



Seth P. Hayes

Member

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Seth P. Hayes is a Member in the Coal, Education, and Energy industry groups, focusing primarily on commercial litigation. He is the Chair of the Firm's Litigation practice group. He practices out of the Firm's office in Morgantown, West Virginia.

Seth knows that in order to effectively represent his clients in litigation, it is critical to understand the business processes at issue in addition to the legal disputes. That's why when he meets a new client, he dives into the business, learning all he can. Rather than sitting behind a desk all day, Seth likes to get out and learn the facts of his cases firsthand, whether its examining longwalls in coal mines or fly ash silos in power plants. It's this dedication to understanding his clients' business that's earned Seth recognition as one of *The Best Lawyers in America*[®] and a *West Virginia Super Lawyer*[®].

While Seth does all he can to help his clients avoid litigation, he is more than prepared to lead them through it. He is a tested trial attorney, having tried cases to jury, represented clients before commercial arbitration panels, and argued before of the Supreme Court of Appeals of West Virginia.

A West Virginia University graduate, Seth enjoys going to Mountaineer sporting events and spending time hiking, camping, and skiing with his family. In fact, he loves the outdoors so much that he spent a summer in college working at Yellowstone National Park. He is a graduate of Leadership Monongalia and Leadership West Virginia and serves as vice president of the Board of Directors for United Way of Monongalia and Preston Counties. Seth is the former Managing Member of the Firm's Morgantown, Bridgeport, and Martinsburg, West Virginia, offices.

Awards

- Selected by his peers for inclusion in *The Best Lawyers in America*[®] for Commercial Litigation (2016-2023)
- Named in the 2014-2019 editions of *West Virginia Super Lawyers*[®] Rising Stars for Business Litigation Law
- Patrick Duffy Koontz Scholarship
- Order of the Coif
- Executive articles editor, *West Virginia Law Review*

Work History

- Jackson Kelly PLLC (2007-Present)
- Honorable David A. Faber of the United States District Court for the Southern District of West Virginia, Clerk (2006)
- Owens Corning, Financial Analyst (2002-2003)

Practices

- Class Action & Complex Litigation
- Commercial Litigation
- Appellate
- Litigation
- Product Liability Litigation
- Professional Liability, Errors & Omissions

Industries

- Coal
- Education
- Energy

Education

- West Virginia University College of Law (J.D., 2006)
- West Virginia University (B.A. in Foreign Languages, 2001)
- West Virginia University (B.S. in Finance, 2001)

Admissions

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

Professional Organizations

- Defense Trial Counsel of West Virginia

Speaking Engagements & Publications

Writings and Publications

- "When it Rains the Lawsuits Pour: Considering Economic, Social and Public Policy When Determining Duty In West Virginia," *West Virginia Law Review*

Community

- United Way of Monongalia and Preston Counties, Vice President of the Board of Directors
- Morgantown Chamber of Commerce, Member
- Leadership Monongalia
- Leadership West Virginia
- North Central West Virginia Girls' Basketball League, Coach

Representative Cases

- Served as both second chair and lead trial counsel in catastrophic loss litigation, commercial litigation, and condemnation actions.
- Successfully overturned a \$1.2MM jury verdict for an energy company before the Supreme Court of Appeals of West Virginia.

- Served as lead trial counsel in a complex commercial arbitration dispute before an American Arbitration Association Commercial Arbitration Tribunal.
- Defended energy sector clients in litigation matters involving breach of lease agreements, breach of implied covenants, nuisance, trespass, right-of-way disputes, and injunctions against landowners.
- Member of defense team handling civil litigation arising from a mine explosion involving multiple fatalities.
- Represented a major university in civil litigation arising from its decision to realign with a different athletics conference.
- Defended clients in catastrophic loss litigation in West Virginia and Pennsylvania, including claims for personal injury, wrongful death, toxic torts, deliberate intent, premises liability, products liability, and workplace safety.
- Defended business clients as both plaintiffs and defendants in commercial disputes, including breach of contract, breach of fiduciary duty, fraud and misrepresentation, claims arising under the Uniform Commercial Code, tortious interference, and other business torts.