



## MICHAEL A. SECRET

ASSOCIATE

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The son of small business owners in Clarksburg, West Virginia, Michael Secret understands professional clients' needs while covering a wide range of legal areas. Since 2016 Michael has represented large companies, local businesses, municipalities, and individuals in state and federal court. In addition to his litigation experience, Michael also has experience in estate planning and transactional work for a wide variety of individuals and entities. Another area that Michael specializes in is election law, as he has presided over municipal election contests and Senatorial recounts.

"I believe that adaptability is the best trait that a lawyer can have. It is important to be versatile because the issues that your clients experience are ever-changing."

Michael resides in the Cheat Lake area of Morgantown, West Virginia, and is a lifelong member of the Immaculate Conception Roman Catholic Church in Clarksburg. In addition, he is a board member for the West Virginia Italian Heritage Festival and President of the Clarksburg Columbian Club. When he isn't working or lending his time to his community, you can find Michael relaxing at his Preston County campsite.

### PROFESSIONAL INVOLVEMENT

- Defense Trial Counsel of West Virginia
  - Publication Chair, Government and Political Subcommittee
- American Bar Association
- Harrison County Bar Association
- Attendee of the IADC Trial Academy at Stanford University

### SERVICES

- Commercial
- Corporate and Transactional
- Employment Law
- Transportation

### EDUCATION

- J.D., West Virginia University College of Law, May 2016
  - Emphasis: Labor and Employment Law
    - Order of the Barristers
    - Baker Cup Appellate Advocacy Competition Finalist
    - Moot Court
    - West Virginia University College of Law Supreme Court Clinic
    - Research Assistant to Professor Robert M. Bastress
    - CALI Award: Appellate Advocacy
- B.A., West Virginia University, August 2013
  - English
  - Emphasis: Professional Writing

## COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT

- Board Member, West Virginia Italian Heritage Festival, 2016 – Present
- Clarksburg Columbian Club
  - Chair, Board of Directors, 2022
  - President, 2020 - 2021
  - Vice President, 2016 – 2019
- Member, Harrison County Democratic Executive Committee, 2018 – Present
- Assistant wrestling coach, Robert C. Byrd High School, 2016 – 2017 seasons
- Assistant wrestling coach, Morgantown High School, 2011 – 2015 seasons

## EXPERIENCE

Summary Judgment Granted in Monongalia County  
January 2022

## INSIGHTS

February 2022

### STANDARD GENERAL CONDITIONS IN UTILITY CONTRACTS

By Peter T. DeMasters and Michael A. Secret, as published in For the Defense (February 2022)

Throughout America, political subdivisions are seeking to improve their infrastructure in some form or fashion. This could mean replacing a sewer system or a water system. These projects are ...

October 2021

### TAKE A LOAD OFF: THE LIABILITY FOR IMPROPER LOAD SECUREMENT

By Peter T. DeMasters and Michael A. Secret, as published in DRI In Transit, Volume 24 – Issue 1 (2021)

[Full Article](#)

and Editing

- Summa Cum Laude

## ADMISSIONS

- West Virginia State Courts
- United States Federal District Court for the Northern District of West Virginia
- United States Federal District Court for the Southern District of West Virginia

June 2021

## **WHAT THEY DON'T KNOW MAY HURT THEM: STATUTE OF LIMITATIONS CONCERNS IN DISCRIMINATORY FAILURE TO HIRE CASES**

By Michael A. Secret, as published in USLAW Magazine, Summer 2021

[Full Article](#)

March 2020

## **MOONLIGHTING WHILE ON FMLA LEAVE: HOW EMPLOYERS CAN PROTECT THEMSELVES**

On Wednesday, March 26, 2020, President Donald Trump signed an emergency bill to expand the Family and Medical Leave Act (FMLA) as part of the Families First Coronavirus Response Act. This bill takes effect on April 1, 2020, and is set to expire on December 31, 2020. However, as the FMLA is ...

March 2020

## **EMERGENCY ORDINANCE PROCEDURE: HOW MUNICIPALITIES CAN PASS EXPEDITED EMERGENCY ORDINANCES IN RESPONSE TO COVID-19**

On March 23, 2020, Governor Jim Justice issued an executive "Stay-at-Home" home order, officially known as Executive Order 9-20, in an attempt to further combat the spread of COVID-19 within West Virginia. Municipalities may also wish to pass their ordinances to combat the spread among ...

March 2020

## **MUNICIPAL LAW: NAVIGATING THE WEST VIRGINIA OPEN GOVERNMENTAL MEETINGS ACT IN RESPONSE TO COVID-19**

On March 23, 2020, Governor Jim Justice issued an executive "Stay-at-Home" home order, officially known as Executive Order 9-20, in an attempt to further combat the spread of COVID-19 within West Virginia. However, municipal governments may be left asking themselves what impact this ...

February 2019

## **FLAHERTY WELCOMES TWO NEW ASSOCIATES**

Flaherty Sensabaugh Bonasso is pleased to welcome two new associates to our Clarksburg and Morgantown offices.

**Stanley A. Heflin III** recently joined our Clarksburg office. Before making the decision to attend West Virginia University College of Law, Stan worked as a project manager for his ...

## **ADDITIONAL LEGAL EXPERIENCE**

- McNeer, Highland, McMunn & Varner, LC – Clarksburg, WV
  - Associate (2016 – 2019)
- Built paralegal education courses for the West Virginia Junior College

## **PRACTICE CONCENTRATIONS**

- General Civil Defense Litigation
- Municipal Law
- Estate Planning
- Real Estate Transactions