



MICHAEL P. MURPHY

Partner

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Michael P. Murphy is an experienced litigator who focuses on helping clients with environmental issues, both before and after a lawsuit is filed.

He often initially assists clients in their interactions with regulators (such as Illinois EPA) *before* a suit is filed to try to avoid formal litigation and achieve compliance. If the Attorney General's Office pursues enforcement, he efficiently and effectively handles the court proceedings by focusing on practical solutions that satisfy regulators and lead to a resolution.

In an environmental emergency, Mr. Murphy helps clients navigate regulatory and enforcement demands. This includes defending clients in proceedings where the Attorney General is seeking immediate relief under Section 43 of the Illinois Environmental Protection Act.

When enforcement is not yet an issue, Mr. Murphy assists clients with environmental compliance questions involving federal and state environmental statutes and regulations, permitting, rule-making, and regulatory relief.

In addition to environmental law, he's defended a variety of cases, including those involving premises liability, automobile accidents, school bus accidents, construction injuries, contract disputes,

PRACTICES

Appellate

Environmental

Insurance Services

BAR ADMISSIONS

- Illinois
- Missouri
- United States Court of Appeals for the 7th Circuit
- United States District Courts for the
 - Central District of Illinois
 - Northern District of Illinois
 - Southern District of Illinois

EDUCATION

- Southern Illinois University School of Law, J.D., *summa cum laude*, 2004
- Western Illinois University, B.A. in Communication,

insurance coverage, wrongful death, products liability, and property damage.

Mr. Murphy has worked for HeplerBroom his entire legal career. For the first five years, he worked in the firm's Edwardsville office, handling cases in Madison, St. Clair, and other counties throughout Southern Illinois. In 2009, he joined the firm's Springfield office and now represents clients in state and federal courts across Illinois, including at the Illinois Pollution Control Board.

When necessary, he takes cases to trial. He also handles appeals. He's argued cases in the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Seventh Circuit and in three of the five Illinois' appellate districts. In addition, he's prepared briefs for appeals in Illinois appellate courts and the Supreme Court of Illinois that resulted in favorable decisions for the firm's clients.

In addition to being active in legal organizations, Mr. Murphy volunteers in his local community. He's currently the Past President of the Chatham Area Chamber of Commerce and attends many events to promote local businesses. He also coaches local basketball, baseball, and softball teams, including those in which his four children participate.

Results

AUGUST 11, 2022

Murphy Secures Permanent Injunction for Natural Gas Pipeline Company

MAY 2, 2019

HB Springfield Attorneys Secure Decertification in Gender Discrimination Case

FEBRUARY 1, 2017

HB Attorneys Prevail in Bench Trial in Schuyler County, Illinois

JULY 27, 2015

Murphy and Lee Obtain Dismissal with Prejudice in McLean County

MARCH 19, 2013

Murphy Wins Appeal in U.S. Court of Appeals for Seventh Circuit

JANUARY 25, 2013

Kaufmann and Murphy Prevail on Motion for Summary Judgment

magna cum laude, 2001

LAW SCHOOL HONORS/ INVOLVEMENT

- Valedictorian
- Award for Academic Excellence
- *Southern Illinois University Law Journal*
- Judicial Clerkship Extern, United States District Court for the Central District of Illinois, Honorable Michael M. Mihm

OCTOBER 2, 2012

Kaufmann and Murphy Secure Dismissal with Prejudice in Federal Court

SEPTEMBER 21, 2012

Kaufmann and Murphy Win Appeal in Third District

SEPTEMBER 20, 2011

Murphy Prevails in Bench Trial

AUGUST 9, 2011

Kaufmann and Murphy Secure Dismissal of Employment Claim

Honors

Honors & Awards

- Illinois Leading Lawyers, Emerging Lawyer (2015-2022)
- Illinois Super Lawyers (2021-2025)
 - Rising Star (2011-2019)
- Named one of 2015 “40 Business Leaders Under Forty” by the *Springfield Business Journal*.

Professional Associations

- Illinois State Bar Association
 - Chair, Environmental and Natural Resources Law Section Council
- Lincoln-Douglas Inn of Court
- Sangamon County Bar Association

Other Professional/Civic Involvement

- Chatham (IL) Area Chamber of Commerce
 - Past President (2025-2026)
 - President (2024-2025)
 - Vice-President (2023-2024)
 - Board of Directors (2018-2023)
- Chemical Industry Council of Illinois
 - Board of Directors (2024)

Insights

Events & Speaking Engagements

- “Environmental Hot Topics,” Three Rivers Manufacturers’ Association webinar (2021).
- “Environmental Violations and Enforcement,” Illinois Institute for Continuing Legal Education webinar (2021). (Co-presenter)
- “Latest Developments on Environmental Justice,” Chemical Industry Council of Illinois’ January Enforcement Seminar (virtual) (2021). (Co-presenter)
- “Environmental Enforcement: Avoid if Possible, Navigate if Necessary,” Environmental Basics Conference sponsored by the Illinois Environmental Regulatory Group and the Illinois Environmental Protection Agency (Springfield IL, 2019). (Co-presenter)
- “Illinois’ Time-Limited Water Quality Standards,” HalfMoon Education Inc., Illinois Water Laws and Regulations Seminar (Naperville IL, 2019).
- “The Long Lost Public Notice Requirement: Illinois’ Settlements Entail NPDES Permit Enforcement Actions,” Illinois State Bar Association’s 18th Annual Environmental Law Conference (Chicago, 2019).
- “Public Notice for NPDES Settlements in Illinois,” Illinois Environmental Regulatory Group, Water Basics seminar (Springfield IL, 2017).
- “Proving and Disproving Damages in Personal Injury Cases: Impaired Earning Capacity (from the defense perspective),” Illinois Institute of Continuing Legal Education seminar (January 31, 2014).

