HUSCH BLACKWELL



Joseph A. Kilpatrick

PARTNER

THE LINK VIRTUAL OFFICE

CHICAGO, IL*

PHONE: 312.655.1500

EMAIL: JOE.KILPATRICK@HUSCHBLACKWELL.COM

OVERVIEW

Joe is known for his vigorous defense of clients in toxic tort and product liability cases that involve allegations of exposure to asbestos, solvents and chemicals. He practices from Springfield, Illinois as a member of our virtual office, The Link.

He coordinates the defense of asbestos and toxic tort claims in some of the most plaintiff-friendly jurisdictions in the United States, including Alabama, California, Connecticut, Delaware, Illinois, Missouri, New York, Pennsylvania, Rhode Island, Texas, West Virginia and Wisconsin. His practice emphasizes the defense of claims for mesothelioma, lung cancer, pleural plaques and thickening, and asbestosis against manufacturers (particularly manufacturers of chemicals, paints, and coating products), premises owners, and contractors. In this role, as well as in his practice defending toxic tort and product liability cases, Joe has assisted in coordinating discovery efforts for clients nationwide, developing and implementing overall defense strategies, deposing fact witnesses and experts, developing expert witnesses, and preparing cases for trial.

"Joe is incredibly knowledgeable about asbestos. He has an encyclopedic knowledge."

— Chambers USA 2026

Industries

Manufacturing

Technology

Transportation

Services

Asbestos Litigation

Complex Torts (CXT)

Litigation & Alternative Dispute Resolution

PFAS

Product Liability

Product Safety

Toxic Tort

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As a litigator for several chemical manufacturers, Joe has experience in cases involving alleged respiratory injuries such as occupational asthma, chemically induced pneumonia and reactive airways dysfunction syndrome (RADS). He has also served as the national discovery coordinator for a chemical manufacturer's docket of trace benzene litigation involving claims for leukemia, lymphomas, myelodysplastic syndromes and other blood diseases. Joe has significant experience deposing plaintiffs, fact witnesses and expert witnesses in cases involving alleged exposures to asbestos, benzene, vinyl chloride monomer, chlorine, hydrochloric acid, aromatic and aliphatic hydrocarbons and pool treatment chemicals.

Additionally, Joe has experience defending product liability cases for a major automobile parts manufacturer. He has handled appellate matters and has argued before the U.S. Court of Appeals, Seventh Circuit. Joe has also handled commercial litigation matters, insurance coverage litigation, debt collection actions and real estate foreclosures in Missouri and Illinois.

Experience

- Represented the world's largest manufacturer of paints and coatings in numerous toxic tort cases, specifically asbestos and trace-benzene exposure cases, in multiple state jurisdictions.
- Among other decisions:
    - *Lemmermann v. Blue Cross Blue Shield of Wisconsin*, 2010 U.S. Dist., LEXIS 50477 (E.D.Wis.)
    - *Duckworth v. Ahmad*, 532 F. 3d 675 (Seventh Circuit 2008)
    - *Expert Advocates in Selection Int'l LLC v. ProOrbis LLC*, 2005 WL 3320744 (E.D.Mo. 2005)
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Recognition

- *The Best Lawyers In America®*
  - Product Liability Litigation - Defendants, 2027
- *Chambers USA*
  - Litigation: Product Liability, 2026
- *The Legal 500 United States*
  - Product liability, mass tort and class action - defense: toxic tort, Recommended lawyer, 2025 and 2026
- Thomson Reuters Stand-out Lawyer, 2023 and 2024
- Association of Corporate Counsel, Value Champion, 2018

Education

- J.D., Saint Louis University School of Law
  - *Warsaw Transatlantic Law Journal*
- B.S., Missouri State University
  - Political Science

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Admissions

- Illinois
- Missouri
- U.S. District Court, Southern District of Illinois
- U.S. District Court, Eastern District of Missouri
- U.S. District Court, Western District of Missouri
- U.S. District Court, Eastern District of Wisconsin
- U.S. Court of Appeals, Seventh Circuit

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*Joe works remotely and is licensed in Illinois, practicing in Springfield, IL. Contact Joe via email or phone for in-person/virtual meetings. Use the Chicago office address for mail/deliveries only.



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