

GRAVES GARRETT NEWS

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GARRETT, FISHER REPRESENT WHISTLEBLOWER IN \$9.5 MILLION FCA SETTLEMENT

Graves Garrett LLC is pleased to share the U.S. District Court for the Western District of Missouri approved a settlement in favor of



Kathleen Fisher

the firm's client in a healthcare fraud whistleblower suit involving Stark Pharmacy and its three owners.

The United States Attorney's Office intervened in the case after finding that the firm's client's allegations that the pharmacy submitted materially false claims to the federal government had merit, leading to a nearly \$10 million settlement being paid to the United States

Luetkemeyer rejoins Graves Garrett following counsel role with state of Missouri

In spring 2015, Lucinda Luetkemeyer was having lunch with an old friend and study partner from law school, and just weeks later, she found herself working at Graves Garrett.

Dane Martin was already at the firm when he suggested Luetkemeyer consider joining the firm, with a chance to practice white collar criminal defense and free speech and election law. Years earlier, the two had been partners in a pretrial litigation course at the University of Missouri School of Law and had formed their own firm and argued a mock case.

Luetkemeyer, who had just met partner Todd Graves at an event, thought it was more than a coincidence, and took the suggestion seriously.

"Due to Dane, we did really well in the class," she said. "We worked well together then and had a lot of fun, and now we're law partners. He's right next door."

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LUETKEMEYER BACK IN PERFECT PLACE FOR HER LAW PRACTICE



Lucinda Luetkemeyer

Luetkemeyer officially joined Graves Garrett in March 2015 and spent the next two years with the firm, developing her skills as a litigator. In 2017, she was

tapped to serve as the top lawyer in Missouri's executive branch – a role she held until returning to Graves Garrett this past winter.

Effective Jan. 1, 2019, Luetkemeyer was elected to partnership at the firm, along with Martin.

Luetkemeyer has been an obvious leader from the moment she opted to pursue a career in the legal industry. From No. 1 in her class at the University of Missouri School of Law to her stint as general counsel for Missouri's governor, she has excelled during every step of her path to establishing a successful career as an attorney.

Raised on the banks of the James River outside of Nixa, Missouri, Luetkemeyer grew up with a passion for writing. She chose Mizzou with the intent to study journalism, but during her experience as a student reporter, she also became involved in politics.

At that point, Luetkemeyer knew she wanted to combine her loves of writing and public policy, and that being a lawyer would allow her to do just that.

"Although I loved journalism, I decided that I wanted to be an advocate and practice law," Luetkemeyer said. "As an attorney, I knew I could get off the sidelines and use my passion for writing, public policy and argument to represent others."

Luetkemeyer earned her law degree from Missouri – the same law school from which her father, a practicing attorney, graduated three decades prior.

Out of school, Luetkemeyer earned a clerkship with the Hon. Duane Benton

at the United States Court of Appeals for the Eighth Circuit. She spent a year traveling around the seven states in the circuit and helping the judge decide federal cases.

"Clerking for Judge Benton was an absolute dream come true," Luetkemeyer said. "He's still to this day my mentor and a wonderful friend. Most young lawyers dream of a job like that, and I was really fortunate to get to work with brilliant and humble people and learn about the intellectual side of the law early in my career."

Luetkemeyer's path into private practice eventually led her to Graves Garrett – a firm specializing in her main interests of law.

Additionally, her upbringing in a rural area matched up well with firm name partners Todd Graves and Nathan Garrett, who were also raised in rural parts of Missouri.

"At Graves Garrett, I know that I'm home. I'm truly grateful for the opportunity to continue my work here, and I can't wait to see what the future holds."

At Graves Garrett, Luetkemeyer has handled a wide range of litigation, serving as trial counsel in a campaign finance jury trial, litigating on behalf of political activists in Wisconsin and Montana, and counseling super PACs and political candidates. She also has represented corporations in internal investigations and government enforcement actions, in addition to helping individuals navigate ethics and campaign finance laws.

After the 2016 election Luetkemeyer accepted the position of general counsel for the governor, where she achieved notable results while being one of the youngest in the country to serve in that role.

