



MATTHEW B. CHAMPLIN

Partner

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With over 20 years of litigation experience, Matthew B. Champlin emphasizes pragmatism, cost-effectiveness, and innovative problem-solving to secure the best possible outcomes for his clients in complex litigation matters.

He focuses his practice on the defense of actions involving:

- catastrophic personal injury
- wrongful death
- products liability

Mr. Champlin has extensive experience handling litigation involving local governments, school districts, public utilities, construction companies, retailers, and security companies. He also handles real estate, consumer, and commercial litigation.

In addition, he's actively involved in pro bono initiatives and prioritizes assisting litigants with limited resources in obtaining justice. In recent years, he secured the appellate reversal of a criminal conviction involving a coerced jury verdict, established a guardianship for a mentally disabled adult, fought for the victims of construction repair fraud, pursued litigation involving an illegal contract for deed, and volunteered in the Madison County (Illinois) legal clinic.

PRACTICES

- Appellate
- Commercial Litigation
- Construction
- Governmental & Civil Rights
- Motor Vehicle Accidents
- Pharmaceutical & Medical Devices
- Premises Liability
- Products Liability
- Trucking & Transportation

BAR ADMISSIONS

- Illinois
- Missouri
- U.S. Court of Appeals for the
 - 7th Circuit
 - 8th Circuit
- U.S. District Courts for the
 - Central District of Illinois

Prior to joining HeplerBroom, Mr. Champlin served judicial clerkships with the U.S. Court of Appeals for the 8th Circuit and the Supreme Court of Missouri.

Results

- *People v. Thomas*, 2020 IL App (1st) 190954
- *Carver v. Illinois Power Company*, 2014 IL App (5th) 130348-U
- *Pocklington v. AmerenIP*, 2012 IL App (4th) 110808-U
- *Bell v. AmerenCIPS*, No. 5-10-0129 (5th Dist., Feb. 25, 2011)
- *Pocklington v. AmerenIP*, No. 4-09-0914 (4th Dist., July 23, 2010)
- *Wood v. Central Illinois Public Service Company*, 5-08-0445 (5th Dist., Aug. 17, 2009)
- Wrote an amicus brief on behalf of the defendants in *Thompson v. Gordon*, 241 Ill. 2d 428 (2011); Illinois Supreme Court found in favor of defendants.

NOVEMBER 19, 2024

Champlin and Hanson Obtain Summary Judgment for Municipality in Free Speech Claim

SEPTEMBER 12, 2017

Kaufmann and Champlin Secure Defense Verdict in St. Clair County Jury Trial

MAY 4, 2016

Champlin Obtained Dismissal with Prejudice in Lawsuit in St. Clair County, Illinois

JANUARY 15, 2016

Matthew Champlin Recently Obtained Summary Judgment in Favor of his Client

Honors

Honors & Awards

- Illinois Leading Lawyers (2017-2025)
 - Emerging Lawyer (2015-2016)
- Illinois Super Lawyers (2025)
 - Rising Star (2013-2018)

- Southern District of Illinois
- Eastern District of Missouri
- U.S. Court of Federal Claims

EDUCATION

- University of Missouri-Columbia School of Law, J.D., 2003
- Southeast Missouri State University, B.S. in Criminal Justice, cum laude, 2000

LAW SCHOOL HONORS/INVOLVEMENT

- Order of the Coif
- *The Missouri Law Review*
 - Member and Note and Comment Editor
- Criminal Prosecution Clinic
- Recipient, International Academy of Trial Lawyers Award for Excellence in Advocacy

Professional Associations

- Appellate Lawyers Association
- Illinois Association of Defense Trial Counsel
 - Chair, Insurance Law Committee (2021-2024)
 - Supreme Court Watch columnist, *IDC Quarterly* (2020-2022)
- Madison County (Illinois) Bar Association

Other Professional/Civic Involvement

- Arbitrator, Third Judicial Circuit Court (Madison County IL)
- Lewis and Clark Community College
 - Paralegal Unified Advisory Board Committee
 - Former Instructor, Legal Research and Writing
 - Former Instructor, Litigation
- Municipal Adjudication Officer, Village of Glen Carbon IL
- Volunteer, Madison County Legal Clinic

Insights

Events & Speaking Engagements

- "Third-Party Practice," Illinois State Bar Association Civil Practice and Procedure Update, Bloomington, Illinois (2012).

Publications

- "Navigating the Maze of Insurance Coverage Issues in Biometric Information Privacy Act Litigation," *IDC Quarterly*, Vol. 33, No. 2 (2023). (Co-author)
- "Supreme Court Watch Column," *IDC Quarterly*, Vols. 30-32 (2020-2022).
- "The Confidential Good-Faith Settlement Conundrum: The Case for Full Disclosure of Settlement Terms to Non-Settling Tortfeasors," *IDC Quarterly* Vol. 23, No. 4 (2013).

Blog Posts

MARCH 13, 2025 | BLOG

Tips for Navigating Candidate Nominating Papers and Electoral Board Challenges in Illinois

FEBRUARY 14, 2023 | BLOG

Child Riding Bicycle on Residential Street Not "Intended User" and Village Entitled to Immunity

SEPTEMBER 30, 2021 | BLOG

Illinois Supreme Court to Decide Viability and Scope of Gant: Negligent Training Claims Against Employers for Employee's Motor Vehicle Accident

JUNE 11, 2019 | BLOG

Illinois Supreme Court Holds that Implied Warranty of Habitability Inapplicable to Sub-Contractors Absent Contractual Relationship with Purchaser

MAY 17, 2017 | BLOG

An Illinois Supreme Court Reminder of What Constitutes Willful and Wanton Conduct under Tort Immunity Act: Barr v. Cunningham, 2017 IL 120751

News

JANUARY 21, 2025 | RECOGNITION

Champlin Named 2025 Illinois Super Lawyer