



JEFFREY M. WAKEFIELD

MEMBER

Charleston, WV
t. 304.347.4231
f. 304.345.0260
jwakefield@flahertylegal.com

Jeff Wakefield brings 40 years of experience to Flaherty and serves as our General Counsel. His diverse practice includes business and commercial litigation, insurance coverage defense and bad faith, professional liability and class action cases. He also has extensive appellate experience, having briefed and argued numerous matters before the West Virginia Supreme Court of Appeals and the United States Court of Appeals for the Fourth Circuit.

What makes Jeff stand out? "As a result of my extensive experience in a wide variety of litigation, trials and appellate cases, I can analyze cases from a factual development standpoint, but also recognize and develop sophisticated legal issues."

The majority of Jeff's work today centers on sophisticated business/commercial clients in high-exposure cases. Some of his clients include a major university, a coal equipment company and large insurance carriers. He is committed to his clients and dedicated to achieving a positive outcome – as he did in each of these cases – recovering liquidated damages from a departing Division IA football coach, allowing a multimillion-dollar media rights contract to remain in place and saving an insurance company millions of dollars in successfully resisting a rate challenge.

"Listening to clients is the most important thing a lawyer can do. From listening, you learn about the client's needs and expectations. Only then can you provide truly adequate representation."

Outside of the practice of law, Jeff seeks out activities that allow him to grow personally and unwind from the stress of practicing law. He enjoys skiing, biking, golf and travel.

SERVICES

Alternative Dispute Resolution
Appellate
Commercial
Complex Tort and Product Liability
Consumer Litigation and Dispute Resolution
Employment Law
Insurance Coverage & Defense
Professional Liability

EDUCATION

- J.D., West Virginia University College of Law (1981)
 - Order of Coif
 - Order of Barristers
 - West Virginia Law Review
 - Winner, Baker Cup Moot Court Competition
- B.A., Magna Cum Laude, Political Science, West Virginia University (1977)

PROFESSIONAL INVOLVEMENT

- Defense Trial Counsel of West Virginia
- American Bar Association
- West Virginia State Bar Association, Member

EXPERIENCE

West Virginia Supreme Court of Appeals Upholds Ruling in Case Against Bank Defendants

November 21, 2018

REPORTED DECISIONS STATE & FEDERAL DISTRICT COURT CASES

- Richards v Walker, 813 S.E.2d 923 (W.Va. 2018)
- State ex rel. Universal Underwriters Ins. Co. v. Wilson, 239 W. Va. 338, 801 S.E.2d 216 (2017)
- State ex rel. Biafore v. Tomblin, 236 W. Va. 528, 782 S.E.2d 223 (2016)
- Citibank, N.A. v. Perry, 238 W. Va. 662, 797 S.E.2d 803 (2016)
- Williams v. CMO Mgmt., LLC, 239 W. Va. 530, 803 S.E.2d 500 (2016)
- State ex rel. Ridge v. W.Va. Dep't of Health & Human Res., 238 W. Va. 268, 793 S.E.2d 918 (2016)
- State ex rel. Perdue v. Nationwide Life Ins. Co., 236 W. Va. 1, 777 S.E.2d 11 (2015)
- Travelers Indem. Co. v. U.S. Silica Co., 237 W. Va. 540, 788 S.E.2d 286 (2015)
- Rich v. Simoni, 235 W. Va. 142, 772 S.E.2d 327 (2015)
- Erie Ins. Prop. & Cas. Co. v. King, 236 W. Va. 323, 779 S.E.2d 591 (2015)
- Lightner v. Riley, 233 W. Va. 573, 760 S.E.2d 142 (2014)
- State ex rel. Discover Fin. Servs. V. Nibert, 231 W. Va. 227, 744 S.E.2d 625 (2013)
- Va. Employers' Mut. Ins. Co. v. Bunch Co., 231 W. Va. 321, 745 S.E.2d 212 (2013)
- Bluestone Indus., Inc. v. Keneda, 232 W. Va. 139, 751 S.E.2d 25 (2013)
- Va. Employers' Mut. Ins. Co. v. Summit Point Raceway Assocs., 228 W. Va. 360, 719 S.E.2d 830, 842 (2011)

ADMISSIONS

- United States Supreme Court
- United States District Court for the Northern District of West Virginia
- United States Court of Appeals Fourth Circuit
- United States District Court for the Southern District of West Virginia
- Supreme Court of Appeals of West Virginia

