



Jim Matchefts

Senior Counsel

St. Louis
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ADMISSIONS

- Missouri

EDUCATION

- Saint Louis University School of Education, Ed.D., Higher Education/Higher Education Administration
- Washington University School of Law, J.D.
- Lawrence University, B.A.

EMPLOYMENT

- Thompson Coburn LLP Senior Counsel, 2022-Present
- MOHELA
General Counsel, 2007-2022
- Missouri Department of Higher Education
General Counsel, 1997-2007
- St. Louis City Counselor's Office
Associate City Counselor, 1992-1997

A member of the Firm's public finance practice, Jim previously served as General Counsel of the Missouri Higher Education Loan Authority (MOHELA) for fifteen years. MOHELA is the fourth largest servicer of federal student loans and one of the largest holders of student loans in the nation.

Prior to joining MOHELA, he served for ten years as General Counsel to the Missouri Department of Higher Education (MDHE). As part of his duties with MDHE, Jim oversaw the operation of the MDHE Student Loan Program, which is Missouri's state-designated guaranty agency under the Federal Family Education Loan Program. For five years before joining MDHE, he worked in the St. Louis City Counselor's Office, representing the City of St. Louis in various civil litigation and corporate matters.

Jim served for 12 years on the board of the Missouri Scholarship and Loan Foundation. He was a founding board member and chair of the Missouri College Access and Career Network. He also served on the board of the Missouri Association of Student Financial Aid Personnel.

In recognition of his storied career, which has been dedicated to ensuring that students get to and through college, the Missouri Scholarship & Loan Foundation established the Overcoming Adversity Scholarship in honor of Jim Matchefts. Through this scholarship, Missouri students who have overcome a major life barrier receive financial support throughout their collegiate journey.