

THE WEST VIRGINIA STATE BAR
2014 REGIONAL MEETINGS
ONE-DAY COURSE HELD OCTOBER 7-30, 2014
10:30 A.M. TO 1:30 P.M.

AGENDA

The State Bar will have different instructors at different locations. The order of the presentations will not necessarily be in the same order on each date or at each location. Each session will be fifty minutes of instruction time, per topic, which will each qualify for a total of 3.0 hours law office management, substance abuse and/or elimination of bias credit.

Setting the Example – Elimination of Bias in the Practice of Law

Presenter - Kelly D. Ambrose – LTC - U.S. Army NG WVARNG (US)

This topic will address areas defined by the ABA as “diversity” issues and will include discussions related to eliminating bias in the practice of law for persons with physical and mental disabilities; women; individuals of different racial and ethnic backgrounds; and those in the lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender communities.

Achieving a Culture of Mental Health in the Workplace

Presenter - James W. Strawn, MA – Director of Marketing – Highland Hospital Charleston, WV

The presenter will discuss the importance of strong mental health in the workplace, the roadblocks that stand in the way of a mentally healthy work environment, strategies to help improve mental health care for the employee, and the cost mental illness has on the bottom line as the correlation between physical well-being and mental health issues. Mental health issues impacting substance abuse issues will be discussed.

West Virginia OnLine Legal Help

Presenters –

Mark Adkins, Esq. - Chairperson, West Virginia State Bar’s Lawyer Referral Service/Tuesday Legal Connect Committee

Katherine Roberts White, Esq. – Access Services Manager for Legal Aid of West Virginia

Deborah M. Bogan – Director, Supreme Court of Appeals of West Virginia’s Access to Justice Commission

Attendees will receive information and instruction of the reasons for, and the operation of the new West Virginia Online Legal Help website. The website is sponsored by the West Virginia State Bar to allow low-income West Virginians to pose questions about their civil legal needs and receive basic legal information and advice posted by volunteer attorneys. This website offers a new opportunity for West Virginia attorneys to use technology to provide pro bono assistance any time of day or night and from any location. This presentation will provide information about the way the website operates, how attorneys can volunteer, and the benefits of volunteering.



J. Mark Adkins
Partner

Practice Areas

Business Litigation
Banking Litigation
Energy Litigation
Commercial and Contract Disputes
Construction Litigation
Consumer Credit and Lender Liability
Insurance Coverage Disputes
Legal Malpractice and Professional Liability Defense
Personal Injury and Products Liability Litigation

Contact Information

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Charleston, WV 25301

Education

- J.D., West Virginia University College of Law (1997)
 - Member, Moot Court Board of Review
- B.A., Centre College (1994)

Bar Admissions

- Supreme Court of Appeals of West Virginia
- Supreme Court of Pennsylvania
- U.S. District Courts for the Northern and Southern Districts of West Virginia
- U.S. Court of Appeals for the Fourth Circuit
- Supreme Court of the United States of America

Affiliations

- American Bar Association - Consumer Financial Services Committee
- West Virginia Bar Association
- Kanawha County Bar Association
- Defense Trial Counsel of West Virginia

Professional Highlights

- Practice Group Leader - Bowles Rice Litigation Department
- Chairman, West Virginia State Bar Lawyer Referral Service / Tuesday Legal Connect Committee
- Named Preeminent, AV-Rated, Martindale-Hubbell
- Named to *Best Lawyers in America* (Commercial Litigation Law, Litigation - Banking & Finance, Litigation - Construction)
- Recognized by *Super Lawyers Magazine* for Virginia and West Virginia (Business Litigation), 2010-present
- Past President, West Virginia Bar Association Young Lawyers Section
- Past Officer, Kanawha County Bar Association
- Published in:
 - Rufus et al. v. The Greenbrier Sporting Club Development Co., Inc. et al., No. 13-0218, 2013 WL 5966996 (W.Va. Supreme Court, November 8, 2013) (memorandum decision);
 - Morton v. Unknown Heirs of Van Camp, 221 W. Va. 299; 654 S.E. 2d 621 (2007);
 - Thaxton v. Novastar Mortg., 2:05-0858, 2006 U.S. Dist. LEXIS 21912, (2006)
 - State ex rel. Blackhawk Enters. V. Bloom, 219 W.Va. 333; 633 S.E. 2d 278 (2006);
 - Estate of Tawney v. Columbia Natural Res., LLC, 219 W. Va. 266; 633 S.E. 2d 22; (2006);
 - Wood v. Acordia of West Virginia, Inc., 217 W. Va. 406; 618 S.E. 2d 415 (2005); and
 - Dunn v. Watson, 211 W. Va. 418; 566 S.E. 2d 305 (2002).