During her tenure, Luetkemeyer managed the governor's judicial appointments process, oversaw executive orders, and led a team of lawyers across the state's 16 executive agencies. During the time Luetkemeyer served as chief counsel, the governor appointed more trial and appellate judges than the two prior governors in the same time period – for a total of nearly 40 appointments to Missouri's judiciary.

Luetkemeyer was also instrumental in creating an executive order providing paid family leave to state employees of the executive branch, an advancement she saw as necessary to helping attract and recruit talent to public service.

"I'm very proud of the work our team did in Jefferson City," Luetkemeyer said. "The experience deepened my knowledge of government action and enforcement, and I consider it crucial to developing the strength of my private practice."

It's fair to say politics isn't just a spectator sport for Lucinda and her family anymore. Lucinda's husband, Tony, recently completed a successful bid for election to the Missouri senate, where he represents their hometown of Parkville and the surrounding area. After the election, Luetkemeyer made the decision to return to private practice at Graves Garrett. She now combines her expertise in state government and policy with a deep background in campaign finance law and enforcement matters, enabling her to uniquely serve clients in the public policy space and those interacting with the government for the first time.

"At Graves Garrett, I know that I'm home," Lucinda Luetkemeyer said. "I'm truly grateful for the opportunity to continue my work here, and I can't wait to see what the future holds." ■

GARRETT HONORED AS INFLUENTIAL LAWYER WITH MISSOURI LAWYERS WEEKLY AWARD



Nathan Garrett

Graves Garrett LLC congratulates partner Nathan Garrett on being recognized as one of the state's most Influential Lawyers in Missouri Lawyers Weekly's 2019 Missouri Lawyers Awards. He was honored during a ceremony Friday, Jan. 25, in St. Louis.

The Missouri Lawyers Awards honor attorneys who made an impact in the prior year. The Influential Lawyer distinction is given to Missouri attorneys who made substantial contributions to the legal community.

Garrett earned the distinction after accepting the position of president of the Kansas City (Missouri) Board of Police Commissioners. The other four board members elected Garrett to the spot in 2018. The board is responsible for overseeing the operations of the KCPD, its nearly 2,000 employees and \$250 million annual budget.

Prior to entering private practice in 2008, Garrett's professional career included 15 years of experience in law enforcement, including stints as a municipal police officer, Missouri State Highway Patrol trooper, state prosecutor, FBI special agent and federal prosecutor. ■

THREE ATTORNEYS APPOINTED TO LEADERSHIP POSITIONS IN KC LEGAL COMMUNITY

Graves Garrett attorneys Andrew Alexander, Callie Pippin Raitinger and Benjamin Tompkins have recently been appointed to leadership positions with the Kansas City Metropolitan Bar Association (KCMBA).

Alexander will serve as the Federal Court Advocates Section's Outreach Committee co-chair. The FCAS connects federal court practitioners with federal judges, magistrates and other lawyers interested in federal law through seasonal social events and outreach programs designed to enhance community awareness of the federal system. The section also develops and executes continuing education programs to help practitioners navigate the federal court system and stay up to date with relevant developments.

Raitinger will be a part of KCMBA's Diversity Section for the second year in a row, serving as vice chair of the Membership and Social Committee in 2019. She also continues to serve in leadership positions on the Wellness Committee and Publications Committee.

In her role with the Diversity Section, Raitinger will work with other committee members to plan and coordinate social activities for networking. This includes an emphasis on creating opportunities to get others involved and interacting with diverse groups to help bring people together on a less formal basis.

Tompkins has been named vice chair of the Tax Law Committee for 2019. This committee considers the laws and procedures pertaining to federal, state and local taxation; promotes its fair and just administration; studies and reports upon proposed, necessary or desirable legislation; and promotes legal education to members of KCMBA and the public on taxation law.