SEPTEMBER 9, 2025 | SPEAKING ENGAGEMENT

Murphy and Brown Discuss Microplastics and PFAS Compliance at Environmental Industry’s Water Seminar

MAY 22, 2025 | SPEAKING ENGAGEMENT

Murphy Featured Speaker at State Bar Association’s Environmental Law Conference

JUNE 13, 2024 | SPEAKING ENGAGEMENT

HeplerBroom Attorneys Present Employment Seminar to Chamber of Commerce

MAY 9, 2024 | SPEAKING ENGAGEMENT

Murphy and Messina Featured Speakers at State Bar Association’s Environmental Law Conference

JANUARY 23, 2024 | SPEAKING ENGAGEMENT

Murphy to Address Chemical Industry Organization on Environmental Enforcement

MAY 12, 2023 | SPEAKING ENGAGEMENT

Murphy and Brown to Discuss Environmental Issues at State Bar Conference

NOVEMBER 9, 2022 | SPEAKING ENGAGEMENT

HeplerBroom Environmental Attorneys Present Seminar on Environmental Hot Topics

MAY 13, 2022 | SPEAKING ENGAGEMENT

Messina and Murphy in Leadership Roles for Bar Association Environmental Program

Publications

- "U.S. Supreme Court Limits USEPA Authority in *West Virginia v. EPA*," *Environmental Law: The Newsletter of the Illinois State Bar Association's Section on Environmental Law*, Vol. 53 No. 1 (October 2022). (Co-author)
- "What Do Recent Environmental Enforcement Decisions Mean for Your Company?" *The Illinois Manufacturer* (Fourth Quarter 2019). (Co-author)
- "Illinois Courts Should Reject Medical Monitoring Claims for Uninjured Plaintiffs," *IDC Quarterly* (March 2014).
- "Let the Broker Beware: Illinois Appellate Court Affirms \$23.8 Million Verdict Against Freight Broker," *In Transit* (Defense Research Institute Trucking Law Committee's newsletter) (August 2011). (Co-author)
- "Juror Questions During Trial: An Idea Whose Time Has Come Again," *Illinois Bar Journal*, June 2011. (Co-author)
- "The Interplay of Spoliation of Evidence and Subsequent Remedial Measures," *Trials and Tribulations* (Defense Research Institute Trial Tactics Committee's newsletter) (Winter 2009).
- "Doing Federal Time," *The Whisper* (Defense Research Institute Young Lawyers Committee's newsletter) (January 2009).
- "Settling Defendants Will Not Appear on Illinois Verdict Forms," *In Transit* (Defense Research Institute Trucking Law Committee's newsletter) (January 2009). (Co-author)
- "Spoliation of Evidence and Subsequent Remedial Measures," *The Whisper* (Defense Research Institute Young Lawyers Committee's newsletter) (December 2007).

Blog Posts

JULY 24, 2025 | BLOG

Streamlining Environmental Permitting is Part of White House AI Action Plan

MARCH 15, 2024 | BLOG

Appellate Court Upholds Illinois Coal Ash Regulations

MARCH 3, 2022 | BLOG

Changes to Annual Emissions Reports on Published Agenda for Illinois EPA

NOVEMBER 5, 2021 | BLOG

Illinois Pollution Control Board Adopts First Time-Limited Water Quality Standard

FEBRUARY 23, 2021 | BLOG

Environmental Justice Becomes Part of Federal Climate Change Policies

FEBRUARY 16, 2021 | BLOG

PFAS on Illinois EPA's and U.S. EPA's Radar

OCTOBER 15, 2019 | BLOG

Midwest Generation Seeks Reconsideration of Pollution Control Board Ruling Constricting Effective Period of Groundwater Management Zones to Duration of Active Remedial Work

APRIL 22, 2019 | BLOG

New USEPA Clean Water Act Guidance on Groundwater Previews Supreme Court Position and Applies in Illinois, Missouri, and 34 Other States

News

FEBRUARY 27, 2025 | EVENT

HeplerBroom Sponsors Environmental Seminar on Land and Waste Regulations

JANUARY 21, 2025 | RECOGNITION

Murphy Named 2025 Illinois Super Lawyer

MAY 15, 2024 | RECOGNITION

Murphy Appointed to Leadership Position in State Bar Association

MAY 7, 2024 | FIRM NEWS

HeplerBroom Sponsors Chemical Industry Legislative Day

JANUARY 25, 2024 | RECOGNITION

13 HB Attorneys Named 2024 Illinois Super Lawyers and Rising Stars

DECEMBER 14, 2023

Murphy Elected to Board of Directors of Chemical Industry Trade Organization