the tenets of professionalism espoused by the Bar Association of Metropolitan St. Louis

- Elected by peers to the Young Lawyers Section of the Missouri Bar
- Elected by peers to the Young Lawyers Division of the Bar Association of Metropolitan St. Louis
- Elected by peers to St. Louis County Judicial Commission

## **EXPERIENCE**

### **Acquisition of Transmission Line Easements for Energy Client**

Assisted client in securing electrical power transmission line easements by negotiation and condemnation. Despite having an original list of 80 parcels of land, the team settled the majority on a compressed timeline and went to hearing on just four parcels, all of which were ultimately resolved in our client's favor.

### **Special Counsel for Municipality in Property Acquisition**

Special counsel for the City in connection with property acquisitions for a project including flood mitigation and Chapter 353 redevelopment efforts.

### **Acquisition of Transmission Line Easements for Energy Client**

Assisted client in securing transmission line easements by negotiation and condemnation.

### **Outside Corporate Counsel for Global Consumer Products Company**

Outside corporate counsel to a global consumer products company, including prosecution and management of a worldwide trademark portfolio, negotiation of mergers and acquisitions, advice regarding commercial contracts and consumer products liability issues, and handling of data privacy issues.

### **Defeated Actions Against Oil Pipeline Company**

Defeated actions for declaratory judgment and injunction in the Circuit Court of Franklin County, Missouri, that permitted the clearing of properties for an oil pipeline in an upscale residential community.

### **Secured Dismissal in Lawsuit Seeking New Alderman Election**

Secured dismissal of a lawsuit seeking a new election in connection with alleged irregularities in an aldermanic election in the Circuit Court of St. Louis County, Missouri.

### **Defeated Actions Against \$72 Million Apartment Development in Missouri**

Defeated actions for a declaratory judgment and a writ of mandamus that permitted the construction of a \$72 million residential apartment tower in Clayton, Missouri, that was upheld by the Missouri Court of Appeals for the Eastern District.

### **Summary Judgment for Retailer in Commercial Lease Matter**

Secured summary judgment for a tenant retailer in an action for declaratory judgment regarding the construction of obligations under a commercial lease that was upheld on appeal.

### **Won Dismissal of Claims for Large Accounting Firm**

Won dismissal of claims for conspiracy and tortious interference with contract against accounting firm.

### **Defense Verdict in Action for Trespass**

Obtained a defense verdict in an action for trespass in the Circuit Court of Peoria

County, Illinois, that resulted in a finding of a prescriptive easement following a bench trial that was upheld on appeal.

**Secured Condemnation Ruling in Multi-State Oil Pipeline Construction Matter**

Secured judgment of condemnation in connection with the construction of an oil pipeline spanning from Illinois to Oklahoma.

**Obtained Judgment and Permanent Injunction for Oil Pipeline Company**

Served as trial counsel in actions for declaratory judgment and permanent injunction arising from disputes over an easement. Obtained judgment for oil pipeline company that permitted clearing of easement for oil pipeline.

**Trial Counsel in Missouri Supreme Court Matter Cited as "Major Opinion" for Real Estate Lending**

Served as trial counsel for a lender in an action to secure a deficiency on a loan for residential real estate following a foreclosure sale. After a jury rendered a verdict for the lender, the Missouri Court of Appeals and the Supreme Court used the case to re-examine the laws of secured lending in Missouri. The Court of Appeals found for the lender and the Supreme Court ruled for the lender, finding that it used the proper measure of damages in calculating the deficiency. This case was recognized on appeal by Missouri Lawyers Weekly as a "Major Opinion."

**Trial Counsel Resulting in Annexation of Properties**

Served as trial counsel in an action for declaratory judgment before the Circuit Court of St. Charles County, Missouri, that resulted in the annexation of five properties.

**Obtained \$850,000 Verdict in Eminent Domain Case**

Served as co-counsel to the owner of a quarry in a trial on exceptions in an action in eminent domain that ended in a jury award of \$850,000.

**Obtained Judgment Permitting Grocery Chain Development After Five-Day Trial**

Represented a grocery chain in a five-day trial in the Circuit Court of St. Louis County, Missouri, over changes in municipal zoning. Obtained a judgment that upheld the zoning and permitted the development of a grocery store.

**Dismissal of Matter Alleging Sunshine Law Violations**

Served as co-counsel in a trial in the Circuit Court of St. Louis County, Missouri, regarding alleged violations of the Missouri Sunshine Law that ended in a dismissal.

**Summary Judgment in Wrongful Death Action**

Obtained summary judgment in an action for wrongful death arising from a catastrophic truck accident.

**Trial Counsel in Eminent Domain Case Recognized as "Major Opinion" on Appeal**

Served as trial counsel in an action in eminent domain that was recognized on appeal by Missouri Lawyers Weekly as a "Major Opinion."

**Mechanic's Lien Judgment Upheld on Appeal for Regional Mall Owner**

Won a judgment on the pleadings in an action to enforce a mechanic's lien for the owner of a regional mall that was upheld by the Missouri Court of Appeals.

**Dismissal of Claims for Wrongful Death of Professional Hockey Player**

Secured a dismissal of claims against a national sports association for lack of personal jurisdiction in an action for the wrongful death of a professional hockey player that was upheld on a writ by the Missouri Court of Appeals.

**Seven-Day Jury Trial for Tractor-Trailer Driver**

Served as co-counsel to the driver of tractor-trailer in a seven-day jury trial in the Circuit Court of Madison County, Illinois.

**Dismissal for Physician in Personal Injury Case**

Won an order dismissing a physician for lack of personal jurisdiction in U.S. District Court for the Southern District of Illinois in an action for injuries related to cosmetic laser surgery.

**Obtained Dismissal for Municipality in Building Demolition Case**

Obtained an order dismissing a municipality from an action for a preliminary injunction and declaratory judgment arising from the demolition of dangerous buildings.

**Summary Judgment for Security Company on Multiple Claims**

Obtained summary judgment for a security company in an action for assault, battery, false imprisonment and invasion of privacy.

**Defense Verdict in Medical Malpractice Case**

Secured a defense verdict in the Circuit Court of St. Louis County, Missouri, as co-counsel in the trial of a claim for medical malpractice.

**Summary Judgment for Auto Dealer in Multiple Wrongful Death Actions**

Obtained summary judgment for an auto dealer in multiple actions for wrongful death arising from a catastrophic trucking accident.