



# ZACH KLEIN

COLUMBUS CITY ATTORNEY

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## City Attorney Zach Klein fights for Columbus ratepayers with first-of-its-kind lawsuit against lead pipe manufacturers

*Says new federal requirements will take billion-dollar infrastructure upgrades and companies that created the problem should help pay for it*

**COLUMBUS, OH**—Columbus City Attorney Zach Klein filed a major lawsuit against lead pipe manufacturers today, a first-of-its-kind attempt nationwide to hold companies accountable for defrauding cities and ensuring that they help offset the anticipated billion-dollar price tag to replace lead service lines to meet new federal requirements over the next 10 years.

**“Too many working people and families are feeling stretched thin by an increased cost of living. We can’t ask more of ratepayers when the companies that created this problem aren’t being asked to pay a dime to fix it,”** said Columbus City Attorney Zach Klein. **“We’re fighting to see the companies that conspired to deceive the City help pay for these required federal upgrades.”**

New federal standards require Columbus to replace its remaining lead or galvanized water service lines by 2037, which is anticipated to cost approximately \$1.2 billion. This is in addition to costs associated with water treatment that prevents the lead in these service lines from leaching into the water at customers' homes. The City spent over \$1 million on this treatment in 2025 alone, with costs anticipated to rise in the coming years.

With City Attorney Klein’s filing, Columbus becomes the first city in the country to go after lead manufacturers for their role in deceiving cities and asking the court to order these companies to help pay to replace infrastructure to meet new federal requirements.

The City argues that companies named in the lawsuit conspired for decades to misrepresent the health risks associated with lead pipes, even mounting public relations campaigns to hide the dangers. In 1963, Columbus banned the use of any new lead service lines and has been replacing any lead it encounters on the public side of the service line since the mid-1990s.

**“Columbus Water and Power does great work ensuring our water is among the cleanest and safest in the country, but that comes at a cost. This lawsuit aims to ensure that work can**

**continue while minimizing the burden on ratepayers,”** added City Attorney Klein.

Columbus Water & Power’s Water Quality Assurance Laboratory closely monitors for all regulated contaminants in the City’s tap water to ensure it is safe. In addition, certified drinking water operators treat the water to prevent lead from leaching into the drinking water at customers' homes. The City’s water currently meets all drinking water standards. [Click to see the current Consumer Confidence Report.](#)

Edelson PC is serving as special counsel to the City on the lawsuit.

*\*Editor’s note: A copy of the complaint can be viewed [here](#).*