

# GRAVES GARRETT NEWS

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## GREIM HONORED AS NLJ TRAILBLAZER FOR CONSTITUTIONAL AND ELECTION LAW

Eddie Greim and the team at Graves Garrett have developed a leading free speech, election law and constitutional law practice, regularly competing



*Eddie Greim*

for work across the country in high-profile matters that are redefining the nation's political landscape. The firm has an extensive record of success in this highly specialized area of law.

The National Law Journal recognized Greim for his work in political law as part of its 2020

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## LETTER FROM THE FIRM

Reflecting on a unique and challenging yet rewarding year, Graves Garrett continues to be reminded of how fortunate we are to have so many valued friends and clients. We want to take this opportunity to wish you and your family well during this holiday season as you celebrate your blessings.

In 2020, our firm found ourselves in a unique position to help our trusted clients and partners through difficult circumstances related to the pandemic, and that dedicated work continues as the New Year approaches. We have been fortunate to add the talent of attorneys Cody Hagan and Samuel Elliott to our firm and look forward to their contributions.

Graves Garrett continues to be a leader in the legal industry — a boutique firm in Kansas City with a national reach. We achieved many notable outcomes this past year and always take time to remember how lucky we are to have the faith of our clients when working on their most important legal matters.

Thank you for your support of Graves Garrett, and while we never want to miss a chance to say "Thank you," the gesture seems especially important as we also wish you happiness and success in your lives. Merry Christmas and Happy New Year to you and your families! ■

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Graves Garrett LLC

## FIRM CLIENT PREVAILS IN ZONA ROSA BONDS APPEAL

The Missouri Court of Appeals for the Western District recently affirmed the judgment in favor of Platte County in its lawsuit against UMB Bank, N.A., the trustee for the Zona Rosa bonds. Graves Garrett attorneys Todd Graves, Dane Martin and Jennifer Donnelly represent Platte County in the case.

Platte County filed the lawsuit in 2018 after the trustee threatened to sue unless Platte County paid shortfalls on the Zona Rosa bonds. The Zona Rosa bonds were issued by a third-party entity, not Platte County, and are payable from a 1% sales tax in Zona Rosa. The payments demanded by the trustee would have escalated over time, totaling up to \$40 million through 2032.

The trial court entered judgment in favor of Platte County, finding that Platte County never promised to pay the shortfalls. In resolving the trustee's appeal, the Court of Appeals "disagree[d] with the trustee's interpretation as it is contrary to the plain language of the Financing Agreement." It found that Platte County only agreed "to consider whether to pay on the Zona Rosa bonds by proposing a payment in the budget for the County Commission's approval."

As found by the Court of Appeals, "[i]t is undisputed that is exactly what the county did." The commission never approved making a payment because it was not required and doing so would deplete the county's reserve fund and require either a material reduction in core governmental services or a raise in taxes.

This case continues to receive both local and national media coverage.

"Since day one, the commission has kept every word of its promise regarding the Zona Rosa bonds," Graves said. "The Court was correct to reject the trustee's attempts to impose a bondholder bailout on taxpayers by seeking to alter the terms of the agreement." ■

## ELLIOTT JOINS FIRM AS ASSOCIATE ATTORNEY

Graves Garrett LLC is pleased to announce the addition of attorney Samuel Elliott to the firm. His practice includes general and commercial litigation and free speech and election law.

Throughout law school, Elliott gained professional experience during summer internships at Graves Garrett in 2018 and 2019, a summer internship with Missouri's solicitor general, and in-semester externships in Washington, D.C.

"We were impressed with Sam's work during his summers at Graves Garrett, and his skill set fits well with our core areas of focus," said Nathan Garrett, partner at Graves Garrett. "This was a wonderful opportunity to invest in an attorney with a bright future, and Sam will undoubtedly be an asset for the firm."

Elliott completed his undergraduate studies in political science with minors in international relations and social studies at John Brown University in Arkansas before earning his Juris Doctor from the University of Virginia School of Law. During law school, he spent semesters working part time for the National Republican Senatorial Committee and an appellate litigation firm in Washington, D.C.

In addition to his commitment to Graves Garrett, Elliott will clerk for the Hon. Duane Benton in the United States Court of Appeals for the Eighth Circuit from August 2021 to August 2022. ■



Samuel Elliott and Hon. Duane Benton

## ALEXANDER NAMED TO 2020 CLASS OF UP & COMING LAWYERS

Graves Garrett attorney Andrew Alexander recently earned distinction in Missouri Lawyers Weekly's 2020 class of Up & Coming Award winners. The award recognizes attorneys who are 40 and younger or in their first 10 years of practice who are positively affecting the legal profession in Missouri and have demonstrated the potential for significant future success.

Winners were recognized during a virtual ceremony Thursday, Oct. 15, and profiled in a recent edition of Missouri Lawyers Weekly. This marks the fifth straight year Graves Garrett has had an Up & Coming honoree.

Alexander's profile noted his "nontraditional" path.

Prior to joining Graves Garrett in January 2017, Alexander studied biology, airway science (professional pilot), and analytical theology. He also spent meaningful time working in the motorsports industry and handcrafting stringed instruments — all before returning to law school at UMKC at age 29. His practice focuses on complex commercial litigation, healthcare, antitrust and competition law, and campaign finance law. He also has substantial experience in trademark and copyright litigation, government and internal investigations, anti-corruption law, and political law.

Alexander began his legal career as a judicial clerk to the Hon. J. Thomas Marten, chief judge of the U.S. District Court for the District of Kansas. During law school, he interned for the U.S. Attorney's Office for the Western District of Missouri in the Fraud and Corruption Unit and for the Hon. Fernando J. Gaitan Jr., then chief judge of the U.S. District Court for the Western District of Missouri. ■



Andrew Alexander

## INGRAM'S 40 UNDER FORTY LIST INCLUDES LUETKEMEYER

Ingram's Magazine named Graves Garrett partner Lucinda Luetkemeyer to its annual "40 Under Forty" list.

