



**Brian R. Hopkins** | Member

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**EDUCATION** J.D. Washington & Lee

Brian Hopkins focuses his practice in the areas of coal, oil and gas, gas pipeline and commercial real estate law.

### REPRESENTATIVE EXPERIENCE

Performed title examinations and rendered title opinions with respect to coal ownership in connection with acquisition and development of coal reserves

Negotiated and drafted purchase and sale agreements and coal leases

Provided legal support for the Kentucky, Ohio, and West Virginia drilling programs of major Appalachian Basin natural gas exploration and production company, including review and curative to clear title for over 120 drilling locations per year, as well as negotiation and drafting of leases, subleases, assignments, farmout agreements, operating agreements, joint participation agreements, unit declarations and division orders, and representation in forced-pooling proceedings

Served as real estate counsel for a number of regional interstate natural gas transmission companies and natural gas distribution companies, as well as for an electric generation and distribution company; responsible for right-of-way and site acquisition, facility purchases and sales, facility and storage leasing, relocations, eminent domain proceedings, and protection and enforcement of land rights, including related litigation

Performed title work and headed permit and environmental due diligence review teams for coal acquisition involving over 100,000 acres of reserves, and prepared related reports as well as deeds, leases, assignments and bills of sale used to close the transaction

Represented multi-state shopping center developer in the acquisition and development of three sites, including performing title work, obtaining subdivision approvals, zoning approvals, and annexation, as well as negotiation and drafting of construction loan documents, permanent loan documents, utility and access easements, protective covenants and restrictions, dedications, and ground leases for developed property

Represented multi-state, Fortune 500 company in office lease transactions, including negotiation and drafting of brokerage agreements, letters of intent, leases, subleases, landlord consents, estoppel letters, subordination agreements, non-disturbance agreements, and attornment agreements

## **WORK EXPERIENCE**

2011                Steptoe & Johnson PLLC  
2001-2010        NiSource Corporate Services Company  
1995-2001        Lewis, Glasser, Casey & Rollins, LLP  
1990-1995        Robinson & McElwee

## **MEMBERSHIPS AND AWARDS**

### **PROFESSIONAL**

Energy & Mineral Law Foundation

Real Estate Section, West Virginia State Bar

Kanawha County Bar Association

Past Member, West Virginia Records Management & Preservation Board, appointed by Governor Robert Wise

### **INDUSTRY/CIVIC**

Lector, Sacred Heart Co-Cathedral

Past Member, Board of Directors, Greenbrier Pool