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West Virginia University College of Law
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EDUCATION

BOSTON UNIVERSITY COLLEGE OF LIBERAL ARTS - BA Psychology (1983)

WEST VIRGINIA UNIVERSITY COLLEGE OF LAW - JD (1986)

BAR ADMISSIONS

UNITED STATES COURT OF APPEALS FOR THE FOURTH CIRCUIT

UNITED STATES COURT OF APPEALS FOR THE SIXTH CIRCUIT

UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT FOR THE NORTHERN DISTRICT OF WEST VIRGINIA

UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT FOR THE SOUTHERN DISTRICT OF WEST VIRGINIA

SUPREME COURT OF APPEALS OF WEST VIRGINIA

PRACTICE EXPERIENCE AND SPECIALTIES

- Family Law
- Freedom of Information - Access to Government Information
- Property Law
- Administrative Law
- Appellate Practice
- Oil and Gas Production Damage Compensation Act
- Environmental Law
 - ◇ Federal Clean Water Act (CWA)
 - ◇ Federal Surface Mining Control and Reclamation Act
 - ◇ West Virginia Surface Coal Mining and Reclamation Act
 - ◇ Federal Resource Conservation & Recovery Act



PROFESSIONAL EMPLOYMENT

Visiting Associate Professor of Law & Director, West Virginia University College of Law Child and Family Advocacy Clinic (2011 to present)

- Lead Counsel and Supervisor of Third Year Law Students: representation of clients in matters before Family Law Courts, Circuit Courts, the West Virginia Supreme Court of Appeals, County School Administrators, and Magistrate Courts
- Instruct, supervise and assist third-year law students in all phases of family law litigation including client interviewing, research, case development and execution, motion practice, document drafting, hearing preparation and client counseling
- Serve as liaison with West Virginia University Medicine Pediatrics and with Chestnut Ridge Center for the Child and Family Advocacy Clinic Medical-Legal Partnership
- Review and edit student drafts of civil complaints, motions, legal memoranda, court pleadings and other litigation submissions as well as client letters, parenting plans, adoption petitions, guardian petitions, and guardian *ad litem* reports
- Supervise and provide professional guidance to law students in developing case strategy and maintaining good client communication and counseling consistent with professional legal and ethical standards
- Supervise and provide professional guidance to law students in developing professional and respectful relationships with opposing counsel, court staff, hospital staff and office staff
- Instructor: seminar component of the Child and Family Advocacy Clinic
- *Pro-Bono* representation of more than 400 income-qualified clients including litigation before family courts, circuit courts and the Supreme Court of Appeals from 2011-present

Teaching Associate Professor of Law – (2019 to present)

- Instructor: College of Law Family Law Doctrinal Course
- The family law survey course: coverage includes analysis of case law, statutory law, and the role of constitutional rights relating to the allowable scope of governmental regulation of family relationships. The course explores legal issues including the formation, maintenance, and dissolution of family units. Specific course topics include, *inter alia*, state and federal regulation of marriage and non-marital cohabitation; legal, social, and economic consequences of marriage and divorce; parentage, custody, and support of children; domestic violence; ethics and professional responsibility; and the processes for resolving family disputes.

Visiting Associate Professor (2011 to 2019); Instructor of Law (2009 to 2011), Legal Research and Writing Courses (Fall 2009-Spring 2019)

- Instruction of first-year law students in legal analysis, research and writing, with focus on developing analytical skills relating to factual development and applicable law;
- Provided guidance and instruction to law students regarding development of professional skills in drafting and editing legal documents including: office memoranda, client letters, motions, and supporting legal memoranda;
- Provided guidance and instruction to students on development of personal oral advocacy skills and professional communications;

Adjunct Professor and Supervising Attorney – West Virginia University College of Law Clinical Law Program (2008-2010)

- Assisted Deputy Director of College of Law General Clinic in the development of policies, strategies and logistics for new West Virginia University College of Law Child and Family Advocacy Clinic and Medical-Legal Partnership (2010-2011)
- Supervised and assisted third-year law students in all phases of law practice and client counseling, including cases before administrative tribunals, magistrate courts, family law courts and trial courts

- Reviewed and edited student drafts of civil complaints, client letters, legal memoranda and pleadings
- Assisted students in developing case strategy and in fostering good practices in client communication and counseling

Private Law Practice, Morgantown, West Virginia (1995 to present)

- Representation of HD Media in a landmark case that uncovered the distribution of 100 billion opioids in the United States over a nine-year period.
- Representation of the Charleston-Gazette in a FOIA case to unseal court records in opioid litigation before the Boone County Circuit Court
- Representation of newspapers and citizens in cases involving the state Freedom of Information Act and Open Governmental Proceedings Act
- Representation of real estate lessors in Marcellus and Shale lease negotiations;
- Representation of surface real property owners and mineral rights owners in litigation relating to natural resource extraction operations, property damage, trespass, rights of way and natural shale gas extraction (fracking);
- Representation of individuals, families and community organizations in matters involving surface and underground coal mining externalities including potable spring and well water loss/contamination, surface water pollution, soil erosion and stream sedimentation;
- Representation of United Mine Workers of America, the West Virginia Teachers Association, and the West Virginia Chapter of the AFL-CIO in state court regarding taxation of reserve coal property
- Representation of citizens in environmental litigation before State Administrative Appeal Boards
- Representation of families and non-profit, non-governmental organizations in environmental “citizen suit” litigation in federal and state courts

