



Ellen S. Cappellanti

Member

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Ellen S. Cappellanti is a Member of the Firm and handles a wide array of transactions covering numerous industries. She practices out of the Firm's office in Charleston, West Virginia.

Ellen has dedicated her professional life to Jackson Kelly and to the West Virginia community. After more than 40 years at Jackson Kelly, Ellen is one of the Firm's most valued and respected voices, as well as one of West Virginia's most well-connected and esteemed business leaders. She enjoys leadership and the challenges of being a leader. After serving eight years as the Firm's Managing Member, Ellen is able to get back to doing what she truly loves — the day-to-day practice of the law.

There is little Ellen hasn't seen over the course of her career, which means she has a wide variety of experience in commercial transactions – from financings to mergers and acquisitions to real estate development projects – Ellen is never out of her element.

For an attorney to understand the legal issues of business clients, the attorney must know the business world. Ellen has been so immersed in that world for almost four decades it is difficult to summarize her experience – in fact, it might be easier to list things she hasn't accomplished. Ellen has been recognized in *The Best Lawyers in America*® for her work in bankruptcy, corporate mergers and acquisitions, and real estate. She was also named as a preeminent corporate and M&A attorney in Chambers USA Guide: *America's Leading Business Lawyers*. Ellen's clients told Chambers USA that her "connections in the state make it easy for us to reach the right people." The bottom line is, you can rely on Ellen's judgment, skill, and personal experience to find a solution to almost any legal problem.

Ellen's dedication to the law and her clients stems from her deep love of the community. She truly wants to make West Virginia a better place, which underlies everything she does, both personally and professionally. Governor Joe Manchin recognized this in 2007, when he appointed her to the West Virginia University Board of Governors. Ellen also is committed to economic development and promoting West Virginia, and has participated in trade missions to Taiwan, China, and Japan with Senator John D. Rockefeller IV and Governor Manchin.

A native of Morgantown, West Virginia, Ellen graduated from West Virginia University and WVU College of Law. She is an avid golfer, traveler, and reader. She and her husband, Mark, have three sons and are doting grandparents to two grandchildren.

Awards

- WVU Order of Vandalia
- Top Ten List of *West Virginia Super Lawyers*® (2023-2024)
- *West Virginia Super Lawyers*® - Business/Corporate Law
- *Chambers USA, America's Leading Lawyers for Business* – Corporate/Commercial Law in W

- *Best Lawyers® Business Edition* – “Women in Law”
- West Virginia Focus – West Virginia Wonder Women
- *Super Lawyers® Business Edition* – Business & Transactions
- *West Virginia Super Lawyers®* – Bankruptcy Law
- Patrick Koontz Scholarship Recipient
- *The Best Lawyers in America®* – Bankruptcy & Creditor Debtor Rights/Insolvency & Reorganization Law, Bet-the-Company Litigation, Corporate Law, Litigation – Bankruptcy, Mergers & Acquisitions Law, Real Estate Law (1991-2026)
- YWCA Women of Achievement Award Recipient (2000)
- WVU College of Law Women's Law Caucus – “Distinguished Women in the Law” Recipient (2000)
- West Virginia University College of Law *Justitia Officium* Award Recipient (2012)
- *The American Lawyer Magazine*, “Women Leaders in the Law” (2013)

Work History

- Jackson Kelly PLLC (1980-Present)
- Jackson Kelly PLLC (Summer Associate)

Practices

- Bankruptcy
- Business Law
- Commercial Lending
- Commercial Restructuring
- Economic Development
- Government Contracts
- Mergers & Acquisitions
- Public-Private Partnerships
- Real Estate

Industries

- Banking
- Education
- Financial Services
- Health Care
- Hotels & Hospitality
- Manufacturing

Education

- West Virginia University College of Law (J.D., *Order of the Coif*, *Phi Delta Phi*, *Order of the Barrister*, 1980)
 - *West Virginia Law Review*, Lead Articles Editor
 - West Virginia College of Law Moot Court Board, Member
 - West Virginia University National Moot Court Team, Member
- West Virginia University (B.A. in Biology, 1977)
 - Student Body Vice President (1976)

Admissions

- West Virginia (1980)