In the magazine's 22nd annual class of honorees, Luetkemeyer was recognized as an individual in the Kansas City metro area under 40 who has demonstrated commitment to leadership in both her career and community. Citing Luetkemeyer's accomplishments, Ingram's noted her impressive "trajectory during her short career."



Lucinda Luetkemeyer

Ingram's annually selects the 40 Under Forty list from nominations throughout the metro area. Candidates are judged based on ethics, integrity, commitment to entrepreneurial thinking, record of achievement in business, leadership skills, professional affiliation and community service.

In 2019, Luetkemeyer rejoined Graves Garrett as a partner after serving as general counsel to Missouri's governor for two years. 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 also conducted internal investigations and developed and implemented administration-wide policies involving the Sunshine Law, ethics and compliance; coordinated the response of the office and executive agencies to investigations and enforcement actions; and oversaw and managed major litigation in conjunction with the Missouri attorney general's office.

In her current practice, Luetkemeyer represents clients in a wide range of litigation, including complex commercial litigation, white-collar criminal defense, professional liability and government enforcement matters. With experience representing elected officials, candidates, committees and nonprofit groups, she counsels clients on compliance with ethics and campaign finance laws and also represents clients facing civil and criminal enforcement actions brought by state and federal officials. ■

## GRAVES GARRETT RECEIVES NATIONAL, METROPOLITAN RANKINGS FOR 3 PRACTICE AREAS IN BEST LAW FIRM RANKINGS

Graves Garrett LLC is pleased to announce four rankings for the firm — one national and three Kansas City Metropolitan — in the 2021 edition of the U.S. News – Best Lawyers "Best Law Firm" rankings, released today. For the third straight year, the firm received a national ranking in Litigation.

Additionally, the firm maintained its Kansas City Metropolitan Tier 1 rankings in Commercial Litigation, Criminal Defense: White-Collar, and Litigation.

The U.S. News – Best Lawyers "Best Law Firms" rankings are based on a rigorous evaluation process, which includes input from multiple sources. To receive a ranking, a firm must have at least one attorney who is recognized in the current edition of Best Lawyers in a "Best Law Firms" ranked practice area/metro area. Practice area rankings are produced both nationally and within 186 metropolitan areas across the United States.

Graves Garrett partners Todd Graves, Nathan Garrett and Eddie Greim were individual honorees in the 2021 edition of Best Lawyers rankings. ■

## CHAMBERS HONORS FIRM AS A MISSOURI LEADER IN WHITE-COLLAR CRIME AND INVESTIGATIONS

Graves Garrett is pleased to announce its ranking as a top White-Collar Crime and Government Investigations firm in Missouri. In the 2020 Chambers USA: America's Leading Lawyers for Business guide, Chambers and Partners ranked Graves Garrett as a Band 1 firm in Litigation: White-Collar Crime & Government Investigations — one of only two firms in the state to receive the top-level distinction.

Additionally, Graves Garrett partners Todd Graves and Nathan Garrett were both ranked as individual attorneys in Missouri for Litigation: White-Collar Crime & Government Investigations. Only 12 attorneys in the state received a band ranking.

Published by London-based Chambers and Partners, the annual Chambers USA guide ranks firms and attorneys in a wide range of practice areas based on in-depth research, and client and peer interviews. As the preeminent guide of the legal industry, Chambers evaluates attorneys based on their legal knowledge and experience, ability and effectiveness, and client service.

In the guide, clients told Chambers USA the following about Graves Garrett and its attorneys:

- "They bring big-firm capabilities with boutique-firm customer experience, loyalty and depth."
- "They were very thorough and the work product that they produced was excellent."
- The team is "always careful and responsive to the clients' questions and thoughts."
- Nathan Garrett was highlighted for his "outside-the-box creative thinking."
- Todd Graves was noted for his experience and for being "excellent and responsive with deep knowledge and a high level of practicality." ■



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## GREIM HONORED AS NLJ TRAILBLAZER FOR CONSTITUTIONAL AND ELECTION LAW

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Elite Boutique Trailblazers honoree class, which highlights attorneys at small firms with successful specialty practices. Greim came to Graves Garrett in 2006 for a chance to specifically work more on political, white-collar crime and commercial litigation matters.

"It felt like a bit of an experiment," Greim told the NLJ. "But it

immediately seemed right, and I never looked back."

Graves Garrett brings its complex litigation and white-collar criminal defense expertise to the growing and highly regulated field of political and election-related speech. In the area of free speech and election law, the firm represents individuals, nonprofit educational and advocacy organizations, and political committees in their struggle against increasingly burdensome and intrusive governmental restrictions on speech.

Greim leads a free speech and election law team with experience

prosecuting Section 1983 civil rights actions in state and federal trial and appellate courts around the country, representing clients in state administrative proceedings and investigations and assisting and counseling clients on advancing their policy priorities by developing strategies for nationwide public interest litigation.

"I've really enjoyed the opportunity to advance my free speech and election law practice," Greim said. "I'm extremely proud of the work Graves Garrett does on complex (litigation) matters, and our attorneys have repeatedly shown the ability to handle even the most unique challenges." ■

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**GRAVES GARRETT IS HIRING FOR ATTORNEY POSITIONS.** We recruit those with strong academic records and an emphasis on integrity. We welcome recent law school graduates with outstanding credentials and experienced lawyers with a demonstrated success in the profession. If you or someone you know would be interested, please contact Stephanie Goodnight at [sgoodnight@gravesgarrett.com](mailto:sgoodnight@gravesgarrett.com).