HUSCH BLACKWELL

J. Michael Bridges

SENIOR COUNSEL

SPRINGFIELD, MO
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OVERVIEW

Michael excels as a dedicated defender of his clients' rights in real estate litigation matters that range from mechanic's lien claims to receiverships and in his diverse pro bono work.

Michael litigates bond claims on construction projects, handles real estate disputes and represents insured parties for title insurance companies in everything from landowner easement claims to quiet title actions. He also analyzes, prepares and negotiates real estate conveyances and easements.

Michael represents business clients and lenders in state and federal courts in matters involving commercial litigation, foreclosures and bankruptcy. He has considerable experience with Uniform Commercial Code (UCC) sales, replevins, attachments, receiverships, negotiation and drafting of forbearance agreements, and water law matters. He also advises and represents public, corporate and nonprofit clients on corporate governance and general legal matters.

As a strong advocate of equality for all citizens, Michael performs pro bono work that promotes inclusiveness and equal rights.

Industry

Real Estate, Development, & Construction

Services

Commercial Litigation

Construction & Design

Construction Litigation

Insolvency & Commercial Bankruptcy

Litigation & Alternative Dispute Resolution

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Experience

REAL ESTATE

- Negotiated, reviewed and prepared license agreements and documents related to installation and maintenance of wireless telecommunications antennae and equipment.
- Filed mechanic's liens and related lawsuit to enforce liens for security services company that performed security installations for retirement project.
- Defended title company in multimillion dollar lawsuit alleging failure to defend city against title insurance claims.
- Served as court-appointed receiver for dairy farm, with responsibilities for managing property, working on-site and preparing real estate purchase agreement to sell farm.

CONDOMINIUM & HOA

- Represented a condominium developer in complex dispute with condominium owners association over the capacity and operation of a privately owned but publicly regulated sewage treatment facility.
- Represented condominium owners association in dispute with developers over construction defects.

WATER LAW

- Litigated and mediated dispute to protect boundaries of public water supply district.

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Recognition

- Pro Bono Service Award, Legal Services Corporation, 2019
- *The Best Lawyers In America*®
  - Commercial Litigation, 2020-2027
  - Construction Law, 2019-2027
  - Land Use and Zoning Law, 2020-2027
  - Real Estate Law, 2020-2027
  - Best Lawyers® Real Estate Law "Lawyer of the Year," Springfield, 2021
- Missouri Bar Pro Bono Hall of Fame, 2014, 2016-2021

Education

- J.D., University of Missouri School of Law
- B.A., Missouri State University

Admissions

- Missouri
- U.S. District Court, Western District of Missouri
- U.S. District Court, District of Nebraska
- Oklahoma
- U.S. Court of Appeals, Eighth Circuit

Clerkship

The Hon. Kerry L. Montgomery, Missouri Court of Appeals, Southern District, 1993-1994

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Community Leadership

Michael grew up next door to the Springfield Art Museum and considered a career in art before attending law school. He has always supported the museum and previously held a leadership role on the Board of Directors. While on the board, the museum added its most recent wing to the gallery and he assisted with the financial aspect of operating the museum. He enjoyed the opportunity to view the fine artwork the museum was considering for purchase.

He especially enjoys the museum's annual Watercolor USA event, a national exhibition that recognizes watermedia painting and honors chosen artists with cash awards.

- Springfield Police Officers and Firefighters Retirement System, Board of Trustees, 2016-present
- Christ Episcopal Church Foundation, Board of Directors, 2016-present
- Springfield Art Museum, Board of Directors, 2004-2010
- Springfield Little Theatre, Board of Directors, 2004-2011
- Watershed Committee of the Ozarks, Board of Directors, 2009-2016

The Best Lawyers in America®

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