- State ex rel. Galloway Group v. McGraw, 227 W. Va. 435, 711 S.E.2d 257 (2011)
- Noland v. Va. Ins. Reciprocal, 224 W. Va. 372, 686 S.E.2d 23 (2009)
- Strawn v. AT&T Mobility, Inc., F.Supp.2d, 2009, WL1544333 (S.D. W.Va. 2009)
- Osborne v. King, 570 F.Supp.2d 839 S.D. W.Va. (2008)
- West Virginia University Board of Governors v. Rodriguez, 543 F.Supp.2d 526 (N.D. W.Va. 2008)
- Rashid v. Tarakji, S.E.2d, 2008, WL 486677 (WV, November 5, 2008)
- Messer v. Hannah, 228 W.Va. 553, 668 SE.2d 182 (2008)
- Stand Energy Corp. v. Columbia Gas Transmission Corp., 521 F.Supp.2d 537 (S.D. W.Va. 2007)
- Strawn v. AT&T Mobility, Inc., 513 F.Supp.2d 599 (S.D. W.Va. 2007)
- State & County Mutual Fire Insurance Co. v. Young, 490 F.Supp.2d 741 (N.D. W.Va. 2007)
- Philips v. Larry's Drive-In Pharmacy, Inc., 220 W.Va. 484, 647 S.E.2d 920 (2007)
- Kominar v. Health Management Associates of West Virginia, Inc., 220 W.Va. 542, 648 S.E.2d 48 (2007)
- State ex rel. Hamrick v. Stucky, 220 W.Va. 180, 640 S.E.2d 243 (2006)
- State ex rel. Hamrick v. Stuckey, 2006 WL 3455069 (W.Va. 2006)
- Stand Energy Corp. v. Columbia Gas Transmission Corp., 380 F.Supp.2d 748 (S.D. W.Va. 2005)
- Stand Energy Corp. v. Columbia Gas Transmission Corp., 373 F.Supp.2d 631 (S.D. W.Va. 2005)
- Branch Bank & Trust v. Engine Components, Inc., 394 F.Supp.2d 859 (S.D. W.Va. 2005)
- Columbia Casualty Co. v Westfield Insurance Co., 217 W.Va. 250, 617 S.E.2d 797 (2005)
- Calhoun v Traylor, 218 W.Va. 154, 624 S.E.2d 501 (2005)
- State ex rel. Medical Assurance of West Virginia, Inc. v Recht, 213 W.Va. 457, 583 S.E.2d 80 (2003)
- Hawkins v. Ford Motor Co., 211 W.Va. 487 566 S.E.2d 624 (2002)
- Bradshaw v. Soulsby, 210 W.Va. 682, 558 S.E.2d 681 (2001)
- Smith v. Animal Urgent Care, Inc., 208 W.Va. 664, 542 S.E.2d 827 (2000)
- Bower v. Westinghouse Elec. Corp., 206 W.Va. 133, 522 S.E.2d 424 (1999)
- DeVane v. Kennedy, 205 W.Va. 519, 519 S.E.2d 622 (1999)
- Gamblin v. Ford Motor Co., 204 W.Va. 419, 513 S.E.2d 467 (1998)
- Shiel v. Ryu, 203 W.Va. 40, 506 S.E.2d 77 (1998)
- Callow v. Jacob, 201 W.Va. 665, 500 S.E.2d 290 (1997)
- State ex rel. Mitchem v. Kirkpatrick, 199 W.Va. 501, 485 S.E.2d 445 (1997)
- McGraw v. St. Joseph's Hospital, 200 W.Va. 114, 488 S.E.2d 389 (1997)
- State ex rel. Blankenship v. Richardson, 196 W.Va. 726, 474 S.E.2d 906 (1996)

- Raines v. White, 195 W.Va. 266, 465 S.E.2d 266 (1995)
- Dunn v. Kanawha County Board of Education, 194 W.Va. 40, 459 S.E.2d 151 (1995)
- Helmick v. Jones, 192 W.Va. 317, 452 S.E.2d 408 (1994)
- Whitlow v. Board of Education of Kanawha County, 190 W.Va. 223, 438 S.E.2d 15 (1993)
- Henderson v. Meredith Lumber Co., Inc., 190 W.Va. 292, 438 S.E.2d 324 (1993)
- State ex rel. Starr v. Halbritter, 183 W.Va. 350, 395 S.E.2d 773 (1990)
- Nutter v. Maynard, 183 W.Va. 247, 395 S.E.2d 491 (1990)
- Capital Fuels, Inc. v. Clark Equipment Co., 176 W.Va. 277, 342 S.E.2d 245 (1986)
- Perry v. Milton, 171 W.Va. 397, 299 S.E.2d 8 (1982)
- Star Furniture Co. v. Pulaski Furniture Co., 171 W.Va. 79, 297 S.E.2d 854 (1982)
- Wise v. Travelers Indemnity Co., 192 F.Supp.2d 506 (N.D.W.Va. 2002)
- Young v. State Farm Mut. Auto. Ins. Co., 169 F.R.D. 72 (S.D.W.Va. 1996)
- Clark v. Milam, 830 F.Supp. 316 (S.D.W.Va. 1993)
- Crawford v. Hatcher, 804 F.Supp. 834 (S.D.W.Va. 1992)

