

Jennifer L. Hughes Photo

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Counsel

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Jennifer L. Hughes is Counsel in the Firm's Environmental practice group and Energy industry group, practicing out of the Firm's office in Charleston, West Virginia.

Jennifer's practice centers on environmental litigation and client counseling on environmental regulatory matters, including permitting, enforcement, and compliance with state, local, and federal requirements related water quality, air quality, solid waste, hazardous waste, threatened and endangered species, monitoring and reporting, storm water control, underground injection control, and spill reporting. She has primarily represented and advised clients in the energy industry, including coal mining and processing, oil & natural gas production, midstream operations, wind energy, and solar energy, but she has also advised clients in the manufacturing and construction industries, as well as governmental entities and trade associations.

Jennifer's interest in environmental law began with a groundwater hydrogeology class as an undergraduate at Oberlin College in Ohio. She attended Lewis & Clark Law School in Portland, Oregon, where she was an associate editor of the *Environmental Law* journal. Jennifer began practicing environmental law as in-house counsel at the West Virginia Department of Environmental Protection. Now an accomplished attorney in environmental law, she has appeared many times in administrative proceedings and in state and federal courts.

When Jennifer is away from the office, you can find her wrangling her Border Collie, playing piano and guitar, cooking, and cheering on the Pittsburgh Pirates.

Awards

- *Environmental Law* journal, Lewis & Clark Law School
- Sigma Xi, Scientific Research Honor Society, Oberlin College

Notable Legal Experience

- Appeared numerous times before the West Virginia Environmental Quality Board and Surface Mine Board in administrative appeals of West Virginia Department of Environmental Protection (WVDEP) action
- Negotiated administrative consent orders with the WVDEP on behalf of clients in various industries for alleged violations of environmental regulations and permits
- Filed successful annulment reviews of violations issued by WVDEP's Office of Oil & Gas for Water Pollution Control Act and Oil & Gas Act
- Litigated several environmental citizen suits in federal court

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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
- Renewable Energy

Industries

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

Education

- Lewis & Clark Law School (J.D., 2004)
- Oberlin College (B.A. in Geology and Environmental Studies, 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 (EMLF), Member
- West Virginia Chamber of Commerce, Environment Committee
- Gas and Oil Association of West Virginia (GO-WV), Environmental and Legal Committees
- West Virginia Manufacturers Association, Environmental Safety & Health Committee
- Women's Energy Network, West Virginia Chapter
 - President, 2021
 - Vice President, 2020
 - Secretary, 2018 & 2019

Speaking Engagements & Publications

Speaking Engagements

- "Environmental Requirements for Natural Gas Pipelines," WVCLE Shale Gas Law Seminar, Morgantown, West Virginia, Nov. 8, 2019
- "Environmental Challenges to Natural Gas Pipeline Projects," WVCLE Shale Gas Law Seminar, Morgantown, West Virginia, Nov. 9, 2018
- "The Sierra Club Just Threatened to Sue Me: What Do I Do Now?," West Virginia Oil & Natural Gas Association, Spring Meeting, Wheeling, West Virginia, May 17, 2017
- "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, Kentucky, Oct. 23, 2014
- "Current Issues in Stormwater Regulation in West Virginia," Lorman, Charleston, West Virginia, Oct. 2, 2014

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)

Community

- Fund for the Arts, Executive Committee, 2018-present