



LOU ANN S. CYRUS

MEMBER / OWNER

ATTORNEY BIOGRAPHY

Ms. Cyrus joined the firm as an associate in June 1998, was elected a member in January 2002, and became an equity owner in January 2014. Ms. Cyrus's practice focuses on general insurance defense. This includes complex high-stakes civil, constitutional rights cases with a particular focus on the defense of state, public, and private entities in cases involving civil rights violations in many settings, such as correctional facilities, schools, churches, and the workplace, as well as premises liability. As a former West Virginia public school teacher certified to teach English-Language Arts 5-12, she enjoys representing county boards of education, principals, teachers, and other school personnel.

Ms. Cyrus has over 25 years of experience handling insurance defense cases at trial and appellate levels. She has served as lead counsel in trying many cases to defense verdict, inclusive of several week-long civil rights trials, including claims of alleged sexual assault, age discrimination, and other allegations of employment law misconduct, as well as numerous auto negligence cases. Ms. Cyrus often lectures on the topic of avoiding sexual harassment and other discrimination in the workplace. She also frequently counsels insurers on evaluating and handling claims in all aspects of the claims handling process.

Her standing in the legal community has earned her Martindale-Hubbell's prestigious "AV" Rating, which signifies that peers rank her at the highest level of legal ability and professional ethics. She is recognized by Best Lawyers® as one of the Best Lawyers in America© for her work in Employment Law - Management, Insurance Law, and Litigation - Insurance.

Ms. Cyrus has two sons and two stepsons and is married to Dwayne Cyrus, a firm member/equity owner.

CONTACT

📍 1411 Virginia Street East
Suite 200
Charleston, WV 25301

✉️ lcyrus@shumanlaw.com

🌐 www.shumanlaw.com

☎️ 304-345-1400

PRACTICE AREAS

- Civil Rights Litigation
- General Litigation
- Insurance Coverage & Bad Faith
- Labor, Employment & Deliberate Intent Litigation
- State, Municipal & Public Utility Litigation

BAR ADMISSIONS

- West Virginia, 1994
- U.S. District Court, Southern District of West Virginia, 1994

EDUCATION

- J.D., West Virginia University College of Law
 - Honors: Governor, 4th Circuit, American Bar Association Law Student Division, American Bar Association Law Student Division's Bronze Key Award, Recipient of a West Virginia State Bar Auxiliary Scholarship
- B.S.Ed, cum laude, Concord University
 - Honors: David S. Roth Memorial Outstanding English Major Award as the graduating English Major with the highest grade point average, James B. Shrewsbury JR. Award for Academic Excellence

REPRESENTATIVE CASES

- Keefer v. Ferrell, 655 S.E.2d 94 (W.Va., 2007)
- Withrow v. Williams, 216 W.Va 385, 607 S.E. 2d 491 (2004)
- Stevens v. West Virginia Institute of Technology, 207 W.Va. 370, 532 S.E.2d 639 (1999)
- Murray v. State Farm Fire and Cas. Co., 203 W.Va. 477, 509 S.E.2d 1 (1998)
- McCormick v. West Virginia Dept. of Public Safety, Div. of Corrections, 202 W. Va. 189, 503 S.E. 2d 502 (1998)
- Jeffrey v. West Virginia Dept. of Public Safety, Div. of Corrections, 198 W. Va. 609, 482 S.E.2d 226 (1996)

PUBLICATIONS

- "LEGAL MATTERS: COMBATING CYBERBULLYING" (Co-authored) NAESP, Communicator, March 2015, Volume 38, Issue 7
- "School Playground Safety: Does your Playground Make the Grade?" Legal Matters, National Association of Elementary School Principals (NAESP) - November 2012

INVOLVEMENT / AWARDS

- 2014 Martindale Hubbell AV Rating
- 2015 Martindale Hubbell Client Distinction Award
- Past President, Alum Creek Elementary School's Local School Improvement Council, 2012-2014

CLASSES/SEMINARS TAUGHT

- "Whose Case Is It Anyway? Handling Bad Faith Claims," (three-person panel), ANPAC American National Claims/Litigation Training Conference, 2019
- "Understanding Spinal Injuries to Maximize Your Defense," (three-person panel), ANPAC 20th SIU/MIST/Litigation Conference, Springfield, Missouri, June 24, 2015
- "Managing Communications to Avoid Bad Faith," ANPAC 2005 SIU/MIST/LITIGATION 9th Annual Training Conference, Springfield, MO June 9-10, 2005
- "The Economic Expert in Litigation," ANPAC 2004 SIU/MIST/LITIGATION 8th Annual Training Conference, Springfield, MO, June 10-11, 2004
- "Experts: Hiring, Deposing, Cross-Examining," ANPAC 2003 SIU/MIST/LITIGATION Annual Training Conference, Springfield, MO, June 5-6, 2003
- Special Education Workshop "Conducting Legally Defensible I.E.P. Meetings, Providing Testimony, and Witnessing," RESA-V Meeting, Parkersburg, WV, March 5, 2001
- Special Education Workshop "Conducting Legally Defensible I.E.P. Meetings, Providing Testimony, and Witnessing," RESA-IV Meeting, Charleston, WV, December 9, 1999

PROFESSIONAL ASSOCIATIONS AND MEMBERSHIPS

- American Bar Association
- West Virginia Bar Association
- Kanawha County Bar Association
- Defense Research Institute
- Defense Trial Counsel of West Virginia
- Claims and Litigation Management (CLM) Alliance