FEDERAL APPELLATE DECISIONS

- Palisades Collections LLC v. Shorts, 552 F.3d 327 (4th Cir. 2008)
- Strawn v. AT&T Mobility LLC, 530 F.3d 293 (4th Cir. 2008)
- Columbia Casualty Co. v Westfield Insurance Co., 416 F.3d 301 (4th Cir. 2005)
- Gray v. Farley, 13 Fd.3d 142 (4th Cir. 1993)
- Giancola v. State of West Virginia Dept. of Public Safety, 830 Fd.2d 547 (4th Cir. 1987)

TEACHING & LECTURING

- Contracts Between "Friendlys": Covering the Risk and Protecting the Business Relationship Through Indemnification and Insuring Agreements, Presentation, 33rd Eastern Mineral Law Foundation Conference - EMLF, Lexington, KY (2008)
- Lecturer, Bad Faith Update, Insurance Law, West Virginia Continuing Legal Education (2002)

INSIGHTS

June 2023

FLAHERTY SENSABAUGH BONASSO RECOGNIZED BY CHAMBERS USA 2023

Flaherty has been recognized in the 2023 edition of Chambers USA, with two practice areas and six attorneys cited for excellence.

Chambers' rankings are the definitive mark of excellence across the legal industry. A ranking from Chambers demonstrates that a firm and its attorneys have stood ...

April 2023

15 FLAHERTY ATTORNEYS RECOGNIZED BY SUPER LAWYERS

Flaherty Sensabaugh Bonasso PLLC is pleased to announce that 15 of the firm's attorneys have been named to the 2023 list of West Virginia Super Lawyers and Rising Stars.

No more than 5 percent of a state's lawyers are named to the Super Lawyers list, with just 2.5 percent of a state's ...

August 2022

28 FLAHERTY ATTORNEYS RECOGNIZED BY BEST LAWYERS®

Flaherty Sensabaugh Bonasso is pleased to announce that 28 of the firm's attorneys have been selected for inclusion in the 2023 edition of The Best Lawyers in America® and Best Lawyers: Ones to Watch.

Additionally, six attorneys were named Best Lawyers 2023 Lawyer of the Year. Only one ...

June 2022

CHAMBERS USA RECOGNIZES FIVE FLAHERTY ATTORNEYS

Five Flaherty Sensabaugh Bonasso attorneys were recently ranked in the 2022 edition of Chambers USA.

- Michael Bonasso – Litigation: General Commercial (Senior Statesman)
- Robert L. Coffield – Healthcare
- Thomas V. Flaherty – Litigation: General Commercial (Senior Statesman)

May 2022

14 FLAHERTY ATTORNEYS RECOGNIZED BY SUPER LAWYERS

Flaherty Sensabaugh Bonasso PLLC is pleased to announce that 14 of the firm's attorneys have been named to the 2022 list of West Virginia Super Lawyers and Rising Stars.

No more than 5 percent of a state's lawyers are named to the Super Lawyers list, with just 2.5 percent of a state's ...

August 2021

TWENTY-EIGHT FLAHERTY SENSABAUGH BONASSO ATTORNEYS RECOGNIZED BY BEST LAWYERS®

Flaherty Sensabaugh Bonasso is pleased to announce that twenty-eight of the firm's attorneys have been selected for inclusion in the 2022 edition of *The Best Lawyers in America*® or *Best Lawyers: Ones to Watch*.

Additionally, Sam Fox was named *Best Lawyers 2022 Lawyer of the Year* ...

May 2021

CHAMBERS USA RECOGNIZES FLAHERTY SENSABAUGH BONASSO ATTORNEYS

Five Flaherty Sensabaugh Bonasso attorneys were recently ranked in the 2021 edition of Chambers USA.

Michael Bonasso – Litigation: General Commercial (Senior Statesman)

Robert L. Coffield – Corporate/Commercial: Healthcare

Thomas V. Flaherty – Litigation: General ...

May 2021

16 FLAHERTY SENSABAUGH BONASSO ATTORNEYS RECOGNIZED BY SUPER LAWYERS

Flaherty Sensabaugh Bonasso is pleased to announce that 16 of the firm's attorneys have been named to the 2021 list of West Virginia Super Lawyers and Rising Stars.

No more than 5 percent of a state's lawyers are named to the Super Lawyers list, with just 2.5 percent of a state's lawyers ...

