

# JAMES WILSON DOUGLAS

*Family Court Judge*

*Office: 111 Court Street, Suite 5*

*Charleston, West Virginia 25301*

*Residence: 1101 Edgewood Drive*

*Charleston, West Virginia 25302 • (304) 437-5752*

## Employment

### **FAMILY COURT JUDGE**

2017- Present

Kanawha County, 11<sup>th</sup> District, 5<sup>th</sup> Division

**Note:** As Family Court Judge, **over \$94,450.00 in delinquent child support** was collected January 1, 2017 through December 31, 2018. In 2019, **\$62,383** was recovered. The over-due child support obtained in 2020, despite pandemic restrictions, was **\$25,472**. In 2021, **\$51,475** was gathered, while **\$31,642.32** was gained for children in 2022, **\$37,339.67** was received in 2023, and **\$49,641.08** was received in 2024; and \$29,102.32 was gained in 2025.

**Total Received for children during my tenure to date (until 12/31/25):**  
**\$381,505.39**

### **ATTORNEY AT LAW**

1977-2016

*James Wilson Douglas, L.C.*

*145 Main Street, Sutton, West Virginia 26601*

*1554 Kanawha Blvd. East, Charleston, West Virginia 25322*

Solo Practitioner on a State-wide basis, extensive and comprehensive **jury** and **non-jury trial experience**, but after 1996, accepted cases in Family Law and Divorce nearly exclusively, and litigated cases in 44 of the State's 55 Counties.

Admitted to practice before the Colorado Supreme Court; West Virginia Supreme Court of Appeals; United States District Court, Southern District of West Virginia; United States District Court, Northern District of West Virginia; Fourth Circuit Court of Appeals; United States Supreme Court.

### **ADJUNCT PROFESSOR OF BUSINESS LAW, FAMILY LAW FOCUS**

*Glenville State College 1993-1994; 1997-1998*

*Summersville Branch*

*Fairmont State College 2003*

*Weston Branch*

### **LEGAL SERVICES COORDINATOR**

1988-1989

*Regional Education Services Agency (Special Education Emphasis)*

*Region IV*

Also, **Level II Hearing Examiner for Education Employee Grievances**

### **PROSECUTING ATTORNEY**

1985-1988

*Braxton County*

*West Virginia*

### **CONTINUING LEGAL EDUCATION INSTRUCTOR**

1996-PRESENT

September 6, 1996 - West Virginia University, **Mountaineer Series - Relocation Rights**.

October 16, 1998 - Harper's Ferry, West Virginia - **Relocation Rights**

March 31, 1999 - Charleston, West Virginia - **Child Support, UIFSA**

September 24, 1999 - Flatwoods, West Virginia - **Relocation Rights**

March 30-31, 2001 - The Greenbrier, West Virginia - **Divorce and Bankruptcy**

January 18, 2002 - Charleston, West Virginia, NBI - **Prenuptial Agreements**

March 24, 2003 - Charleston, West Virginia, NBI - **Ethical Dilemmas in Divorce**

August 29, 2003 - West Virginia University, **Mountaineer Series - Relocation Rights**

Revised 12/31/25

January 5, 2005 - LEI Family Law Seminar, Aspen, Colorado - ***Custodial Rights of the Non-Biological Gay Parent***

September 9, 2005 - West Virginia University, ***Mountaineer Series - Third Party Custodial Rights***

January 4, 2006 - LEI Family Law Seminar, Aspen, Colorado - ***Post Decree Relocation***

June 1, 2006 - Charleston, West Virginia, West Virginia University CLE - ***Third Party Custodial Issues***

September 1, 2006 - West Virginia University, Mountaineer Series - ***What Goes into the Child Support Calculation***

January 7, 2007 - LEI Family Law Seminar, Aspen, Colorado - ***Grandparents and Third Party Custodial Rights***

January 8, 2008 - LEI Family Law Seminar, Vail, Colorado - ***Visitation and Parenting Rights of the Incarcerated Parent***

August 29, 2008 - West Virginia University, Mountaineer Series - ***Disability Pensions in Divorce***

January 6, 2009 - LEI Family Law Seminar, Vail, Colorado - ***Disability Pensions in Divorce***

September 4, 2009 - West Virginia University, ***Mountaineer Series - Senior Litigant and Post-Divorce Considerations***

September 4, 2010 - West Virginia University, ***Mountaineer Series - Starting and Marketing a Family Law Practice***

January 6, 2011 - LEI Family Law Seminar, Vail, Colorado - ***Effect of Child Preferences in Custodial Litigation***

