



## Jerry K. Ronecker

PARTNER

ST. LOUIS, MO

PHONE: 314.480.1831

EMAIL: JERRY.RONECKER@HUSCHBLACKWELL.COM

### OVERVIEW

Formerly in the research lab and now in the courtroom, Jerry draws on his past experience as an award-winning chemist to distinguish his environmental litigation practice.

Leveraging his extensive background as an environmental chemist, Jerry often impresses clients – and surprises opposing counsel – with his deep understanding of science. He is dedicated to “getting the science right” when advising clients. He focuses on environmental issues related to the entire manufacturing process, from chemical production through waste product disposal.

Jerry has an exceptional ability to merge science and law. He uses this advantage to focus litigation experts, juries, environmental agencies and clients through complex science-related issues. He handles toxic tort and product liability cases, environmental cost recovery and environmental insurance litigation, and complex commercial litigation matters.

*“Jerry Ronecker and the Husch Blackwell team wove a strategy based on facts, experts and outstanding advocacy to obtain results that were earlier unimagined. Results that first surprised, then stunned, and then completely deflated the opposition.”*

— George Pain and Stuart Roth, Olin Corporation

### Industry

Manufacturing

### Services

Asbestos Litigation

Chemistry & Biotech

Clinical Research & Trials

Environmental

Litigation & Alternative Dispute Resolution

PFAS

Product Liability

Toxic Tort

He has defended numerous chemical companies in federal and state courts throughout the country in alleged chemical exposure claims in workplace or products cases involving acids, bases, solvents, polychlorinated biphenyls (PCBs), vinyl chloride, radioactive material, electrical and microelectronics chemicals, pesticides and insecticides, benzene, lead and aluminum. He also has represented clients in alleged personal injury, medical monitoring, trespass, nuisance, stigma and diminution in property damage claims from release of these chemicals in the workplace and/or environment.

### Featured Experience

#### **Olin Wins Trial Victories in Pursuit of Insurance Payments**

Since 2001, Jerry has played a significant role on the team representing Olin Corp. in a long-running dispute with insurance carriers over coverage of Olin's cleanup costs at manufacturing/disposal sites nationwide. Jerry has handled Olin's experts and opposing experts, and the team has drawn on his deep knowledge of hydrogeology, chemical fate and transport, analytical chemistry, historical chemical handling and waste disposal practices, and proving up damages.

Jerry has represented Olin in 10 multiweek trials that resulted in recoveries or judgments recouping defense and remediation costs in excess of \$300 million. And in 2018, the U.S. District Court, Southern District of New York, issued a judgment in Olin's favor in excess of \$130 million against OneBeacon insurance company.

### Experience

- Successfully handled numerous Superfund sites in administrative forums and/or litigation, minimizing clients' liabilities and/or implementing cost-effective remedies.
- Defended Fortune 1000 manufacturer in cost recovery action for potential Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation, and Liability Act (CERCLA) liability. After resolution of underlying case and shifting vast majority of otherwise joint and several liability to other defendants, successfully enforced client's rights against its insurance carrier.
- Obtained summary judgment for microelectronic chemical manufacturer in 18 related lawsuits brought by more than 250 current and former IBM clean-room workers and their families.
- Successfully defended chemical manufacturers in several alleged birth defect/wrongful birth claims.

## Experience

- Successfully handled several class action/multiplaintiff property damage and/or personal injury lawsuits involving chemicals such as PCBs, benzene, solvents, phosphogypsum, perchlorate and radioactive material, including major national aluminum recycling firm and its subsidiaries in putative class action, in which case settled with client's insurers paying nominal amount.
- Successfully represented chemical manufacturers in product liability and toxic tort claims, including former vinyl chloride manufacturers in numerous lawsuits alleging personal injury.
- Participated in environmental/litigation due diligence in assessing potential liability trends with potential business lines, manufacture or use of various chemicals and/or property acquisitions.

## Recognition

- Martindale-Hubbell AV Preeminent

## Education

- J.D., Saint Louis University School of Law
  - *magna cum laude*
  - Order of the Woolsack
  - Alpha Sigma Nu
  - *Saint Louis University Public Law Review*, Editor
- B.A., University of Missouri-Saint Louis
  - *magna cum laude*
  - Chemistry
  - Outstanding Senior Chemistry Award

## Admissions

- Missouri
- Illinois

## Community Leadership

He participates in community education and volunteer service for the Missouri Department of Conservation (MDEC), Missouri Department of Natural Resources (MDNR), Operation Clean Stream and other entities dedicated to the beneficial management of natural resources and natural areas in Missouri.