



THE HONORABLE WILLIAM S. THOMPSON

Appalachian School of Law

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107 Nathan Avenue
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A former United States Attorney, appointed by the President and confirmed by the Senate, with thirty years of legal experience, including fifteen years as a judge in a general jurisdiction state trial court. Known for an outstanding reputation in professionalism, team building, and issue resolution, as well as being a skilled negotiator. Possesses experience across various areas of law.

WORK HISTORY

May 2025-present

Dean of Students, Appalachian School of Law, Grundy, Virginia

- Serve as the primary liaison between ASL administration and the student body and offer support to students facing academic, personal, or professional challenges.
- Partner with faculty and academic services to monitor student progress and support and assist with the administration of academic accommodations and leave policies.
- Ensure the students know and utilize existing academic support opportunities and work on additional academic support opportunities.
- Serve as a Visiting Professor of Law, providing direct academic services and teaching to the students.
- Work to establish mentorships within the student body and with alumni and practitioners and work with the students to develop a relationship with the school that will last many years after graduation.
- Make sure the students are aware of the Student Code of Conduct and administer it and manage disciplinary matters.
- Ensure compliance with ABA standards regarding student support services and respond to student crises, including mental health concerns and emergencies.
- Develop strategies to encourage the continued growth of the student body and enhancing the reputation of the school on both a regional and national basis.

May 2025-present

Counsel, Spilman Thomas & Battle, P.L.L.C., Charleston, West Virginia

- A member of the Litigation Department, with an emphasis on Alternative Dispute Resolution and White-Collar Defense and Investigations.
- Develop a regional mediation and arbitration practice that utilizes the skills and experiences gained as a trial court judge and thirty years of litigation experience to provide solutions to problems.
- Provide support for the strategies involved in high stakes litigation, including the best practices in front of various tribunals.

EDUCATION

Doctor of Jurisprudence
West Virginia University
College of Law,
Morgantown, West Virginia
May 1995

Bachelor of Science in Civil
Engineering
West Virginia University
College of Engineering,
Morgantown, West Virginia
May 1992

- Utilize contacts and professional relationships to assist with the firm's Government Relations practice.
- Work with other firm members in developing and growing the firm by utilizing my experience in business and litigation, as well as my professional contacts.

October 2021 – February 2025

Southern District of West Virginia - United States Attorney, Charleston, West Virginia

- Presidentially Appointed, Senate Confirmed, top federal law enforcement officer for the twenty-three counties of southern West Virginia
- Oversee a staff of 34 Assistant United States Attorneys and 41 support personnel and responsible for hiring and recruiting decisions within the office.
- Personally handled and made appearances in major trials, hearings, sentencings, and mediations
- Played an integral role in the successful management of trials, hearings, appeals, and mediations
- Delivered regular press updates and actively participated in various media activities, including live interviews.
- Engaged in community events, addressing queries from diverse audiences on topics such as civil rights, addiction, human trafficking, environmental concerns, and community policing
- Managed numerous federal indictments involving crimes such as violence, drug distribution, intellectual property theft, child exploitation, human trafficking, white-collar crime, healthcare fraud, illegal gun and machine gun conversion, and bankruptcy fraud.
- Managed the appellate practice before the Fourth Circuit
- Provided support to individuals affected by violent crime, including victims and their families
- Implemented a team-first approach to enhance work quality and boost employee satisfaction within our office and with partners.
- Developed targeted training programs for junior attorneys to enhance their litigation skills and improve overall office performance.

February 2007 - August 2021

25th Judicial Circuit - Circuit Judge, Madison, West Virginia

- Handled various day-to-day duties of a state trial court judge, managing a crowded docket and overseeing several drug courts.
- Presided over the first litigation in the nation concerning actions against pharmaceutical distributors concerning their involvement with the opioid epidemic and the civil litigation concerning the Upper Big Branch disaster.
- Presided over 15,000 cases, including complex civil litigation, intellectual property, employment law, corporate matters, punitive damages, debt collection and practices, product liability, personal injury, administrative law, serious felonies, property, estate administration, family law, and juvenile matters.
- Served by assignment on the West Virginia Supreme Court of Appeals.
- Recognized by both national and state media for judicial work with respect to high stakes litigation, as well as the creation and work with problem solving courts.

PROFESSIONAL SKILLS

- Top Secret Security Clearance
- Leadership Team Building
- Operations Management
- Financial Management
- Media Relations & Political Savvy
- Alternative Dispute Resolution
- Organizational Leadership
- Strategic Planning
- Operational Excellence
- Case management skills
- Effective interpersonal skills
- Nationally recognized expert in problem-solving courts and addiction

- Successfully lobbied the legislature to create and implement Family Treatment Courts.
- Oversaw many settlement conferences, serving as a de facto mediator.

January 1997 - February 2007

Madison Healthcare, Inc. - President, Madison, West Virginia

- Oversaw medical staff, met with officials from the Department of Health concerning the administration of the facility, met and conferred with officials from other healthcare providers to best coordinate healthcare for the southern region of West Virginia
- Oversaw day-to-day management of the facility while a new administrator search was being conducted
- Oversaw the transition from one ownership group to a stand-alone practice and then oversaw it being absorbed by a larger healthcare entity

May 1995 - February 2007

Cook and Cook - Attorney at Law, Madison, West Virginia

- Handled civil litigation and criminal defense in state and federal courts, including active appellate practice in both systems.
- Provided guidance to clients regarding property and contractual rights, drafted articles of incorporation, and expertise in administrative law.
- Represented individuals, limited liability companies and corporations

January 1994 - February 2007

Danville Lumber Company - Vice President, Danville, West Virginia

- Advised and managed a sizable family-held corporation overseeing a workforce of around fifty employees
- Provided legal counsel, handled employee relations, and Implemented new technology and marketing strategies
- Demonstrated proficient leadership skills to motivate employees and build competent teams

PROFESSIONAL AREAS OF PRACTICE

Insurance, Criminal Law, Civil Litigation, Labor and Employment, Energy Law, Medical Malpractice, Product Liability, Professional Malpractice, Civil Rights, Appellate Law, Tax Law, Environmental Law, Healthcare Law, Immigration Law, Intellectual Property, Cybersecurity, Real Estate Law, Constitutional Law, Bankruptcy Law, Administrative Law, Construction Law, Consumer Protection, Banking Law, Class Action Litigation, Compliance, Government Contracts, Land Use and Zoning, Wills, Trusts, and Estates, OSHA (Occupational Safety and Health Administration), Election and Campaign Law, Toxic Tort, Title IX, Healthcare Fraud, Legal Ethics and Professional Responsibility, Elder Abuse, Insurance Law, Whistleblower Cases, and Mediation and Arbitration.