



Susan R. Snowden

Member

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Susan R. Snowden is a Member in the Insurance industry group, focusing primarily on class action and complex litigation and labor and employment. She practices out of the Firm's office in Martinsburg, West Virginia.

From developing the initial strategy to defending a case or arguing it on appeal, Susan will tell you she enjoys every part of practicing law – especially the adrenaline rush of arguing a case before an appellate court or trying a case before a jury. Susan frequently litigates issues relating to class action and insurance defense work, employment law, and a variety of environmental matters. Susan has litigated cases involving multi-party catastrophic injury claims, third-party claims, bad faith claims, commercial and contract disputes and employment-related issues, as well as matters of first impression on insurance claims and contracts. She counsels clients in the areas of arson, fire loss and investigation, construction insurance law, and litigation involving the administration of estates and appointment of guardians and conservators.

Susan also knows how important it is to stay current on the issues. She publishes a quarterly insurance defense newsletter highlighting the news in the industry, which is considered a must-read by colleagues and clients alike. It's this type of extra effort that makes Susan an award-winning attorney. Most recently, she was named the Best Lawyers' 2018 Morgantown Mediation "Lawyer of the Year." She's been included in *The Best Lawyers in America*® since 2013, has a Martindale-Hubbell AV Preeminent rating, is a *West Virginia Super Lawyer*®, and was named in the *2017 Best Lawyers*® Business Edition "Women in Law," among others.

She also manages to find time to serve her community. She sits on numerous boards, including WVU Medicine, Berkeley Medical Center/Jefferson Medical Center, and the Berkeley County Chamber of Commerce, continuing a family tradition of serving on the hospital and chamber board. In fact, her family can trace its roots in Berkeley County back to 1781.

Susan has been involved with the Mountain State Apple Harvest Festival since 1979, when she started as a volunteer, and has served on the board since 1982. In addition to her law practice and community work, she is a trained chef, having attended studies for a week at LeCordon Bleu in Canada, and is the organist, pianist, and choir director at her church.

Awards

- *Best Lawyers*® in America for Appellate Practice, Commercial Finance Law, Insurance Law, Litigation - Construction, Litigation - Insurance, Mediation, Martinsburg, WV (2024)
- Named the *Best Lawyers*® Morgantown Appellate Practice "Lawyer of the Year" (2023)
- Named in *West Virginia Super Lawyers*® for Insurance Coverage Law (2021-2024)
- Named the *Best Lawyers*® Morgantown Mediation "Lawyer of the Year" (2018)
- Selected by her peers for inclusion in *The Best Lawyers in America*® for Appellate Practice, Commercial Finance Law, Insurance Law, Litigation - Construction, Litigation - Insurance and Mediation (2013-2024)
- Named in *Best Lawyers*® Business Edition "Women in Law" (2017)

- Martindale-Hubbell AV Preeminent Rating
- Named in West Virginia *Super Lawyers*® for Employment Litigation: Defense Law (2007-2019)
- Named the *Best Lawyers*® Morgantown, WV Mediation "Lawyer of the Year" (2016)
- Named the *Best Lawyers*® Morgantown, WV Construction Law "Lawyer of the Year" (2015)
- Named the *Best Lawyers*® Morgantown, WV Appellate Practice "Lawyer of the Year" (2014)
- Fellow, West Virginia Bar Foundation
- West Virginia University College of Law "Lawyers and Leaders" 2017 Class
- 2015 Virginia Tri-State Chapter AFP Distinguished Volunteer Award
- 2013 WVU Extension 4-H Club Helper Award
- 2011 West Virginia 4-H All-star Award
- Berkeley County 4-H Leader Association 10 Year Leader Award
- 2005 Girl Scout Council of the Nation's Capital Women of Distinction Award
- 1995 Soroptimist International South Atlantic Region Governor's Award
- Moot Court Board of Advocates, Presiding Judge, 1984-1985
- Smith Mock Trial Competition, First Place Team, 1983-1984
- National Appellate Advocacy Competition, Benton Privacy Team, 1984

Work History

- Jackson Kelly PLLC (2017-Present)
- Martin & Seibert, L.C., Shareholder (1985-2016)

Practices

- Appellate
- Class Action & Complex Litigation
- Commercial Litigation
- Litigation
- Nursing Home Liability
- Product Liability Litigation

Industries

- Insurance

Education

- Ohio Northern University (J.D., 1985)
- Shepherd University (B.S. in Political Science, 1982)

Admissions

- West Virginia (1985)
- United States Supreme Court (2003)
- U.S. Court of Appeals, Fourth Circuit (1985)
- West Virginia Supreme Court of Appeals (1985)
- U.S. District Court, Northern District of West Virginia (1985)
- U.S. District Court, Southern District of West Virginia (1985)

Professional Organizations

- West Virginia Supreme Court of Appeals Board of Law Examiners, District 16 Character Committee, Chair
- Berkeley County, West Virginia, Fiduciary Commissioner
- Defense Trial Counsel of West Virginia
 - President (2022-2023)
 - Secretary, Board of Governors (2019-20)
 - Board of Directors (2010-2023)
 - Immediate Past President (2023)
- Defense Research Institute
- Berkeley County Bar Association, Past President
- West Virginia State Bar
- West Virginia Bar Association

Community

- Sunrise Rotary of Martinsburg, W.Va. (2017-2023)
- West Virginia State Chamber, Board Member (2016-2020)
- Mountain State Apple Harvest Festival, Inc.
 - Current Board President
 - Board of Directors Member (1985-Present)
 - Past President (1990-1991)
 - Past Secretary, Treasurer and Vice President
- WVU Medicine Board of Directors
 - Current Board Member
 - Secretary 2019-2022
 - Member 2017-2022
- University Healthcare Foundation, Inc.
 - Board Member (2004-2024)
 - Chairman of the Board (2007-2016)
- Trinity Lutheran Church, Arden, W.Va.
 - Church Council Chair (2016-2018)
 - Volunteer Organist (Present)
 - Superintendent of Christian Education (1993-2008)
 - Sunday School Teacher (1993-2008)
 - Mutual Ministry Chair (2005-2006)
- James Rumsey Technical Institute, Local School Improvement Council, Member (2012-2018)
- Women Investing in Shepherd (WISH)
 - Women's Giving Circle, Founding Member (2015)

- United Way of Berkeley and Morgan Counties
 - Potomac Society Member (2008-Present)
 - Board Member (2005)
- Berkeley County 4-H All Stars, Life Member
- Thiel College Board of Trustees
 - Member (2005-2015)
 - Executive Committee (2009-2015)
 - Secretary of Board (2011-2015)
- Chamber of Commerce of Martinsburg and Berkeley County, Member, Chair-Elect
 - Chair of Board 2019
 - Secretary, Treasurer, Board Member (2002-2004, 2010-2012, 2014-2017)
- Berkeley County 4-H Leader Association
 - Arden 4-H Club, Assistant Leader (2003-2015)
 - Citizenship Committee Chair (2003-2015)

Speaking Engagements & Publications

Speaking Engagements

- Speaker Panelist, "Deep Fakes and the Rules of Evidence" WVU College of Law, Advanced Evidence, Morgantown, WV February 14, 2024
- Speaker, "Preparing a 30(b)(6) Witness," DRI 2021 Insurance Bad Faith and Extra-Contractual Liability Seminar, Chicago, Illinois, July 24, 2021