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Insurance Coverage Disputes
Legal Malpractice and Professional
Liability Defense
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J. Mark Adkins is a partner in the Charleston, West Virginia office of Bowles Rice and a practice group leader in the firm's Litigation Department. His primary areas of practice include business litigation, commercial and contract disputes, financial services/banking litigation, energy litigation, construction litigation, insurance coverage disputes and personal injury and products liability litigation.

A native of Salt Rock, West Virginia, Mark received his J.D. in 1997 from the West Virginia University College of Law, where he was a member of the Moot Court Board. He earned his bachelor of arts degree from Centre College in 1994.

Mark is admitted to practice in West Virginia and Pennsylvania, as well as the United States District Courts for the Northern and Southern Districts of West Virginia, the United States Court of Appeals for the Fourth Circuit and the Supreme Court of the United States. He is a member of the West Virginia Bar Association and the past president of the Young Lawyers Section. Mark has also served as an officer of the Kanawha County Bar Association and is a member of the American Bar Association and the Defense Trial Counsel of West Virginia. He also serves as chairman of the West Virginia State Bar Lawyer Referral Service / Tuesday Legal Connect Committee.

He has been recognized with an AV-rating by Martindale-Hubbell. Additionally, he has been recognized by *Best Lawyers in America* in Commercial Litigation Law, Litigation - Banking & Finance, Litigation - Construction and by *Super Lawyers* in the area of Business Litigation.

Kate White is an attorney and the Access to Services Manager at Legal Aid of West Virginia (LAWV). She manages LAWV's statewide Pro Bono Referral Project and LAWV's intake unit for client services, called Access to Legal Aid Services.

Kate graduated with honors from Carnegie Mellon University in 2003. Following college, Kate served as an AmeriCorps VISTA in Morgantown, West Virginia at Christian Help, Inc. where she worked to assist low-income women entering or re-entering the workforce. In 2007, she graduated from the West Virginia University College of Law, Order of the Coif and Order of the Barristers, and participated in the Clinical Law Program. Following law school, she worked as a judicial law clerk for the Honorable Louis H. Bloom of the Circuit Court of Kanawha County. In 2009, Kate received a Skadden Fellowship- one of 25 national fellowships awarded each year and often called the "Legal Peace Corps" – to work as a staff attorney with LAWV to start a medical- legal partnership with a community health center in Charleston, West Virginia. During her two year fellowship, Kate represented and worked with low-income clients to provide legal intervention in the health care setting to help low-income families resolve social and economic issues causing poor health. During the 2012 Legislative Session, Kate worked for the West Virginia State Senate as an attorney for the Health and Human Resources Committee. In May 2012, she returned to LAWV to take her current position.

Deborah M. Bogan
Director
Access to Justice Commission
Supreme Court of Appeals of West Virginia
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Deborah Bogan has been the director of the Access to Justice Commission since March 2011. Ms. Bogan's role as director includes working with the West Virginia Access to Justice Commission to provide leadership and coordination for the planning and delivery of civil legal services in West Virginia to those who cannot afford traditional legal fees; promote public awareness of the Access to Justice Commission's initiatives and activities and foster collaboration among court personnel, judges, attorneys, legal service organizations, and other professionals and organizations. Additionally, Ms. Bogan is responsible for arranging sign language assistance for those who are deaf or hard of hearing who are a party, witness, or juror in a matter before West Virginia Courts.

