



Kathy L. Snyder

Counsel

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Kathy L. Snyder is Counsel in the Regulatory industry group, focusing primarily on litigation and appellate work. She practices out of the Firm's office in Morgantown, West Virginia.

For 25 years, Kathy's practice has focused almost exclusively on the defense of companies in claims filed under the federal Black Lung Benefits Act. Her practice is national in scope and emphasizes appellate work. Kathy has had plenty of opportunity to perfect her legal research and brief writing skills while representing clients in more than 140 cases before the Supreme Court of the United States and four United States Courts of Appeal. She also regularly appears before the Department of Labor's Office of Workers' Compensation Programs, Office of Administrative Law Judges, and the Benefits Review Board.

Kathy is committed to the development of young and future lawyers – one of her favorite parts of her career has been the opportunity to mentor young attorneys, helping them achieve their peak performance and productivity. Additionally, she served as an adjunct lecturer at the West Virginia University College of Law for five years, teaching appellate advocacy. Her pro bono efforts have focused on the representation of domestic violence victims.

Kathy has been recognized in multiple editions of *The Best Lawyers in America*® and *West Virginia Super Lawyers*®. In 2017, she was named in the *Best Lawyers*® Business Edition "Women in Law".

Along with attorney, Kathy can claim small business owner on her resume. She once owned two Subway restaurants, which required attending the franchise owner training program held at Subway headquarters in Connecticut – as a result, she can make a mean sandwich.

Awards

- Named the *Best Lawyers*® Morgantown Workers' Compensation Law - Employers "Lawyer of the Year" (2022)
- *The Best Lawyers in America*® for Workers' Compensation Law – Employers (2008-2025)
- *Best Lawyers*® Business Edition "Women in Law" (2017)
- *West Virginia Super Lawyers*® for Workers' Compensation Law (2009-2013, 2015-2024)
- Outstanding Service to Women Award, Women's Law Caucus of the West Virginia University College of Law (2001)
- Order of the Coif
- Phi Beta Kappa
- West Virginia Law Review, Student Works Editor

Notable Legal Experience

Representative Cases

- *Sewell Coal Co. v. Director, OWCP [Dempsey]*, 523 F.3d 257 (4th Cir. 2008)
- *Daniels Co. v. Mitchell*, 479 F.3d 321 (4th Cir. 2007)
- *Elm Grove Coal Co. v. Blake*, 480 F.3d 278 (4th Cir. 2007)

Work History

- Jackson Kelly PLLC (1992-Present)
- West Virginia University College of Law, Adjunct Lecturer – Appellate Advocacy (2000-2005)

Practices

- Federal Black Lung

Education

- West Virginia University College of Law (J.D., 1992)
- West Virginia University (B.A. in International Studies, 1989)

Admissions

- Pennsylvania (1998)
- West Virginia (1992)
- U.S. Court of Appeals, Seventh Circuit (2002)
- Supreme Court of the United States of America (2000)
- U.S. Court of Appeals, Sixth Circuit (2000)
- U.S. Court of Appeals, Third Circuit (1998)
- Supreme Court of Pennsylvania (1998)
- U.S. Court of Appeals, Fourth Circuit (1995)
- U.S. District Court, Southern District of West Virginia (1992)
- West Virginia Supreme Court of Appeals (1992)

Professional Organizations

- American Bar Association
- West Virginia State Bar, Workers' Compensation Committee
- Monongalia County Bar Association

Speaking Engagements & Publications

Speaking Engagements

- Lecturer, training seminars for participants in the Appalachian Center for Law and Public Service Domestic Violence Project (1996-1999)
- "Representing Victims of Domestic Violence: The Prevention of Domestic Violence Act," CLE Seminar sponsored by the West Virginia Supreme Court (1997)

Writings and Publications

- "An Equal Right to Fight: An Analysis of the Constitutionality of Laws and Policies that Exclude Women from Combat in the United States Military," 93 *W. Va. L. Rev.* 421, 1991. (Republished in part in *Women in the Military*, 75-78 Greenhaven Press Inc. 1991)

Community

- Pro Bono Domestic Violence Project, Monongalia County (1999-2001)
- Pro Bono Domestic Violence Project, Appalachian Center for Law and Public Service (1996-1999)
- City of Morgantown Fire Civil Service Commissioner (1996-2000)