August 2020

THIRTY FLAHERTY SENSABAUGH BONASSO ATTORNEYS RECOGNIZED BY BEST LAWYERS®

Flaherty Sensabaugh Bonasso is pleased to announce that thirty of the firm's attorneys have been selected for inclusion in the 2021 edition of *The Best Lawyers in America*® or *Best Lawyers: Ones to Watch*.

Additionally, three Flaherty attorneys were named as *Best Lawyers 2021 Lawyers of the* ...

April 2020

CHAMBERS USA RECOGNIZES FLAHERTY SENSABAUGH BONASSO AS "TOP RANKED"

The 2020 edition of Chambers USA recognizes Flaherty Sensabaugh Bonasso as "Top Ranked" for **General Commercial Litigation**.

"The team is known for a deep bench serving national and multinational companies from the manufacturing, healthcare and automotive sectors with noted ...

April 2020

17 FLAHERTY SENSABAUGH BONASSO ATTORNEYS RECOGNIZED BY SUPER LAWYERS

Flaherty Sensabaugh Bonasso is pleased to announce that 17 of the firm's attorneys have been named to the 2020 list of West Virginia Super Lawyers and Rising Stars.

No more than 5 percent of a state's lawyers are named to the Super Lawyers list, with just 2.5 percent of a state's lawyers ...

August 2019

FLAHERTY SENSABAUGH BONASSO ATTORNEYS RECOGNIZED BY THE BEST LAWYERS IN AMERICA© 2020

Flaherty Sensabaugh Bonasso PLLC is proud to announce that 21 of the firm's attorneys have been selected for inclusion in the 2020 edition of *The Best Lawyers in America*.

Additionally, four Flaherty attorneys were named as *Best Lawyers®* 2020 Lawyers of the Year. Only one lawyer in each area ...

April 2019

CHAMBERS USA RECOGNIZES FLAHERTY SENSABAUGH BONASSO AS "TOP RANKED"

The 2019 edition of Chambers USA recognizes Flaherty Sensabaugh Bonasso as "Top Ranked" for General Commercial Litigation.

"The team is known for a deep bench serving national and multinational companies from the manufacturing, healthcare and automotive sectors," noted ...

April 2019

19 FLAHERTY SENSABAUGH BONASSO ATTORNEYS RECOGNIZED BY SUPER LAWYERS

Flaherty Sensabaugh Bonasso is pleased to announce that 19 of the firm's attorneys have been named to the 2019 list of West Virginia Super Lawyers and Rising Stars.

No more than 5 percent of a state's lawyers are named to the Super Lawyers list, with just 2.5 percent of a state's lawyers ...

August 2018

FLAHERTY SENSABAUGH BONASSO ATTORNEYS RECOGNIZED BY THE BEST LAWYERS IN AMERICA© 2019

Flaherty Sensabaugh Bonasso PLLC is proud to announce that 22 of the firm's attorneys have been selected for inclusion in the 2019 edition of *The Best Lawyers in America*.

Additionally, three Flaherty attorneys were named as *Best Lawyers®* 2019 Lawyers of the Year. Only one lawyer in each ...

May 2018

CHAMBERS USA RECOGNIZES FLAHERTY SENSABAUGH BONASSO AS “TOP RANKED”

The 2018 edition of Chambers USA recognizes Flaherty Sensabaugh Bonasso as “Top Ranked” for **General Commercial Litigation**.

“The team is known for a deep bench serving national and multinational companies from the manufacturing, healthcare and automotive sectors,” noted ...

April 2018

22 FLAHERTY SENSABAUGH BONASSO ATTORNEYS RECOGNIZED BY SUPER LAWYERS

Flaherty Sensabaugh Bonasso PLLC is pleased to announce that 22 of the firm’s attorneys have been named to the 2018 list of West Virginia Super Lawyers and Rising Stars.

No more than 5 percent of a state’s lawyers are named to the Super Lawyers list with just 2.5 percent of a state’s lawyers ...

HONORS & AWARDS

- AV Preeminent® Peer-Review Rated by Martindale-Hubbell®
- Listed, Chambers USA, Litigation: General Commercial (2010 - 2023)
- Listed, *The Best Lawyers in America*® since 2003
 - Bet-the-Company Litigation (2010 - 2023)
 - Commercial Litigation (2006 - 2023)
 - Insurance Law (2012 - 2023)
 - Personal Injury Litigation – Defendants (2011 - 2023)
 - 2017 - Lawyer of the Year - Charleston, WV - Personal Injury Litigation - Defendants
 - 2015 - Lawyer of the Year - Charleston, WV - Insurance Law
 - 2014 - Lawyer of the Year - Charleston, WV - Bet-the-Company Litigation
- Listed, West Virginia Super Lawyers
 - Insurance Coverage (2007 - 2023)