



W. Henry Lawrence | Member

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LICENSURE WV
EDUCATION J.D. William & Mary

Hank Lawrence focuses his practice on energy and environmental litigation. He represents clients before federal, state, and appellate courts and administrative agencies in civil, criminal, and penalty proceedings. In addition, he provides client counseling and advice in permitting, compliance, and transactional matters involving energy and environmental statutes and regulations. Mr. Lawrence served as Head of the firm's Litigation Department for the past 11 years.

REPRESENTATIVE EXPERIENCE

Litigated Marcellus shale well claims on surface use, ownership, drilling rights, pooling and lease interpretation

Defended gas well hydraulic fracturing damage claims

Defended major energy producers against claims that leasehold rights were limited to sands and drilling methods known in 1900

Obtained leasing rights through co-tenancy statute, partition, and missing heir petitions

Defended class action cases on royalty payments

Supreme Court decisions on duty to develop/protect from drainage and scope of mineral leasehold rights

Mass tort claims relating to fluid disposal wells and permit discharges

Jury trials and defense of corporations and management officials prosecuted for criminal violations of federal environmental laws

Prosecuted dozens of preliminary and permanent injunctions to halt interference with gas transmission pipelines and well access disputes

Defended multi-million dollar arbitration claims in coal dispute for contract breach and tortious interference

Litigated claims for property contamination and CERCLA cleanup actions

Prosecuted drilling, mining, quarry, and water permit appeals, and defended subsidence and blasting claims, NOVs and cessation orders

Defended mass tort claims for mining and drilling related water and property damages, including medical monitoring

Class action defense of gas line replacement and burial depth issues

WORK EXPERIENCE

1982 Steptoe & Johnson PLLC

RECENT PUBLICATIONS / SPEAKING ENGAGEMENTS

"Shale Gas Law 2016 – Litigation Update", WVU College of Law CLE (Morgantown), November 2016

"Hot Topics and Future Disputes," Litigation Update Panel, IEL 7th Law of Shale Plays Conference (Pittsburgh) September 2016

"Litigation Update Panel," IEL 5th Law of Shale Plays Conference (Pittsburgh) September 2014

"Horizontal Well Act & the Pre-Emption Issue," WVONGA Shale Alliance/Unconventional Gas Meeting (Bridgeport) April 2014

"EPA Investigations," Energy Leadership Summit (Southpointe) September 2013

"The Impact of Environmental Regulatory Issues on the Oil and Gas Industry," Energy Leadership Summit (Columbus) July 2013

"Inside Shale," Floodplain Ordinances May 2013

"EPA Enforcement Actions and Air Aggregation Policies and Regulatory Update on Changes to Environmental Regulation in Appalachia," Acquisition and Disposition of Shale Assets in Appalachia (Morgantown) August 2012

"New Trends: EPA Enforcement Actions and Air Aggregation Policies," Acquisition and Disposition of Shale Assets in Appalachia (Southpointe) January 2012

MEMBERSHIPS AND AWARDS

PROFESSIONAL

Fellow, West Virginia Bar Foundation

Peer Review Rated AV by Martindale-Hubbell

The Best Lawyers in America®

Best Lawyers® 2020 Morgantown, WV, Energy Law, Lawyer of the Year

Best Lawyers® 2018 Morgantown, WV, Litigation, Lawyer of the Year

Best Lawyers® 2016 Morgantown, WV, Energy Law, Lawyer of the Year

Super Lawyers®

Trustee, Energy and Mineral Law Foundation

Rocky Mountain Mineral Law Foundation

INDUSTRY/CIVIC

Vice Chair, Board of Directors - United Hospital Center

Allihak Council, Boy Scouts of America

United Way

Harrison County Chamber of Commerce

United Health Foundation's Camp Catch-Your-Breath (Youth Asthma Camp)

Member, Board of Trustees - The Nature Conservancy (West Virginia Chapter)