



Jennifer L. Hughes

Associate

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Jennifer L. Hughes is an Associate in the Energy industry group, focusing primarily on coal, oil and gas, and litigation. She practices out of the Firm's office in Charleston, West Virginia.

Jennifer's practice centers on environmental litigation and counseling clients on environmental and energy matters. Her experience cuts across a wide variety of environmental matters, including permitting, enforcement and regulatory requirements related to water pollution control, water quality standards, monitoring and reporting requirements, storm water control, solid and hazardous waste management, air quality, carbon sequestration, mining law, oil and gas law, underground injection control and spill reporting. She has represented and advised mining companies, oil and gas companies, manufacturers, construction companies, real estate developers, landowners, utilities, municipalities, and trade associations.

Jennifer's love of environmental law began with a geology class in her days as an undergraduate at Oberlin College in Ohio. Now an accomplished attorney in environmental law, she has appeared many times before the Environmental Quality Board and Surface Mine Board in West Virginia. Jennifer has advised companies from a variety of industries on water quality monitoring and reporting requirements. Adding to Jennifer's wide array of skills, she also has defended coal companies and landowners in the Clean Water Act and Surface Mining Control & Reclamation Act citizen suits in federal court. Jennifer also has experience on the regulatory side, having begun her law career at the West Virginia Department of Environmental Protection. She enjoys all aspects of her legal practice, including conducting research, crafting legal arguments in briefs and motions, and engaging in oral argument.

When Jennifer's away from the office, you can find her wrangling her mischievous Border Collie, Ripley (who happens to be famous on Instagram), practicing piano and guitar, cooking inventive recipes in her restaurant-quality kitchen, and cheering on her beloved Pittsburgh Pirates.

Awards

- *Environmental Law Review* -- Associate Editor and Writing Coach
- Sigma Xi -- Scientific Honor Society

Notable Legal Experience

- Appeared many times before the Environmental Quality Board and Surface Mine Board in West Virginia in appeals of agency action related to numerous environmental statutes
- Negotiated administrative consent orders with the West Virginia Department of Environmental Protection (WVDEP) on behalf of clients in various industries for alleged violations of environmental regulations and permits
- Filed annulment reviews of notices of alleged violations issued to oil and gas operators by WVDEP's Office of Oil & Gas of state Water Pollution Control Act and Oil & Gas Act

- Litigated several environmental citizen suits in federal court

Work History

- Jackson Kelly PLLC (2012-Present)
- West Virginia Department of Environmental Protection (2007-2012)
- Public Service Commission of West Virginia, Consumer Advocate Division (2005-2007)

Practices

- Environmental

Industries

- Coal
- Construction
- Energy
- Manufacturing
- Oil & Gas
- Renewable Energy

Education

- Lewis & Clark Law School (J.D., 2004)
- Oberlin College (B.A., 1999)

Admissions

- West Virginia (2004)
- U.S. Court of Appeals, Fourth Circuit (2009)
- U.S. District Court, Southern District of West Virginia (2008)
- U.S. District Court, Northern District of West Virginia (2007)
- West Virginia Supreme Court of Appeals (2004)

Professional Organizations

- Energy & Mineral Law Foundation, Member
- West Virginia Chamber of Commerce, Environment Committee
- West Virginia Oil and Natural Gas Association (WVONGA), Environmental and Legal Committees
- Women's Energy Network, West Virginia Chapter, Board of Directors

Speaking Engagements & Publications

Speaking Engagements

- "Lessons Learned from the Use of Correlative Health Studies Against the Coal Industry: Is the Oil and Gas Industry Next?," Kentucky Mineral Law Conference, Energy & Mineral Law Foundation, Lexington, KY, Oct. 23, 2014
- "Current Issues in Stormwater Regulation in West Virginia," Lorman, Charleston, WV, Oct. 2, 2014
- "The Sierra Club Just Threatened to Sue Me: What Do I Do Now?," West Virginia Oil & Natural Gas Association, Spring Meeting, Wheeling, WV, May 17, 2017

Writings and Publications

- Air Quality Committee Newsletter for Section of Environment, Energy, and Resources, American Bar Association, EPA Region 3 Editor (2014-2015)
- "Authigenic Minerals in Macropores and Veins in Late Triassic Mudstones of the Newark Basin: Implications for Fluid Migration through Mudstone," New Jersey Geological Survey Bulletin 77, pp. B1-B26, Co-author (2010)