



Matt Blunt, Partner

Former Missouri Governor Matt Blunt has more than 20 years expertise in state government management and policy.

In 2005, Mr. Ashcroft established The Ashcroft Group, LLC to help domestic and international corporations apply the leadership principles, sound judgment, and high goals he embraced during his over three decades of public service to the business world.

Blunt was elected Missouri governor in 2004, carrying 101 of the state's 114 counties. He was a highly effective chief executive, turning the \$1.1 billion deficit he inherited into three consecutive surpluses without raising taxes. His achievements successfully managing difficult, complicated budgets are well noted: in 2006, Blunt was the only U.S. governor to receive an A grade from the CATO institute for fiscal management.

Blunt's leadership revived Missouri's economy, which had lost 34,000 jobs in the four years before his election. The state legislature passed Blunt's landmark lawsuit and workers' compensation reforms in the first months of his administration. Blunt also signed three major tax cuts and pioneered the Quality Jobs Act, Missouri's most important economic development tool ever passed. By the time Blunt left office, Missourians created 70,000 new jobs.

Prior to serving as the state's chief executive, Blunt served as Missouri's 37th Secretary of State (2001-2005), represented the 139th Legislative District of northern Greene County in the House of Representatives (1999-2001), and worked in private industry.

Blunt graduated from the U.S. Navy Academy in 1993 and began a 14-year naval career, which included more than five years on active duty. He served in Operation Support Democracy, involving the United Nations blockade of Haiti; participated in the interdiction of illegal Cuban immigrants; assisted drug interdiction missions in South America; and received many military commendations, including four Navy and Marine Corps Achievement medals and the Humanitarian Service Medal.