

CURRENT BIOGRAPHY

Frank W. Volk was born in Morgantown, West Virginia. He assumed his current position as the Chief United States District Judge of the United States District Court for the Southern District of West Virginia on October 17, 2019, following his April 2, 2019, nomination by President Donald J. Trump and his October 16, 2019, unanimous confirmation by the United States Senate.

Immediately preceding his Article III appointment, he served as Chief Judge of the United States Bankruptcy Court for the Southern District of West Virginia beginning October 9, 2015. He is a 1992 graduate of the West Virginia University College of Law. He served as Editor-in-Chief of the *West Virginia Law Review* and attained Order of the Coif.

Chief Judge Volk has taught part-time at the West Virginia University College of Law for nearly twenty years. He has taught Bankruptcy and Advanced Bankruptcy. He regularly teaches Federal Courts, Federal Civil Rights, and Advanced Torts. He has also authored a number of articles and spoken at national and regional conferences for both bench and bar on various law or law-related topics. He is also a faculty member for the Federal Judicial Center.

Chief Judge Volk is a Rodel Judicial Fellow and an American Bar Foundation Fellow. He was recently named the recipient of the 2025 College of Law Justitia Officium award. In 2025, he was also named as the recipient of the Frederick P. Stamp, Jr. Award for Judicial Excellence. He was admitted to practice in the United States Court of Appeals for the Fourth Circuit, the United States District Court for the Southern District of West Virginia, the West Virginia Bar, and the Pennsylvania Bar. He previously served as a law clerk to three federal judges, including the Honorable M. Blane Michael (United States Court of Appeals for the Fourth Circuit) and both the Honorable John T. Copenhaver, Jr., and the Honorable Charles H. Haden II (United States District Court for the Southern District of West Virginia). Chief Judge Volk also served as a law clerk to the Honorable Margaret L. Workman (Supreme Court of Appeals of West Virginia).

Chief Judge Volk presently serves on the Judicial Conference Committee on the Administration of the Magistrate Judges System, a body composed of fourteen judges appointed by the Chief Justice. He has also served on multiple planning committees relating to the Judiciary, including the Article III Judges' Workshop for the Fourth Circuit (2024), the Judicial Conference for the Fourth Circuit (2024-2025), and the Federal Judges Association Quadrennial (2023-2026). He has been privileged to speak at multiple federal judicial education events since 2015.

Prior to assuming the bench, Chief Judge Volk served since at least 2005 as counsel to the District Court. He was a permanent member of the Fourth Circuit Judicial Conference, and he has contributed volunteer service to the American Bankruptcy Institute for many years. Chief Judge Volk previously served on the Editorial Board for the *American Bankruptcy Journal*, along with holding a Coordinating Editor position with the *American Bankruptcy Institute Journal*, focusing on the *Problems in the Code* column. Chief Judge Volk previously worked in private practice with the law firm of Steptoe & Johnson. He resides with his wife Angie. They have two children, Garrett

(27) and Lauren (24), both of whom live in Morgantown, West Virginia. Garrett is a resident physician practicing emergency medicine at Ruby Memorial Hospital, and Lauren serves as an eighth-grade English teacher at Mountaineer Middle School.

CONTACT INFORMATION (PHONE AND EMAIL ADDRESS)

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TEACHING EXPERIENCE

He has taught Bankruptcy and Advanced Bankruptcy. He regularly teaches Federal Courts, Federal Civil Rights, and Advanced Torts. He has also authored a number of articles and spoken at national and regional conferences for both bench and bar on various law or law-related topics. He is also a faculty member for the Federal Judicial Center.

PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

Please see biography above.

OUTSIDE WVU LAW HILL

Chief Judge Volk enjoys hiking and traveling with his wife Angie. He also enjoys the daily interactions with his law clerks, interns and externs from the College of Law and elsewhere, which he credits for keeping his mind sharp. Chief Judge Volk has a collection of over 70 custom made bobbleheads, one for each law clerk, intern, or extern that serves in his chambers.

PUBLICATIONS

Attorney Compensation for Defending the Appeal of a Stay Violation Order, 33 Am. Bankr. Inst. J. 16 (2014).

The Chapter 7 Trustee Compensation Conundrum, 33 Am. Bankr. Inst. J. 34 (2014).

Closing a Deep Divide: Appealing a Denial of Plan Confirmation, 32 Am. Bankr. Inst. J. 34 (2013).

Putting the "Household" Back in Order: A Proposal for Congressional Clarification of Section 1325, 31 Am. Bankr. Inst. J. 22 (2013).

First Impressions: Interpreting Stern, 30 Am. Bankr. Inst. J. 10 (2012).

A Debtor's Right of Voluntary Dismissal Under § 1307(b) Following Marrama, 29 Am. Bankr. Inst. J. 12 (2011).

How to Develop Standards Governing the Recovery of Emotional Distress Damages, 27 Am. Bankr. Inst. J. 10 (2009).

What Do Scandal and Defamation Have to Do With the Code? Sealing Orders Under 11 U.S.C. § 107, 26 Am. Bankr. Inst. J. 12 (2007).

Dedication to E. Ann Compton Keel, 95 W. Va. L. Rev. 613 (1993).

HIV Positive Employees as "Handicapped" Persons Under State and Federal Law: West Virginia Follows the Trend to Cast Aside Irrational Fear and Prejudice in Favor of Competent Medical Evidence and Sound Public Policy, 93 W. Va. L. Rev. 219 (1990).

STUDENT OUTCOME STORIES

Chief Judge Volk places mentorship at the top of his priority list. He does so due to the impact his judicial and other mentors have had on his personal and professional development. Included below are the partial texts from some of the College of Law alumni who have served in his Chambers in recent years:

"I wanted to express my heartfelt thanks for all the guidance and support you've provided me over the last 13 months. Your mentorship has been invaluable in helping me grow both professionally and personally. I appreciate the trust you placed in me and the courage you provided me during my time with you." A former law clerk who is preparing for a federal judicial clerkship at the district court level after two successful stints with judges in the United States Court of Appeals for the Fourth Circuit and a United States District Court.

"You've not only taught me how to thoughtfully analyze cases, but you've also shown me what an excellent judge looks like. Thank you for giving me this opportunity and allowing me to grow through this role. Thank you for helping me gain confidence in my legal analysis and writing, and for making me take legal issues head-on. And thank you for having faith in my ability to take what I've learned here and bring it elsewhere. I'm a better writer, lawyer, clerk, and person because of you." A former law clerk who is now serving as a staff attorney at the Supreme Court in the Republic of Palau.

"I'm extremely grateful for the opportunity. Last year at this time, I was convinced I had chosen the wrong profession and wanted to switch as fast as possible. It was your guidance—and, most importantly, your encouragement—that changed my mind. You told me once before that you didn't ascribe the timing of your conversations to chance, and I couldn't agree more. Additionally, I want to say that I count on you as a role model in my life. I admire the way you take your responsibilities seriously while maintaining your sense of humor. I also hope to be able to balance my family and work as well as you have. Moreover, I'm grateful for your patience and your willingness to give advice on my career and family. It has been an absolute pleasure." A former law clerk who is presently working for "Big Law," at one of the nation's largest firms, as defined by the number of lawyers, size of revenue and number of offices.