



Mark H. Dellinger

Member

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Mark Dellinger is a Member of the Firm and practices out of the Firm's office in Charleston, West Virginia. He serves as the Leader of the Labor and Employment practice group.

With a career spanning more than 25 years, Mark has built an active practice focused on representing private and public sector employers in employment litigation and traditional labor law matters.

A significant part of Mark's litigation practice is devoted to representing employers in the defense of cases filed in federal and state courts. He is a seasoned trial attorney and has successfully tried many types of employment cases to verdict, including claims of wrongful discharge, discrimination, harassment, and retaliation. Mark also represents employers in administrative proceedings before various federal and state agencies.

Mark's multi-state labor relations practice involves issues arising under the National Labor Relations Act and proceedings before the National Labor Relations Board. He regularly handles collective bargaining negotiations, union organizing campaigns, union elections and representation/decertification proceedings, unfair labor practice charges, individual and class action grievance arbitrations, and labor contract administration. He also represents employers in litigation brought under the Labor Management Relations Act. Mark's representation of employers in labor-management matters encompasses many different industries such as health care, utilities, transportation, manufacturing, energy, telecommunications, and gaming. His experience in this area of law also includes testifying before the West Virginia Legislature on proposed labor legislation.

Mark routinely presents and writes articles on important labor and employment law topics. He co-authored the following law review article: *The West Virginia Workers' Compensation Act: Providing "Sweeping Immunity" From Common Law Tort Claims in Employment Discrimination Cases*, 122 W. Va. L. Rev. Online 2 (2020).

Mark previously served as a member of the State Personnel Board by appointment of the Governor of West Virginia.

Awards

- Named to *The Best Lawyers in America*® for Labor Law - Management (2026), Employment Law - Management (2011-present), and Litigation - Labor & Employment (2011-present)
- Ranked in *Chambers USA: America's Leading Lawyers for Business* for Labor and Employment Law - Band 1 (2009-present)
- Recognized by *Benchmark Litigation* as a Labor & Employment Star (2023)
- Recognized by West Virginia *Super Lawyers*® for Employment & Labor Law (2007-present)
- Peer-Review Rated AV Preeminent by Martindale-Hubbell
- Selected as a 2022 Top Rated Litigator by Martindale-Hubbell and American Lawyer Media

- Selected as a 2019 Elite Lawyer of the South by Martindale-Hubbell and American Lawyer Media
- Selected as a 2018 Elite Lawyer of the South by Martindale-Hubbell and American Lawyer Media



Notable Legal Experience

- Obtained a complete defense verdict for a division of a publicly traded company in a disability discrimination/failure to accommodate and gender pay disparity case after a three-day jury trial
- Obtained a complete defense verdict on behalf of a publicly traded company in a wrongful discharge/gender discrimination case after an eight-day jury trial
- Obtained a complete defense verdict on behalf of a state official in a multi-party sexual harassment case after a five-day jury trial
- Obtained a verdict of no damages on behalf of a manufacturing company in a sexual harassment case after a five-day jury trial
- Obtained a complete dismissal of a disability discrimination case on behalf of an electrical contractor after a three-day administrative trial before the West Virginia Human Rights Commission
- Successfully represented oral surgeon in an injunction proceeding where former employer sought to enforce multiple restrictive covenants
- Successfully defended an energy company in a "same sex" sexual harassment case filed by the U.S. Equal Employment Opportunity Commission
- Defeated a collective action brought under the Fair Labor Standards Act
- Obtained numerous dismissal and summary judgment orders in employment cases
- Successfully prosecuted motions to compel arbitration of employment claims
- Served as chief negotiator for employers during collective bargaining negotiations with multiple unions, including USW, SEIU, IUOE, Teamsters, ATU, and LiUNA
- Represented employers in numerous individual and class action labor arbitrations involving "just cause" discipline and various contract interpretation issues such as past practices, job postings, bidding and awarding vacant positions, subcontracting, callout pay, vacation pay, alcohol and drug testing, hours of operation, health benefit changes, and dues check-off clauses
- Substantial experience representing employers in unemployment compensation proceedings, including strike-related claims before the Labor Dispute Tribunal