January 3, 2012 - LEI Family Law Seminar, Snowmass, Colorado - ***Distribution of Vested and Unvested Stock Options in Divorce***

January 2, 2013 - LEI Family Law Seminar, Snowmass, Colorado - ***The Effect of a Party's Death During a Pending Dissolution***

March 12, 2014 - Kanawha County Family Court Bench/Bar Committee - ***Mock Trial Team***

January 9, 2015 - LEI Family Law Seminar, Vail, Colorado - ***Retained Earnings in Sub-S Corporations***

May 8, 2015 - ABA Section, Family Law Spring CLE - ***Champagne Case on a Beer Budget***

September 24, 2015, Kanawha County Bench Bar - ***Champagne Case on a Beer Budget***

September 8, 2016 Kanawha County Family Bench Bar - ***Update on WV Family Law***

January 5, 2017, LEI Family Law Seminar, Snowmass, CO- ***Champagne Case on a Beer Budget***

January 5, 2018, LEI Family Law Seminar, Vail, CO, ***Top Ten Evidentiary Mistakes in the Presentation of a Family Law Case***

November 29, 2018, Kanawha County Bench Bar - ***Federal and State Statutory Changes Affecting Family Law***

January 2, 2019, LEI Family Law Seminar, Snowmass, CO - ***Valuation Quagmire: Marital Components of Separate Properties***

September 14, 2019, West Virginia Mountaineer/ Family Law Committee CLE, ***The Concept of Double Dipping in Family Law***

September 23, 2022, October 13, 2022, December 15, 2022, and February 22, 2023, Kanawha Bench Bar, West Virginia Family Court Association and two (2) West Virginia State Bar Webinars, respectively, ***The New 50/50 Custody Law (2022)***.

May 3, 2023, Family Court Association, Semi-Annual Conference, Weston, West Virginia. ***WVSCA and ICA Case Law Update, 2022-2023***.

May 23, 2024, Family Court Association, Semi-Annual Conference, Berkeley Springs, West Virginia. ***WVSCA and ICA Case Law Update, 2023-2024***.

September 27, 2024, ABA, Semi-Annual Conference, Palm Springs, California. ***Expert Testimony; A View from Both Sides of the Bench***

October 17, 2024, Hampshire County Bar Association, ***WVSCA and ICA Case Law Update, 2023-2024***

## Education

**DOCTOR OF JURISPRUDENCE** 1977  
*West Virginia University* Morgantown, West Virginia  
Member, Moot Court Board, 1975-1977  
Student Bar President, 1976-1977

**MASTER OF ARTS** 1975  
*West Virginia University* Morgantown, West Virginia  
German History and Literature (History on Diploma, but until 2023, awarded as M.A.,  
German Studies)

**BACHELOR OF ARTS, magna cum laude** 1973  
*University of Charleston (Morris Harvey College)* Charleston, West Virginia

Double Major, History and Political Science, German Minor

## Awards/Community Service

**Elected as a fellow to the American Bar Foundation, August 20, 2025, together with his son Jarod J. Douglas, AUSA, a first for West Virginia. (Father and Son)**

*AMERICAN ACADEMY OF MATRIMONIAL LAWYERS*

Member, 1993 - Present.

ABA, Family Law Section

Best Lawyers in America - WV- Family Law, 2006 - Present (Family Law)

Member of the Spring 2014 Kanawha County Bench Bar Mock Trial Team

Lawyer Education Institute, Faculty Member in Family Law (Colorado)

## PROFESSIONAL/LEGAL ORGANIZATIONS/OFFICES

President, Braxton County Bar Association, 1994-1998

West Virginia Trial Lawyers Association, 1995-1996

2x Member, West Virginia State Bar Board of Governors, 12<sup>th</sup> District, 1994-1997,  
2003-2006

Member, West Virginia State Bar Family Law Committee, Chair of Sub-Committee on  
Specialization and Certification, 1995-1997

West Virginia State Bar Family Law Committee, Chair, 1997-2001, 2007-2010

West Virginia State Bar Ad Hoc Committee on Specialization and Certification, Vice-  
Chair, 1997-2006

Family Court Rules Committee, 1999-2000

Member, American Bar Association Section of Family Law, Executive Member of the  
Alternative Families Committee, 2006-2008

