



Mary Elisabeth Naumann

Member

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Mary Elisabeth Naumann is a Member of Jackson Kelly's Lexington, KY office. She focuses on bankruptcy, commercial restructuring, commercial litigation, energy transactions, and equine law.

Mary Beth's practice centers on business and commercial issues in both state and federal courts, including bankruptcy and creditor's rights, equine law, commercial transactions, and officer and director fiduciary duties. To Mary Beth, law and business are indelibly intertwined – everything about her legal practice impacts her clients' businesses, whether she's buying and selling assets, or defending and litigating claims.

Mary Beth grew up in coal country, and that background provides her with a natural fit for representing clients in all aspects of the coal industry. In addition to that practice, she has also developed experience in representing creditors and debtors in large bankruptcy cases, particularly the purchases and sales of assets. The bankruptcy aspect of her practice also includes the defense of preference actions and the defense of claims against fiduciaries – including officers, board members and shareholders – stemming from their actions both prior to and in bankruptcy proceedings.

The time Mary Beth spent with horses has also enhanced her equine practice. She loves to see the results of a stallion purchase or syndication with the arrival of the horse to the farm. From start to finish, she views this process as an amazing experience that makes all the hard work worthwhile.

Mary Beth also enjoys putting her knowledge to the test by tackling complicated legal issues across her practice areas, devising creative strategies to address the issues and then implementing those strategies.

Mary Beth's multi-faceted practice also permeates into her time outside of the office. Her array of hobbies include traveling to little known destinations such as Saipan, and competing in marathons. As a member of the non-profit Bluegrass Runners, she directs an annual Thanksgiving Day 5K road race that raises approximately \$40,000 each year for various local charities. So far, she has completed 30 marathons and counting! She also spends her free time running, swimming, and cycling. Most impressively, she is an IRONMAN® Triathlete which, if you didn't know, requires a staggering distance of 140.6 miles.

Mary Beth is accomplished within her field and continuously proves she has the dedication and know-how to represent Jackson Kelly's clients exceptionally.

Awards

- Named the *Best Lawyers*® Lexington Bankruptcy and Creditor Debtor Rights/Insolvency and Reorganization Law "Lawyer of the Year" (2022)
- *The Best Lawyers in America*© for Bankruptcy and Creditor Debtor Rights/Insolvency and Reorganization Law (2018-2025)
- Kentucky *Super Lawyers*® Rising Stars (2013-2014)

- Washington & Lee School of Law Merit Scholarship (1997-1999)
- Scholar's Paper Award, Suffolk University School of Law Academic Convocation for Law Students (1999)

Work History

- Jackson Kelly PLLC (2000-Present)
- Judge H. Emory Widener, U.S. Court of Appeals for the Fourth Circuit, Judicial Clerk (1999-2000)
- Hunton & Williams, Summer Associate (1998)
- Wyrick Robbins Yates & Ponton, Summer Associate (1998)
- Jackson & Kelly, Summer Law Clerk (1997)

Practices

- Bankruptcy
- Business Law
- Class Action & Complex Litigation
- Commercial Restructuring
- Commercial Lending
- Mergers & Acquisitions

Industries

- Coal
- Energy
- Equine
- Financial Services

Education

- Washington and Lee University School of Law (J.D., *magna cum laude*, *Order of the Coif*, 1999)
- Centre College (B.A. in History, *cum laude* & *Phi Beta Kappa*, 1995)

Admissions

- Kentucky (2000)
- U.S. District Court, Western District of Kentucky (2001)
- U.S. District Court, Eastern District of Kentucky (2001)
- U.S. Court of Appeals, Sixth Circuit (2000)
- U.S. Court of Appeals, Fourth Circuit (2000)

Professional Organizations

- American Bankruptcy Institute
- International Women in Restructuring
- Kentucky Bar Association
- Fayette County Bar Association

Speaking Engagements & Publications

Speaking Engagements

- Co-presenter with Chacey R. Malhouitre, "Rejection of Leases in Bankruptcy: What Does It Mean?" EMLF 36th Annual Institute, Amelia Island, Florida, June 21-23, 2015

- Presenter, “Staying Ahead of the ‘Bankruptcy Curve’: Contractual Strategies that Protect Your Company During Counterparty Bankruptcy,” 34th Mineral Law Conference, Energy & Mineral Law Foundation, Lexington, Kentucky, Oct. 2009
- Presenter, “Purchasing Assets out of Bankruptcy Free and Clear of Environmental Claims – How Free is It?” 30th Mineral Law Conference, Energy & Mineral Law Foundation, Lexington, Kentucky, Oct. 2005
- Presenter, “The American Canoe Association and the Clean Water Act: The Realities of Violations, Enforcement, and Citizens Groups,” Professional Engineers in Mining, Lexington, Kentucky, Sept. 2001

Writings and Publications

- Author, "Bankruptcy...Preparation is the Key to Optimizing Outcomes," *Kentucky Banker* magazine, July/Aug. 2021
- Community Caretaker Doctrine: Yet Another 4th Amendment Exception, *American Journal of Criminal Law*, 1999
- *Washington and Lee University Law Review* (1997-1999)
- Lead Articles Editor (1998-1999)

Community

- Bluegrass Runners, Secretary (2017-2019), Co-Race Director of the Thoroughbred Classic and Survive the Night Relays (2015-Present), & Board Member (2015-2016, 2020-Present)