- U.S. Supreme Court (1996)
- U.S. Court of Appeals, Sixth Circuit (1992)
- U.S. Court of Appeals, Fourth Circuit (1984)
- U.S. District Court, Northern District of West Virginia (1981)
- U.S. District Court, Southern District of West Virginia (1980)

Professional Organizations

- West Virginia Bar Foundation (Fellow and Past Chair)
- American College of Real Estate Lawyers (Member)
- Dean's Development Council for West Virginia University College of Law (Past Chair and Former Member)
- American Bar Association (Member)
- West Virginia State Bar (Past Chair, Standing Bankruptcy Committee)
- Judicial Conference of the United States Court of Appeals for Fourth Circuit (Member)
- West Virginia Law Institute (Past President of Governing Council)
- American Bar Foundation (Fellow)

Speaking Engagements & Publications

Speaking Engagements

- **Ark Group Mid-Sized Law Firm Summit**
 - Panelist, "Why Mid-Sized Law Firms are the Key to Transforming the Legal Service Delivery Model."
- **American College of Real Estate Lawyers Spring 2023 Meeting**
 - Panelist, "The Time is Now! Rethink Your Leasing Strategies."
- **West Virginia Chamber of Commerce Women's Leadership Summit**
 - Speaker, "Achieving Your Goals and Learning From Failures," (The Greenbrier, White Sulphur Springs, West Virginia, March 30, 2022)
- **DRI's Managing Partners and Law Firm Leaders Conference**
 - Panelist, "You Survived COVID: Now What?," (Chicago, Illinois, Aug. 26-27, 2021)
- **West Virginia Society of Certified Public Accountants 93rd Annual Meeting**
 - Speaker, "Modern Trends in Buying and Selling a Business/What CPAs Can Do to Assist Their Clients," (The Greenbrier, White Sulphur Springs, W.Va., June 15, 2011)
- **Eastern Mineral Law Foundation**
 - Program Speaker/Panelist
- **Coal Outlook**
 - Program Speaker/Panelist
- **Allegheny County**
 - Program Speaker/Panelist
- **Pennsylvania State Bar**
 - Program Speaker/Panelist
- **American Bar Association Business Law Subcommittee in Bankruptcy**
 - Program Speaker/Panelist
- **WV Continuing Legal Education Series**
 - Program Speaker/Panelist
- **West Virginia University**
 - Instructor, Introduction to Law (1979-1980)

Writings and Publications

- *Eastern Mineral Law Journal*
 - CoAuthor, "Transacting Business with Bankruptcy Debtors and Trustees" (1996)
- *Eastern Mineral Law Journal*
 - CoAuthor, "Coal Bankruptcies, Problems and Pitfalls" (1983)
- State Bar and Professional Education Systems, Inc.
 - Seminar materials and handbooks on Bankruptcy, Real Estate Development and Collection Law

Community

- Women for Economic and Leadership Development (WELD) National Board of Directors (Member)
- Charleston Area Alliance Board of Directors (Member and Vice President)
- Rea of Hope Board of Directors (Former Member)
- West Virginia University Board of Governors (Former Member and Secretary)
- West Virginia United Health System Board of Directors (Member)
- West Virginia University Hospitals Board of Directors (Member and Vice Chairman)
- Advantage Valley, Inc. (Former Co-Chair)
- YMCA Board of Directors (Former Member)
- YWCA of Charleston Board of Directors (Former President)
- Discover the Real West Virginia Foundation Board of Directors (Member and Former President)
- Pallottine Foundation of Huntington (Trustee)
- Project Harvest II, Trade Mission to Taiwan and Japan (Ambassador) (1997)
- Project Harvest III, Trade Mission to China (Ambassador) (1999)
- Project Harvest IV, Trade Mission to Japan (Ambassador) (2001)
- West Virginia/Japan, A Growing Partnership, Trade Mission to Japan (Ambassador) (2005)
- West Virginia Trade Mission to China (2007)
- Clay Center for the Arts and Sciences Board of Directors (Director and Current Chair)
- Truist, Charleston Advisory Board of Directors (Member)
- Contemporary American Theater Festival, Inc. Board of Directors (Current Honorary Board Member and Former Member)