



Stephen R. Crislip

Of Counsel

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Stephen R. Crislip is Of Counsel, focusing primarily on litigation and professional liability. He practices out the Firm's office in Charleston, West Virginia.

Steve has spent his entire legal career at Jackson Kelly, and has been instrumental in the Firm's growth and development. He started at the Firm as an associate in 1973, and served as a member from 1980 to 2013. He also served as the Firm's General Counsel – you know it's a vote of confidence when you're chosen to be a lawyer for lawyers. His practice focuses primarily on litigation with an emphasis on the defense of cases involving professional responsibility, ethics, and legal malpractice.

Steve is a West Virginia University graduate, where he received both his bachelor's degree in political science and history (Phi Beta Kappa) and his law degree from the WVU College of Law (Order of the Coif). He is passionate about the practice of law and involvement in his community, which he says is what makes his career most rewarding. He served 10 years on the Board of Directors of the Charleston Family YMCA, as chairman and trustee of The Greater Kanawha Valley Foundation from 1996 to 2003, as chairman of the Visiting Committee at the West Virginia University College of Law, and has served on the Board of the Alzheimer's Association, West Virginia Chapter. Steve also has been a lecturer for West Virginia CLE and various other bar-related groups, and is the author of several publications and other writings, including a legal humor book titled [Down To The Hard Road](#).

Steve has been a forward thinker and entrepreneur since the seventh grade, when he started a commercial strawberry growing business. In high school, he developed the "Twist-O-Ciser," a rotating exercising device that was sold on WOAY Channel 4 news "Big Time Wrestling." Aside from his legal and professional endeavors, Steve enjoys bird hunting and shotgun sports, fly fishing, woodworking, and is a master gardener.

Awards

- Named the *Best Lawyers*® Charleston, West Virginia Legal Malpractice Law - Defendants "Lawyer of the Year" (2022)
- Named the *Best Lawyers*® 2020 Charleston, West Virginia Legal Malpractice Law - Defendants "Lawyer of the Year"
- AV Judicial Preeminent Rated (2017)
- West Virginia Bar Association Award of Merit (2016)
- *Best Lawyers*® Defendants "Lawyer of the Year," Charleston, West Virginia Legal Malpractice Law
- *Super Lawyers*® *Business Edition*, Litigation Section, Professional Liability: Defense (2012-2015)
- *West Virginia Super Lawyers*®, Professional Liability: Defense Law (2012-2024)
- *The Best Lawyers in America*® Legal Malpractice Law – Defendants and Personal Injury Litigation - Defendants (2003-2025)
- DRI Exceptional Performance Citation (2017)

- Phi Beta Kappa, Charleston President (1982)
- Order of the Coif
- *West Virginia Law Review* (1971-1973)
- Rhodes Scholarship Finalist (1969-1970)
- Solon E. Summerfield Scholar (1970)
- Dean's Scholarship (1973)
- WVU Honors Program
- Mountain and Sphinx Honorary

Work History

- Jackson Kelly PLLC (1973-Present)

Practices

- Professional Liability, Errors & Omissions

Education

- West Virginia University College of Law (J.D., 1973)
- West Virginia University (B.A., 1970)

Admissions

- West Virginia (1973)
- U.S. Supreme Court (2004)
- U.S. Court of Appeals, Fourth Circuit (1986)
- U.S. District Court, Eastern District of Kentucky (1974)
- U.S. District Court, Southern District of West Virginia (1973)
- U.S. District Court, Northern District of West Virginia (1973)
- West Virginia Supreme Court of Appeals (1973)

Professional Organizations

- West Virginia Commission on Uniform State Laws, Commissioner (2020-2023)
- Association of Defense Trial Attorneys, President (2006-2007); President Elect (2005-2006); Vice President (2004-2005); National Membership Chairman (1998-2004); National Vice Chairman, Membership (1996-1997); National Executive Council (1991-1994); Eastern Regional Membership Chairman (1993); State Chairman (1989-1997)
- Defense Trial Counsel of WV, President (1996-1997); Vice President (1995-1996); Secretary (1993-1994); Treasurer (1994-1995); Board of Governors (1990-1999); Continuing Legal Education Committee