Work History

- Jackson Kelly PLLC (2018-Present)
- Bowles Rice LLP (1999-2018)
- Seibert & Kasserman, L.C. (1998-1999)

Practices

- Labor & Employment

Industries

- Energy
- Manufacturing
- Utilities

Education

- West Virginia University College of Law (J.D., 1998)
- Lenoir-Rhyne University (B.A., 1991)

Admissions

- West Virginia (1998)
- Supreme Court of Appeals of West Virginia (1998)
- U.S. District Court, Southern District of West Virginia (1998)
- U.S. District Court, Northern District of West Virginia (1998)
- U.S. Court of Appeals, Fourth Circuit (2007)
- U.S. District Court, Western District of Pennsylvania (2023)

Professional Organizations

- American Bar Association
 - Labor and Employment Law Section
- West Virginia State Bar
 - Employment Law Committee
- Defense Research Institute
 - Employment Law Committee
 - Former Member (2000-2019) and Regional Editor of *The Job Description*
- Defense Trial Counsel of West Virginia
 - Employment Law Committee

Representative Decisions

Labor Cases

- *Revers v. United Steel, Paper and Forestry, Rubber, Manufacturing, Energy, Allied Industrial and Service Workers International Union*, 2025 U.S. Dist. LEXIS 6407 (W.D. Pa. Jan. 13, 2025) (granting employer's motion to dismiss plaintiffs' claims under the Labor Management Relations Act and Labor Management Reporting and Disclosure Act)
- *Pennsylvania - American Water Company*, 2023 BNA LA 122 (Franckiewicz, 2023) (denying union's grievance over an employee's classification)
- *Dishman v. West Virginia-American Water Company*, 2022 WL 9530010 (S.D.W. Va. Oct. 14, 2022) (granting summary judgment on plaintiffs' claim under Section 301 of the Labor Management Relations Act)
- *Morrissey v. West Virginia AFL-CIO*, 243 W. Va. 86, 842 S.E.2d 455 (2020) (co-authored amicus curiae brief supporting the constitutionality of the Workplace Freedom Act a/k/a West Virginia's Right to Work Law)
- *Laborers' International Union of North America Local 1353 v. West Virginia American Water Company*, 2019 WL 2166534 (S.D.W. Va. May 17, 2019) (granting motion to dismiss union's claims under Section 301 of the Labor Management Relations Act and Declaratory Judgment Act)
- *Verizon Services Corp. v. Board of Review of WorkForce West Virginia*, 240 W. Va. 355, 811 S.E.2d 885 (2018) (interpreting "stoppage of work" provision of unemployment compensation statute and holding that striking employees were disqualified from receiving benefits as part of a nationwide labor strike)
- *Randolph-Kennedy v. Verizon Services Corp.*, 2015 WL 20693822 (W. Va. Supreme Court, May 1, 2015) (memorandum decision) (claimant disqualified from receiving unemployment compensation benefits based on acceptance of an employment separation package offered pursuant to the terms of a labor a

- *Verizon Services Corp. v. Epling*, 230 W. Va. 439, 739 S.E.2d 290 (2013) (claimant disqualified from receiving unemployment compensation benefits when she quit her job based on a change in work schedule)
- *Elswick v. Daniels Electric Inc.*, 787 F.Supp.2d 443 (S.D.W. Va. 2011) (dismissing claim under the Wage Payment and Collection Act as being preempted by the Labor Management Relations Act)
- *Century Aluminum Corp.*, 2003 BNA LA Supp. 110370 (Harlan, 2003) (finding just cause for the grievant's discharge and denying the union's grievance)
- *BF Goodrich Aerospace, Ice Protection Systems Div.*, 2003 Lab. Arb. LEXIS 216 (Hewitt, 2003) (finding that the grievant's health insurance coverage was properly administered while he was on disability leave and denying the union's grievance)
- *Vieweg v. Gatson*, 209 W. Va. 268, 546 S.E.2d 267 (2000) (analyzing voluntarily quit provision of unemployment compensation statute where claimants were discharged prior to the date of their prospective resignations)

