

NEWS & INSIGHTS

Stephen Matzura joins Kathy Pape at Saxton & Stump to launch environmental, workplace safety and utilities practice as co-chairs

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HARRISBURG, Pa., December 20, 2021 — Attorney [Stephen J. Matzura](#) has joined Saxton & Stump as an equity shareholder and will serve as co-chair of the firm's [Environmental, Workplace Safety and Utilities](#) group alongside former senior executive at American Water and Aqua America, Kathy L. Pape. Pape is a practicing attorney, a

registered lobbyist and was recently elected equity shareholder of Saxton & Stump. Leveraging their combined 55 years of experience, the team will help businesses and governmental entities navigate the complexities of environmental, health and safety (EHS) issues while pursuing outcomes that are sustainable for their organization, the environment, and their industry at large. A primary focus of the group will be proactive compliance strategies and the combination of public/private solutions to solve community issues.

“Steve not only has an incredible track record of successfully supporting clients but is also considered a true authority in this area. His background, combined with Kathy’s decades of experience and relationships, creates an unparalleled resource for clients,” Saxton & Stump CEO [James W. Saxton](#) said. “We know our environmental, workplace safety and utilities team will be an important asset to our clients and complement the suite of legal services we provide.”

Reuniting a powerhouse environmental, workplace safety and utilities team

Matzura was most recently a partner at McNees, Wallace and Nurick where he worked with Pape for three years, and prior to that, he was an associate at K&L Gates LLP in Harrisburg. He brings over a decade of experience handling EHS compliance, permitting, auditing, and self-disclosures. That experience includes defending enforcement actions and addressing issues with the many agencies and commissions that impact his clients’ businesses. He has also handled the environmental implications of business and real estate transactions and is an accomplished litigator with experience before state and federal courts and administrative hearing boards. Matzura earned his J.D. from Widener University Commonwealth Law School in 2010, magna cum laude, receiving an Environmental Law Certificate from the Law and Government Institute and earned his B.A. from Bucknell University in 2007, cum laude, majoring in both political science and geography.

In Matzura’s practice, he has successfully advocated for his clients before the Pennsylvania Environmental Hearing Board (EHB) and the Susquehanna River Basin Commission (SRBC). He has also defended and negotiated enforcement actions by the Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection (PADEP), U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), and Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA). He has also advised clients on permitting and chemical and hazardous materials compliance, including on comprehensive EHS audits and self-disclosures and best practices for abatement, especially for workplace exposures and building materials, including for asbestos, lead-based paint, volatile organic compounds (VOCs), mold, and radiation, and a wide range of other hazardous chemicals as well. Matzura has served as environmental counsel for numerous business transactions and disputes involving EHS implications, including for several multimillion-dollar transactions. He has also negotiated price changes based on environmental site conditions, handled transaction and remediation disputes and performed environmental due diligence and helped clients navigate changes of ownership.

Pape [joined the firm](#) as senior counsel earlier this year having also previously practiced at McNees, Wallace and Nurick. She brings decades of experience in utilities in a variety of executive, legal and financial roles at major water companies, including as the head of the mid-Atlantic region of American Water. She focuses her practice on advising and counseling both public and private sector clients on matters related to long-term regional utility solutions with a legal, financial and community impact overlay. She is also a registered lobbyist and has played an instrumental role in the passage of legislation that ensured water quality and quantity and water system sustainability for decades. Her broad business background has helped many municipal clients to analyze the pros and cons of regionalizing and monetizing assets.

Pape started her career at the Office of Consumer Advocate, Pennsylvania Public Utility Commission and as a utility attorney at General Waterworks. She also served as corporate counsel and manager of finance for American Water's 13-state region. Later, she served as vice president, treasurer and rate counsel for Philadelphia Suburban Water. While she was at Philadelphia Suburban Water, the company grew from a five-county suburban Philadelphia water company to the second largest publicly traded U.S. water and wastewater service provider.

A team built to empower clients

Led by Matzura and Pape, the team includes well-known real estate attorney [Erik M. Hume](#). Hume regularly handles complex real estate development projects, including due diligence, obtaining entitlements and managing the closing process. He also represents clients in oil and gas law matters, specifically oil and gas leases, surface use agreements, pipeline rights of way, and oil, gas and mineral reservations. He is joined by registered lobbyist and practicing attorney [Kathleen Duffy Bruder](#), who handles government relations matters for clients related to energy, the environment, oil and natural gas. With more than 25 years of experience as both a litigator and lobbyist, she has an extensive network of contacts and the knowledge necessary to develop strategies with clients and influence decision makers in the federal, state and local government and within the three branches. The team also includes attorney [Richard L. Hackman](#) who has dedicated 20 years of his practice to representing employers and management in all aspects of federal, state and local employment laws, including OSHA requirements and guidance, and provides training to employers on all issues related to employment law compliance.

The team is prepared to counsel and represent clients during investigations, trials or litigation and includes some of Saxton & Stump's most accomplished trial attorneys, such as [Hon. Lawrence F. Stengel \(Ret.\)](#), [Hon. Robert A. Graci \(Ret.\)](#), and attorney Carson B. Morris, all of whom have deeply relevant experience working with government agencies, regulators, and law enforcement, as well as in the courtroom.

Saxton & Stump's strategic growth outlook

With 139 professionals, including 75 attorneys, the firm continues to grow and based on their strategic plan for 2022, will continue to expand its current team of lawyers and professionals, focusing on bringing additional resources to support client needs.

Saxton & Stump provides solutions for complex legal issues and partners with clients to create a roadmap for their success. The firm is committed to empowering clients by delivering five-star service and results-focused advice.

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