

Hon. Sean J. McLaughlin (ret.)

Of Counsel

Honorable Sean J. McLaughlin served as a United States District Court Judge from 1994 through 2013, completing his tenure as chief judge. During that time, he presided over 5,399 civil cases and 186 jury trials. He also regularly held settlement conferences on a wide variety of complex civil matters. Judge McLaughlin served as Chair of the District Court's Court Governance Committee, as Chair of the Court's Long-Range Planning Committee, and as Chair of the Magistrate Judges Committee. In 2012, he was appointed by Chief Justice John G. Roberts, Jr. to serve on the United States Judicial Conference Committee on Court Administration and Case Management.

After law school, he served for a year as a Federal court law clerk, followed by 13 years of private litigation practice at Knox Law, during which time he specialized in civil litigation, including both insurance defense and plaintiff matters.

After stepping down from the bench, he served for five years as general counsel of Erie Insurance Group, a Fortune 500 company. He then returned to Knox Law to focus his practice on alternative dispute resolution, including mediation, arbitration and early neutral evaluation in both federal and state courts. He retired from the active practice of law in early 2023.



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Practice Areas

- [ADR Services](#)
- [Litigation](#)

Education

- Georgetown University Law Center, J.D.
- Georgetown University, B.A.

Admissions

- Pennsylvania
- U.S. District Court, Western District of Pennsylvania

Representative Experience

- Presided over 5,399 civil cases and 186 jury trials as a Federal judge
- Conducted settlement conferences on complex civil matters regularly during tenure as Federal judge
- Served as Executive Vice President and General Counsel of Erie Insurance Group, a Fortune 500 company
- Represented many clients in complex civil litigation matters, including both insurance defense and plaintiff matters
- Served as chief judge of the U.S. District Court for the Western District of Pennsylvania in 2013
- Appointed by Chief Justice John G. Roberts, Jr. to serve on the United States Judicial Conference Committee on Court Administration and Case Management
- Clerked for three (3) Federal judges: Honorable William W. Knox, Honorable Gerald J. Weber, and Honorable Maurice B. Cohill

Community and Professional Service

Community and Professional Service

- Robert H. Jackson Center, *Past Member, Board of Directors*
- Pennsylvania Chamber of Commerce, *Past Member, Board of Directors*
- Insurance Federation of Pennsylvania, *Past Chair, Board of Directors*

Professional Affiliations

- Erie County Bar Association
- Pennsylvania Bar Association
- Court Governance Committee, Western District of Pennsylvania, *Former Member & Chair*
- Magistrate Judges Committee, Western District of Pennsylvania, *Former Member & Chair*
- Judicial Conference of the United States, *Former Committee Member*

Presentations

Speaking Engagements

- Firm's Municipal Law Symposium, April 2019
- PAMIC Claims Summit, April 2019
- While on the bench, Judge McLaughlin spoke frequently at seminars sponsored by the Erie County Bar Association, the Allegheny Bar Association, the Pennsylvania Bar Institute, and the Pennsylvania Bar Association on a wide variety of topics

About Knox Law

Knox McLaughlin Gornall & Sennett, P.C. is a full service law firm that has provided practical solutions to businesses, families, public entities, and nonprofits for over 65 years. Our practice areas include ADR Services, Bankruptcy & Creditors' Rights, Business & Tax, Business Succession, Construction Law, Elder Law, Employee Benefits, Environmental Law, Estate Planning & Administration, Governmental Practice, Health Law, Intellectual Property & Technology, Labor & Employment, Litigation, Mergers & Acquisitions, Public Finance & Bonds, Real Estate, and Workers' Compensation.