Employment Cases

- *Katrib v. Herbert J. Thomas Mem. Hosp. Assoc.*, 247 W. Va. 763, 885 S.E.2d 894 (2023) (affirming dismissal of common law and statutory claims related to the suspension of a physician's privileges based upon a bankruptcy discharge and injunction)
- *Brevard v. Racing Corp. of W. Va.*, 2020 WL 1860713 (S.D.W. Va. Apr. 13, 2020) (dismissing six employment claims and portions of two others on multiple grounds, including failure to exhaust administrative remedies, statute of limitations, workers' compensation immunity/exclusivity, at-will disclaimers precluded implied contract claim, and failure to satisfy the plausibility standard for federal court pleading)
- *Fugate v. Frontier West Virginia Inc.*, 304 F.Supp.3d 503 (S.D.W. Va. 2018) (granting summary judgment on FMLA interference and retaliation claims)
- *Fugate v. Frontier West Virginia Inc.*, 2017 WL 3065216 (S.D.W. Va. July 19, 2017) (dismissing multiple claims on the grounds of workers' compensation immunity/exclusivity, res judicata, and failure to satisfy the at-will employment requirement necessary to sustain a retaliatory discharge claim)
- *Lindenmuth v. Laboratory Corporation of America*, 2016 WL 5109159 (S.D.W. Va. Sept. 19, 2016) (granting summary judgment on age and disability discrimination claims)
- *Hope v. Board of Directors of Kanawha Public Service Dist.*, 2013 WL 3340699 (S.D.W. Va. July 2, 2013) (dismissing claims alleging retaliatory discharge, intentional infliction of emotional distress and constitutional due process violations)
- *Porter v. Petroleum Transport, Inc.*, 2012 WL 3918356 (S.D.W. Va. Sept. 7, 2012) (granting summary judgment on the issue of "willfulness" and determining that two year, rather than three year, statute of limitations applied to a FLSA collective action)
- *Thomas v. Wells Fargo Insurance Services of West Virginia, Inc.*, 2010 WL 370266 (S.D.W. Va. Sept. 14, 2010) (granting motion to dismiss breach of contract and wage payment claims on the grounds of release, waiver and ERISA preemption)
- *Deem v. BB&T Corp.*, 279 Fed.Appx. 283 (4th Cir. 2008) (affirming dismissal of claims for gender discrimination, retaliation and tortious interference on the grounds of ERISA preemption)
- *Casto v. American Union Boiler Company of West Virginia*, 2006 WL 660458 (S.D.W. Va. March 14, 2006) (dismissing age discrimination claim based on the doctrine of judicial estoppel)
- *State ex rel. Wells v. Matish*, 215 W. Va. 686, 600 S.E.2d 583 (2004) (granting motion to compel arbitration of employment claims)

Other Cases

- *State ex rel. Sale v. Goldman*, 208 W. Va. 186, 539 S.E.2d 446 (2000) (rejecting constitutional challenge to municipal curfew ordinance)

Speaking Engagements & Publications

Speaking Engagements

- Presenter, "Drafting Effective Dispositive Motions," Jackson Kelly PLLC Litigation Training, Sept. 29, 2021

