

JAMES PAUL McHUGH
12220 Point Pleasant Rd.
Mount Alto, West Virginia 25264
(304) 720-4225 (work) (304) 552-2874 (cell)
jamespaulmchugh@gmail.com

With a diverse background in law and leadership, I have over 30 years of experience with high-stakes litigation and decision-making. As an attorney, I have helped my clients obtain creative solutions to legal issues, often through litigation. Since 2013, my practice has centered around federal and state regulation of mining, both coal and metal/non-metal. As a retired U.S. Army Colonel, I have also demonstrated leadership in complex environments, successfully managing large teams and budgets. These parallel backgrounds ensure that I can navigate multifaceted legal and operational challenges.

EDUCATION

U.S. Army War College, Carlisle, Pennsylvania
2013-2015 (Graduated in top 20% of Class). **Master of Arts (Strategic Studies)**

West Virginia University College of Law, Morgantown, West Virginia
1989-1992 (Graduated in top 10%. Received Order of the Coif and was a member of the West Virginia Law Review) **Doctor of Jurisprudence**

Purdue University, West Lafayette, Indiana
1982-1986 **Bachelor of Arts**
Graduated with a double major in Political Science and Russian Language and a minor in History.

CIVILIAN EXPERIENCE

Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe (Office for Democratic Institutions and Human Rights) (volunteer)

2021-present
Volunteer Election Observer, representing the United States, in Moldova, Uzbekistan, Kazakhstan, Serbia, Azerbaijan and Georgia.

Pence Law Firm, PLLC, Charleston, West Virginia

2013-present **Private Law Practice**
Attorney at a prominent law firm specializing in mining law and civil litigation, with extensive experience representing businesses and individuals across a broad range of litigation and investigative matters. Expertise includes advocacy before the Federal Mine Safety and Health Review Commission, the Occupational Safety and Health Review Commission, state-level regulatory bodies, and both state and federal courts. Practice also involves substantial appellate work before the United States Courts of Appeals. Admitted to practice before the United States Supreme Court, the District of Columbia, and the Third and Fourth Circuit Courts of Appeal. Proven track record as lead counsel in numerous high-stakes cases.

Elected Prosecuting Attorney, Jackson County, West Virginia

2009-2012

Prosecuted felony and misdemeanor cases. Lead counsel in many criminal jury trials. Routinely maintained a heavy caseload of felony cases.

City Attorney, City of Ravenswood, West Virginia

2000-2008

General Counsel for the City in connection with a wide variety of issues, including litigation, personnel matters, policies, police matters, utilities, ordinances, resolutions, property disputes and various other matters.

County Attorney, Jackson County, West Virginia

2005-2008

General Counsel for the County Commission in connection with a wide variety of issues, including civil litigation, personnel matters, policies, orders, elections and various other matters.

McHughWilliams PLLC, Charleston, West Virginia

2002-2008

Private Law Practice

Partner at a law firm specializing in labor law and civil litigation. Represented labor unions, multi-employer pension funds, businesses, and individuals in a broad range of civil matters, including ERISA and labor law. Served as lead or co-counsel in numerous jury trials and administrative proceedings, providing strategic advocacy and skilled litigation.

Allen Guthrie & McHugh, Charleston, West Virginia

April 1995-March 2002

Private Law Practice

Attorney and partner at a prominent law firm specializing in litigation. Represented businesses and individuals in commercial disputes, as well as civil and criminal matters, including product liability claims, healthcare law, and hospital law. Served as lead or co-counsel in numerous jury trials, bench trials, and contested administrative proceedings, delivering strategic advocacy and skilled representation.

MILITARY EXPERIENCE

West Virginia Army National Guard (including deployed active duty)

2003-2018 (Iraq Veteran; 2009-2010).

Officer (Retired)

Colonel O-6 (Retired); Judge Advocate (5 years) and Military Police (9 years).

-Battalion Commander for a 920-person Military Police Battalion (151st MP Battalion). Together with subordinate companies, contractors, designed and implemented evidence collection training programs for Iraqi Police in Al Anbar Province, Iraq.

-Commander of the 197th Regional Training Institute, overseeing all facets of the Combat Engineer Military Occupational Specialty training. Managed a full staff of certified trainers, ensuring that all training and materials met the exacting requirements of the U.S. Army, ensuring appropriate risk management, and evaluation of the effectiveness of training.

United States Marine Corps (active)

1986-1995 (WESTPAC deployment 1988)

Officer

Captain O-3. Infantry Officer (6 years) and Judge Advocate (criminal defense) (3 years). Commander and staff officer. Lead or co-counsel in many criminal jury trials, bench trials and contested administrative proceedings.