Associate - DiTrapano & Jackson, Charleston, West Virginia (1994-1995)

- Representation of print media in cases involving the First Amendment, Prior Restraint, the Freedom of Information Act and the Open Government Proceedings Act
- Representation of physicians in administrative proceedings before the West Virginia Board of Medicine
- Representation of plaintiffs in cases involving property damage, wrongful death, personal injury, and employment disputes
- Representation of parties in business contract disputes
- Appointed by the Supreme Court of Appeals of West Virginia to represent inmates challenging prison regulations

Law Clerk – Justice Thomas E. McHugh – Supreme Court of Appeals Of West Virginia (1990-1994)

- Researched and drafted judicial opinions
- Presented cases to the full court in opinion conferences
- Researched and reviewed motions and cases on the court’s hearing docket
- Reviewed opinions drafted by other justices and law clerks prior to their issuance

Law Clerk – Justice Thomas B. Miller – Supreme Court of Appeals Of West Virginia (1989-1990)

- Researched and drafted legal memoranda and *per curium* opinions

Law Clerk – Commissioner Otis T. Casto - West Virginia Public Service Commission (1986-1989)

- Attended and assisted with administrative hearings before the West Virginia Public Service Commission

- Attended and participated in Commission decision conferences
- Researched and drafted Commission interim orders, final orders and annual reports
- Provided legal support to individual members of the West Virginia Public Service Commission

PUBLIC SERVICE

Board Member, Mountain State Spotlight (2020 -)

Member, Governor’s Independent Investigation Panel – *Investigation of April 2010 Explosion of Performance Coal Company’s Upper Big Branch Mine in Raleigh County, West Virginia* (2010 – 2011)

Investigator, *Independent Investigation of Explosion of Sago Coal Mine, Upshur County, West Virginia* (2006)

PUBLICATIONS

Suzanne Weise, *Defining the Role of Clinical Law Students, Medical-Legal Partnerships and Pro Bono Lawyers: Confronting the Opioid Epidemic in Family Court*, 13 Tenn. J. L. & Pol’y 377 (Summer 2018)

Co-Author, *Open Government Guide: West Virginia* (The Reporter’s Committee for Freedom of the Press)(4th, 5th 6th & 7th eds. - 2002 - 2006 – 2011, 2018), <https://www.rcfp.org/open-government-guide/west-virginia/>

MEDIA

2019-2020

“Compassion From The Bench: Jule Aloï And The Drug Court,” <https://www.law.wvu.edu/feature-stories/compassion-from-the-bench-judge-aloi-and-the-drug-court> (November 2020)

The Dominion Post: “WVU Law Professors Restlessly Pursue Big Pharma,” <https://www.dominionpost.com/2020/11/08/wvu-law-professors-restlessly-pursue-big-pharma/> (November 11, 2020)

Professors Patrick McGinley and Suzanne Weise win case over public disclosure of national opioid distribution data, Association of American Law Schools (November 10, 2020), <https://www.facebook.com/theaals/posts/3801161776581413>

Courtney Hessler, *As Purdue Pharma settles criminal opioid crisis claims, experts question if it is enough*, The Herald-Dispatch (October 25, 2020),

Joe Buchanan, *Critics say \$8.2 billion settlement in the federal suit against Perdue Pharmaceuticals is not enough*, WDTV (Oct. 23, 2020), <https://www.wdtv.com/2020/10/23/deputy-ag-announced-an-82-billion-settlement-in-the-federal-suit-against-perdue-pharmaceuticals/>

WVU Professors Help Obtain National Distribution of Opioid Data, WCHS News (October 23, 2020), <https://wchstv.com/news/local/wvu-professors-helped-obtain-national-distribution-ofopioid-data>

<https://wvutoday.wvu.edu/media-center-blog/2020/10/22/expert-pitch-wvu-college-of-law-professors-who-unsealed-pain-pill-data-say-oxycotin-settlement-may-not-do-enough> (October 22, 2020)

The DA Online: “15 years after her visit to WVU, female professors discuss Ruth Bader Ginsburg's legacy” https://www.thedaonline.com/culture/15-years-after-her-visit-to-wvu-female-professors-discuss-ruth-bader-ginsburgs-legacy/article_726366f4-0dca-11eb-9b44-fbe0e92099f7.html (October 14, 2020)

Jake Stump, *Unmasking the Enterprise of Death*, West Virginia University Magazine, <https://magazine.wvu.edu/stories/2020/03/10/unmasking-the-enterprise-of-death#wvumain-content>

The DA: “The DA’s Most Influential: Pat McGinley and Suzanne Weise,” https://www.thedaonline.com/most_influential/the-da-s-most-most-influential-pat-mcginley-and-suzanne-weise/article_4059f8ea-1c52-11ea-baf0-b3c6d6747a99.html (December 11, 2019)