- Defense Research Institute Board Member (2005-2008 and 2011-2014); Member, Medical and Professional Liability Committee; Construction Litigation Committee; Membership Committee (2010-2013)
- West Virginia State Defense Research Institute Representative (2010-2011); Central Region Representative (2011-2014)
- West Virginia Bar Association, President (2010); Executive Council (2005-2012); Membership Chairman (1990-1992); Committee on Legal Services Plan
- West Virginia State Bar, Civil Rules Committee, Continuing Legal Education Committee (1986-2003); Committee on Legal Assistants (1984-1987); Court Reporters Board of Review (1983-1985); Bicentennial Committee; Legal Services to the Poor (2000-2004)
- Kanawha County Bar Association, Legal Services Committee; Local Rules Committee (1988-1990)
- Fellow American Bar Association, Member, Professional Liability; Alternate Dispute Resolution, Pre-Trial Practice and Discovery Committees, Arbitration Committee
- National Foundation for Judicial Excellence, Member
- West Virginia University College of Law Visiting Committee (1996-1999); Chairman (1999-2000)
- Jackson Kelly Executive Committee (1996-1999)
- General Counsel, Jackson Kelly PLLC (2002-2013)
- West Virginia Bar Foundation, Fellow
- National Conference of Bar Presidents, Fellow
- The Judge John A. Field, Jr., American Inn of Court, Master Member
- Defense Trial Counsel of West Virginia, Diplomat

Speaking Engagements & Publications

Speaking Engagements

- Ethics, Defense Trial Counsel of West Virginia (2019)
- Ethics Training for West Virginia Attorney General's Office. (June 2017)
- DRI Leadership Training (January 2014)
- Defense Trial Counsel Annual Meeting, Ethics (2009)
- West Virginia CLE, Lecturer, Damages (1995)
- West Virginia CLE, Lecturer, Professional Liability (2006)
- West Virginia CLE Winter Litigation Series, Moderator (1998) (1990-1992)
- McDonough Caperton Lecture Series, Legal Malpractice (1988)
- Professional Education Systems, Lecturer, Cross Examination of Orthopedic Surgeons. (1987)
- West Virginia CLE, Lecturer, Cross Examination. (1986)
- West Virginia Legal Secretaries and Legal Assistants Association, Lecturer, Various Topics. (1983-1986)

Publications

- *DRI Law Practice Management*, chapter author (2014)
- Author, "*Lawyering for Lawyers*"
- Author, *Down to the Hard Road* (2007)
- Author, "*A Modern History of a Law Firm Known as Jackson Kelly*" (2005)
- "Tort Handbook, a Fifty State Compendium," chapter author, *Aspen Law and Business* (2000-present)
- "Evidence, Fourth Circuit Handbook," chapter author, *Lawyers Cooperative Publishing* (1997)
- "Legal Malpractice Compendium," chapter author (ABA)
- "Products Liability," *West Virginia Defense Trial Manual* (1984)

Community

- Volunteer, WVU Extension Service, Master Gardener
- West Virginia Commission on Uniform State Laws, Commissioner (2020-2023)
- Instructor, OLLI courses for West Virginia University (2019-present)
- Board Member, Greenbrier Community Association
- The Greater Kanawha Valley Foundation, Chairman of the Board (2001-2002); Trustee (1996-2005); Scholarship Committee (1992-1995)
- Charleston YMCA, Board of Directors (1995-2000); Chairman (1997-1998)
- Boy Scouts of America, Fundraiser
- YMCA, Fundraiser
- Allergy Rehabilitation Foundation, Trustee (1976-1979)
- Citizens Task Force, City of Charleston, WV (1974-1975)
- West Virginia Alzheimer's Association, Board of Directors (2003-2004)
- Pro-Bono Flood Relief Legal Work (2016-2017)
- WVU College of Law Visiting Committee (2006-2008)
- Greenbrier Sporting Club