- Presenter, "Workplace Disputes: How to Win at Settlement, Mediation and Trial," National Business Institute (NBI), Charleston, West Virginia, March 11, 2020
- Presenter, "Preparing to Conduct an Effective Cross-Examination at Trial," Jackson Kelly PLLC Litigation Training, June 20, 2019
- Presenter, "How the Trump Administration NLRB's Recent Decisions Affect All Employers," Jackson Kelly PLLC Trends in Employment and Labor Law Seminar, Tropicana Evansville, Indiana, Jan. 25, 2019
- Co-presenter with Al F. Sebok, "How the NLRB's Recent Decisions Affect All Employers," Jackson Kelly PLLC Trends in WV Employment, Labor and Benefits Law Seminar, Charleston, West Virginia, Oct. 16, 2018
- Presenter, "Employment Law Update: Emerging Issues in Litigating Damages in Employment Cases," West Virginia University Continuing Legal Education (WVCLE), May 24, 2018
- Prior to 2018, Mark has conducted presentations on various labor and employment topics for the following industry groups, organizations and commercial entities: AlignHR; Lorman Education Services; National Business Institute (NBI); Society for Human Resource Management; West Virginia Chamber of Commerce; West Virginia Equal Employment Opportunity Office; West Virginia Rural Water Association; West Virginia Tax Institute; and West Virginia University Continuing Legal Education (WVCLE)

Writings and Publications

- Co-author with Grace E. Hurney, "The West Virginia Workers' Compensation Act: Providing 'Sweeping Immunity' From Common Law Tort Claims in Employment Discrimination Cases," 122 W. Va. L. Rev. Online 2, Jan. 2020
- "Ssh...Don't Let Workplace Gossip Lead to a Claim of Discrimination!," *The Community Banker*, Quarter 3, 2019
- "Constructing a Plan to Prepare for Medical Cannabis Issues in the Workplace," *West Virginia Construction News*, Nov./Dec. 2017
- "The West Virginia Safer Workplace Act Expands the Ability of Banks to Conduct Alcohol and Drug Testing," *West Virginia Banker*, Fall 2017
- "West Virginia Employers Need to Prepare for Medical Cannabis," *The State Journal*, May 30, 2017
- "The Defend Trade Secrets Act: A Bank's New Remedy for Misappropriation of Trade Secrets," *The Community Banker*, Summer 2016
- "Recent West Virginia Employment Legislation Affecting Banks," *The Community Banker*, Fall 2015
- "Is It Possible for Employers to Prove There Was a 'Stoppage of Work' When Defending Unemployment Compensation Claims Arising Out of a Labor Dispute," *Defense Trial Counsel of West Virginia Annual Meeting Notebook of Articles*, Thirty-Second Annual Meeting, May 2014
- "Avoiding Liability for Unemployment Compensation Benefits When an Employee Resigns Due to a Change in Work Hours," *The Community Banker*, Winter 2014
- "Counselor's Corner: Avoiding Unemployment Compensation Liability When Employees Resign Their Employment as a Result of a Change in Work Hours," *Mountain State Manufacturing*, Spring 2013
- "EEOC Issues Updated Guidance on Employer Use of Criminal Background Information," *West Virginia Banker*, Winter 2012
- "Counselor's Corner: Managing Risks in the Electronic Workplace," *Mountain State Manufacturing*, Summer 2011
- "U.S. Supreme Court Holds That Employers are Subject to Third-Party Retaliation Claims," *West Virginia Human Resources Journal*, West Virginia Chamber of Commerce, Spring 2011
- "Time for a Legal Check-Up: How Healthy is Your Wellness Program?," *West Virginia Human Resources Journal*, West Virginia Chamber of Commerce, Fall 2010
- "Pandemic Preparations for the Workplace: Considerations for West Virginia Employers," *West Virginia Human Resources Journal*, West Virginia Chamber of Commerce, Summer 2009
- "The West Virginia Workers' Compensation Act: Using Statutory Immunity to Defeat Common Law Claims in Employment Discrimination Cases," *Defense Trial Counsel of West Virginia Annual Meeting Notebook of Articles*, Twenty-Sixth Annual Meeting, May 14-16, 2008
- Authored numerous other labor and employment articles prior to 2008

Community

- Pro Bono Mediator, West Virginia Human Rights Commission
- West Virginia State Personnel Board by appointment of the Governor, Former Member
- West Virginia Chamber of Commerce, Human Resources Committee