In addition to her role with KCMBA, Raitinger has been selected to serve on the Association for Women Lawyers of Greater Kansas City's board of directors for the fourth year in a row. She will be the Awards Committee chair in 2019. The AWL was formed in 1976 to advance the role of women in the legal profession and remains committed to helping women thrive in the law by providing opportunities, education, networking, philanthropy and camaraderie. ■

GREIM SPEAKS ON CONSTITUTIONAL REFORM



Eddie Greim

"Don't eat the tusks," Graves Garrett partner Eddie Greim recently advised a nationwide conference of federal, state, and local government attorneys. The program,

entitled "How to Eat an Elephant: Surviving Comprehensive Legislative & Constitutional Reform," was presented at the Council on Governmental Ethics Laws (COGEL) 2018 national conference in Philadelphia.

Greim and three other attorneys reviewed and debated major constitutional changes in the fields of campaign finance and ethics at the federal and state level. Greim focused on his experience at the federal level and in several states, including Montana, Wisconsin, and Missouri's own controversial Constitutional Amendment 2 in 2016 and Constitutional Amendment 1 in 2018.

Greim provided the private practice litigator's perspective on how to achieve, challenge, or adapt to sweeping reforms. Greim remarked that he appreciated the opportunity to share insights with regulators who are tasked with making sense of and enforcing new campaign and ethics reforms in a First Amendment-sensitive area. "We remain engaged in truly unique and meaningful governmental law work at Graves Garrett, and this was a wonderful forum to help shine light on important matters."

The 2018 COGEL Conference is the top destination for government regulators to learn what's new in the fields of campaign finance, governmental ethics, elections, lobbying, and freedom of information. This marked the 40th year of the event, which offers an opportunity to connect with experts from across the U.S. and Canada.

COGEL is an organization of government ethics administrators. Members work in the fields of governmental ethics, freedom of information, elections, lobbying, and campaign finance. ■



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GARRETT, FISHER REPRESENT WHISTLEBLOWER IN \$9.5 MILLION FCA SETTLEMENT

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with a portion awarded to the whistleblower.

Graves Garrett partners Nathan Garrett and Kathleen Fisher, who have represented relators and defendants in False Claims Act cases across the nation, represented the whistleblower in this case (U.S. ex rel. Barnes v. Stark Pharmacy, et al). Media coverage of the settlement included articles in Becker's Hospital Review, The Kansas City Star, Kansas City Business Journal and Missouri Lawyers Weekly.

This resolution marks the third multimillion-dollar whistleblower case Garrett and Fisher have successfully resolved on the whistleblower side in the past three years and adds to the firm's overall national reputation in this arena. ■

LUETKEMEYER, MARTIN ELECTED PARTNERS

Graves Garrett LLC is pleased to announce that Lucinda Luetkemeyer and Dane Martin have become partners at the firm, effective Jan. 1, 2019.

"Lucinda and Dane have earned this opportunity, and we look forward to their continued growth at the firm," Graves Garrett partner Nathan Garrett said. "They have earned the respect of their colleagues and have established reputations as talented litigators in the legal community. We are proud to have them."

Luetkemeyer recently rejoined Graves Garrett after most recently serving as general counsel to the office of the governor (Missouri). As the administration's top lawyer, she was the chief legal officer for the executive branch, providing legal counsel to the governor, executive staff and cabinet officials. She oversaw and served as liaison to the general counsels of the more than 20 state agencies, boards and commissions in the executive branch.

"I'm thrilled to return to a firm I know so well," Luetkemeyer said. "Graves Garrett is committed to helping our clients navigate their most pressing challenges, including those facing government and regulatory actions. I am excited to continue this work by joining the partnership of such a talented team of lawyers."

Martin is a recipient of the Missouri Lawyers Weekly's Up & Coming award, an award given to no more than 2.5 percent of attorneys under age 40. He has also been recognized by Missouri & Kansas Super Lawyers as a "Rising Star" since 2015. Prior to joining the firm, Martin served as a judicial clerk to the Hon. Patricia Breckenridge of the Supreme Court of Missouri.

"I am honored to join such a distinguished group of partners at Graves Garrett. I feel fortunate to be able to grow my practice at a firm with not only a track record of success, but also a team of attorneys who truly care about each other and the work they do. It is a great environment, and I believe that contributes to providing the best representation and outcome for our clients." ■