West Virginia Supreme Court of Appeals Alimony Formula Committee, 2011-2012

Client Protection Fund Committee, 2007-Present

Kanawha County Bench Bar Committee, 2010 -Present

## COMMUNITY ORGANIZATIONS/OFFICES

Lions Club, President, 1984-1985, 1998-1999; Zone Chairman, 1992-1993

Board of Directors, Precision Services, 1992-1993

Vice-Chairman, Braxton County Democratic Executive Committee, 1993

Revised 12/31/25

Member, Sutton Baptist Church; Usher Committee  
West Virginia Symphony Orchestra Board of Directors and Officer, 2010 - 2025

Member, Usher and Administrative Council (until 2025), Christ Church United  
Methodist, Charleston, 2015 - Present

**CASES AS LEAD COUNSEL (First Chair) AND BRIEF WRITING SAMPLES**  
**Argued, *as First Chair*, over 40 cases before the WV Supreme Court of Appeals during a career spanning nearly 40 years (including before and after 2010 changes in Rules of Appellate Procedure).**

*State ex rel Miller v. Smith*, 168 W.Va. 745, 285 S.E.2d 500 (1981)  
*Young v. JCR Petroleum, Inc.*, 188 W.Va. 280, 423 S.E.2d 889 (1992)  
*Reynolds v. Reynolds*, 189 W.Va. 105, 433 S.E.2d 277 (1993)  
*Sowa v. Committee of Nolan B. Hamrick*, 191 W.Va. 105, 443 S.E.2d 262 (1994)  
*Uldrich v. Uldrich*, 196 W.Va. 663, 474 S.E.2d 593 (1996)  
*State of West Virginia v. Leeman Jarvis*, 199 W.Va. 62, 483 S.E.2d 38 (1996)  
*Meadows v. Meadows*, 202 W.Va. 327, 504 S.E.2d 154 (1998)  
*Carr, et al. v. Michael Motors*, 210 W.Va. 240, 557 S.E.2d 294 (2001)  
*Conrad v. Conrad*, 216 W.Va. 696, 612 S.E.2d 772 (2005)  
*Clifford K. v. Paul S. Ex rel. Z.B.S.*, 217 W.Va. 625, 619 S.E.2d 138 (2005)  
*Dobbins v. Cunningham*, 217 W.Va. 580, 618 S.E.2d 589 (2005)  
*Ryan v. Ryan*, 640 S.E.2d 64 (WV 2006)  
*Deitz v. Deitz*, 2008-WV-R0215.001, 659 S.E.2d 331 (2008)  
*Grose v. Grose*, 2008-WV-1107.407, 671 S.E.2d 727 (2009)  
*In Re: Dandy*, 224 W.Va. 105, 680 S.E.2d 120 (2009)  
*State ex rel WV DHHR v. Ruckman*, 2009-WV-0209.823, 674 S.E.2d 229 (2009)  
*Skidmore v. Rogers*, 229 W.Va. 13, 725 S.E.2d 182 (2011)  
*Paugh v. Linger*, Certification No. 101410  
*Batt v. Batt*, 062413 WVSC, 12-0289 (2013) (Memorandum Decision)  
*Whitlock v. Whitlock*, 060713 WVSC, 12-0332 (2013) (Memorandum Decision)  
*Bobbie Jo R., et al. v. Traci W.*, 11-1753 (2013) (Memorandum Decision)  
*Bates v. Bates*, 12-1540 (Memorandum Decision)  
*Morris v. Morris*, 13-0742 (Memorandum Decision)  
*Johnstone v. Johnstone*, 13-0928 (Memorandum Decision)  
*Pitrolo v. Pitrolo*, 13-1309 (Memorandum Decision)  
*Carlisle v. Dowd, et al.*, 13-1077 (Memorandum Decision)  
*Garland v. Warren*, 14-0429 (4/10/15)  
*Tallhamer v. Workman*, 14-0701 (Memorandum Decision)  
*Robert W. v. Paulette W.*, 15-1010 (5/20/16)

#### PUBLISHED ARTICLES

*Post-Divorce Relocation Rights of the Custodial Parent*, *Divorce Source*, (1997)  
*The Grandkids & Your Rights*, *ABA Family Advocate*, Summer 2008  
*I'm Divorced, Now What?*, *ABA Family Advocate*, Summer 2008  
*Innovative Alcohol Monitoring: Soberlink's Family Law Application*, *ABA Family Law Bulletin*, Spring 2018

Authored Book, *Front Porch Stories*, September 10, 2002, Fictional West Virginia legal cases, based on actual events in which the author was involved

**MEDIATION**

Experience and service as a Family Court Mediator

**CLERKSHIP**

Law Clerk for the Honorable William M. Kidd, Chief Judge of the 14<sup>th</sup> Judicial Circuit, Sutton, West Virginia, 1976