Covers2Resources Podcast: <https://cover2.org/ep-251-data-big-pharma-doesnt-wantknow-part-1/>; <https://cover2.org/tag/suzanne-weise/> (August 27, 2019)

Joel Achenbach, *How an epic legal battle brought a secret drug database to light*, The Washington Post (August 2, 2019), https://www.washingtonpost.com/health/how-an-epic-legal-battle-brought-a-secret-drugdatabase-to-light/2019/08/02/3bc594ce-b3d4-11e9-951ede024209545d_story.html#comments-wrapper

<https://www.law.wvu.edu/news/2019/07/23/professors-mcginley-and-weise-fought-to-disclose-federal-opioid-data> (July 23, 2019)

Hoppy Kercheval, *Talkine*, WV Metro News (Discussion with Professors McGinley & Weise on the public release of national opioid distribution data) (July 19, 2019, at 10:30 a.m.),

<https://www.facebook.com/watch/?v=364369370935096>

https://www.newswise.com/multimedia/detail?image_id=180303

<https://twitter.com/EricEyre/status/1247553515418943488>

Outlets Argue for Release of Pill Data: HD Media, Washington Post argue DEA, drug industry trying to hide roles in opioid epidemic, The Herald-Dispatch, (January 27, 2018), https://www.heralddispatch.com/outlets-argue-for-release-of-pill-data/article_5cd48c5d-056a-515b-aed4-c5661ee6365d.html

Eric Eyre, *Court Orders Release of Previously Secret Reports on Opioid Sales*, The Logan Banner (November 7, 2019), https://www.loganbanner.com/news/court-orders-release-of-previously-secret-reports-on-opioid-sales/article_466d257e-e823-5cd8-8e18-68cb847e1a0e.html

AWARDS AND HONORS

2018 Mountain Honorary, West Virginia University

2012 Public Interest Award - West Virginia University Women's Law Caucus

2000 Public Justice Achievement Award for "Winning Exceptional Victories For The Public Interest" - Trial Lawyers for Public Justice Foundation

CASES

- *In re B.S.*, No. 18-0732, 2020 WL 6483879 (W. Va. Nov. 4, 2020)(local counsel - Intervenor Sault Ste. Marie Tribe of Chippewa Indians)
- *In re Nat'l Prescription Opiate Litig.*, 927 F.3d 919 (6th Cir. 2019)
- *In re Nat'l Prescription Opiate Litig.*, 325 F.Supp.3d 833 (N.D. Ohio 2018)
- *Riffle v. Riffle*, 774 S.E.2d 511 (W. Va. 2015) (Amicus Curiae)
- *In Re Name Change Jenna A.J.*, 765 S.E.2d 160 (W. Va. 2014)
- *In Jenna A.J.*, 744 S.E.2d 269 (W. Va. 2013)
- *Martinka Coal Co. v. W. Va. Dep't of Env'tl. Prot.*, 590 S.E.2d 660 (W. Va. 2003)
- *W. Va. Highlands Conservancy v. Norton*, 238 F.Supp.2d 761 (S.D. W. Va. 2003); *W. Va. Highlands Conservancy v. Norton*, 190 F.Supp.2d 859 (S.D. W. Va. 2002); *W. Va. Highlands Conservancy v. Norton*, 161 F.Supp.2d 676 (S.D. W. Va. 2001); *W. Va. Highlands Conservancy v. Norton*, 147 F.Supp.2d 474 (S.D. W. Va. 2001)
- *Bragg v. W. Va. Coal Ass'n*, 248 F.3d 275 (4th Cir. 2001); *Bragg v. Robertson*, 83 F.Supp.2d 713 (S.D. W. Va. 2000); *Bragg v. Robertson*, 190 F.R.D. 194 (S.D. W. Va. 1999); *Bragg v. Robertson*, 54 F.Supp.2d 653 (S.D.

W. Va. 1999); *Bragg v. Robertson*, 183 F.R.D. 494 (S.D. W. Va. 1998); *Bragg v. Robertson*, Civil Action No. 2:98-0636, 1998 WL 1781736 (S.D. W. Va. Oct. 9, 1998)

- *Holmes v. Bd. of Educ. of Berkeley Cty.*, 526 S.E.2d 310 (W. Va. 1999)
- *Daily Gazette Co. v. W. Va. Dev. Office*, 521 S.E.2d 543 (W. Va. 1999)
- *Adkins v. Capehart*, 504 S.E.2d. 923 (W. Va. 1998)
- *Daily Gazette Co. v. W. Va. Dev. Office*, 482 S.E.2d 180 (W. Va. 1996)
- *Collard v. Smith Newspapers, Inc.*, 915 F.Supp. 805 (S.D. W. Va. 1996)
- *West Virginia v. Moore*, 902 F.Supp. 715 (S.D. W. Va. 1995)
- *State ex rel. Register-Herald v. Canterbury*, 449 S.E.2d 272 (W. Va. 1994)
- *State ex rel. Kincaid v. Parsons*, 447 S.E.2d 543 (W. Va. 1994)

REFERENCES AVAILABLE UPON REQUEST