



# Kenneth J. McDermott

---

*Shareholder and Chair, Liquor Licensing and Alcohol*

**Email:** [kjm@saxtonstump.com](mailto:kjm@saxtonstump.com)

**Phone:** [\(717\) 941-1211](tel:(717)941-1211)

## *Services and Industries*

- Liquor Licensing and Alcohol
- Hospitality
- Business and Corporate
- Regulatory and Government Affairs
- Litigation
- Food and Beverage

## *Education*

Pennsylvania State University, Dickinson School of Law, J.D., 2007

Indiana University of Pennsylvania, B.A. in Economics, *summa cum laude*, 2004

## *Admissions*

Pennsylvania

U.S. Bankruptcy Court for the Middle District of Pennsylvania

U.S. District Court for the Middle District of Pennsylvania

Kenneth J. McDermott practices in the firm's [Hospitality](#) and [Business and Corporate](#) Groups. He represents

beverage retailers, distributors, restaurants, hotels, bars, private clubs, music and entertainment venues, breweries, wineries, distilleries and other liquor licensees on all aspects of [liquor licensing and alcohol law](#).

Ken is experienced in defending claims before the Pennsylvania Liquor Control Board (PLCB), the Bureau of Liquor Control Enforcement and in state and federal court. He regularly represents clients with their litigation, corporate and business operations, construction and intellectual property matters. He participates in and presents to several industry-related organizations including the Brewers of Pennsylvania Association.

Ken served as a law clerk to Justice J. Michael Eakin of the Supreme Court of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania. During his clerkship, he prepared opinions on numerous significant legal issues including land development, uninsured and underinsured motorist insurance, trustee compensation and capital murder.

After receiving his J.D. from Pennsylvania State University's Dickinson School of Law, Ken was an Associate with a construction litigation firm and was most recently an Associate at Tucker Arensberg where he provided legal counsel to hospitality and alcohol industry clients.

## ***Experience***

- Successfully appealed the Liquor Control Board's denial of an economic development liquor license application
- Orchestrated several licensing transactions that were the first to be accomplished in Pennsylvania
- Assisted an international hotel brand in securing a liquor license for a newly renovated hotel in Center City Philadelphia
- Defended an international retailer against premises liability and property damage claims
- Represented a brewery in a claim against a manufacturer related to defective glass bottles
- Pursued mechanics' lien claims for a national factoring company
- Assisted a national nursing home operator with obtaining guardianships for its incapacitated residents

## ***Community Involvement***

- Crime Stoppers of Dauphin County, Board of Directors
- Pennsylvania Restaurant and Lodging Association - Central Chapter, Board of Directors
- Harrisburg Area Community College Brewing Science Certificate Program, Instructor
- Harrisburg Beer Week, Advisor
- Brewers of Pennsylvania, Associate Member
- Pennsylvania Licensed Beverage and Tavern Association, Associate Member
- Wills for Heroes, Volunteer

## ***Speaking Engagements***

- "Boundary Law in Pennsylvania," Pennsylvania Bar Institute (2025)
- "Thinking outside the box - creative options for businesses seeking a PA liquor license in a competitive marketplace," Bill Gladstone Group's Harrisburg Commercial Real Estate Review (May 1, 2020)
- The Brewery Science Certificate Program, Harrisburg Community College and the Brewers of PA (January 2020)
- "Marijuana and Beer - Is this Bud for You?," Brewers of Pennsylvania, Mid-Atlantic Brewers Symposium

(October 2018)

- “Brew-Vitalization: Impact of Breweries on Local Redevelopment,” Association for Pennsylvania Municipal Management (APMM), Annual Meeting (May 2016)

### ***Professional Affiliations***

- Cumberland County Bar Association
- Pennsylvania Bar Association
- Cumberland County American Inn of Court
- Ancient Order of Hibernians
- National Association of Alcoholic Beverage Licensing Attorneys

### ***Recognitions***

- Best Lawyers in America, Commercial Litigation, 2026, 2027