Prior to becoming Director, Ms. Bogan was a paralegal to Justice Brent Benjamin of the Supreme Court of Appeals of West Virginia.

Ms. Bogan has had extensive experience in medical malpractice and product liability defense litigation for twenty-four years with two of the state's major law firms and worked in the Office of the General Counsel for one of West Virginia's largest health care providers.

She is a 1983 graduate of the University of Cincinnati.

James Strawn is a native West Virginian. He attended West Virginia Wesleyan College where he received his Bachelor of Science degree. He graduated with a Masters degree from WV College of Graduate Studies in 1992. Jim has been the Director of Marketing and Community Education at Highland Hospital since 1996. He has 30 years of working in the mental health field in West Virginia. He is the past president of the Mental Health Association in the Greater Kanawha Valley. He serves on 15 different not-for-profit Boards including: Leadership West Virginia, Kanawha-Charleston Department of Health, Salvation Army, Kanawha Pastoral Counseling Center, and Wellness Council of WV Jim is also the co-author of the Sad Mad Glad book series. These books inspire and teach children of all ages the importance of a positive attitude.

Kelly Ambrose is a magna cum laude graduate of Marshall University with both a B.A. and an M.S. in Criminal Justice/Business Management. She served as the National President for Alpha Phi Sigma, a Criminal Justice Honorary and maintained an almost perfect GPA. She attended law school at The Ohio State University graduating with a Doctorate of Jurisprudence in 1991 and was selected to the ABA National Jury Trial Team. Thereafter, LTC Ambrose served as an Assistant U.S. Attorney in the Southern District of West Virginia specializing in violent crimes: arsons, bombings and firearm violations until 1996. She then practiced medical malpractice defense in private practice and worked at the Board of Medicine as a Prosecutor. Later, she became the Chief Legal Counsel for the WV State Police under Governor Bob Wise's administration. In 2006, she was appointed by The Adjutant General of WV (TAG), MG Allen E. Tackett, to serve on his personal staff as the Deputy Staff Judge Advocate for the WV National Guard. She has since been moved to the Army Staff Judge Advocate position where she currently serves on the personal staff of the current TAG, MG James A. Hoyer.

LTC Ambrose is admitted to practice by the WV Supreme Court of Appeals, both the Northern and the Southern District of West Virginia and the Fourth Circuit Court of Appeals. She has argued over 20 cases in the Fourth Circuit and has been asked to teach numerous times as an Instructor for a variety of CLE seminars. She currently conducts special assignments for the Office of Complex Litigation for the Pentagon/National Guard Bureau investigating military sexual assaults and other challenging cases. She is also an active member of the WV Military and Veterans Committee for the WV State Bar and serves on the Hearing Panel for the WV Lawyer Disciplinary Counsel.

LTC Ambrose is currently an adjunct professor at Marshall University where she has taught numerous upperclassman and graduate classes for the past 18 years for the Criminal Justice and Criminology Department. In addition she also serves as an adjunct professor in Criminal Justice at Strayer University where she was awarded the National Provost Circle Award for outstanding teaching performance. She was also recently awarded the WV State Bar's Citizen Soldier Award in 2013 for her significant contributions to the state's legal system.

LTC Ambrose has taught many CLE seminars while in private practice and as a JAG attorney. These include: *Analyzing Medical Records*-December 1998; *Obtaining and Reviewing Medical Records and Working with Experts*-December 1999; *Discovery and Investigation through the Freedom of Information Act*-Canaan Valley 2003; *Subrogation-Is the check really in the mail?*-Canaan Valley 2006; *Divorce and the Military*, WV Supreme Court Family Law Judges 2009; *Military Law and Divorce*-Kanawha County and Upshur County Bar 2009; *Avoiding Malpractice in Military Law*-WV State Bar Regional Meetings (2012); *Making your Law Practice Happy, Happy, Happy while dealing with Substance Abuse in the Workplace*-WV State Bar Regional Meetings (2013); and *Setting the Example-Elimination of Bias in the Practice of Law*-WV State Bar Regional Meetings (2014).