



**Joseph G. Bunn** | Member

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**LICENSURE** VA | WV  
**EDUCATION** J.D. West Virginia University

Before obtaining his law degree, Joseph Bunn worked for a *Fortune 500* company and a middle market company where he served in numerous roles involving strategic planning, capital raises, acquisitions and divestitures. Armed with a deep understanding of the practical needs of business owners, Joe now assists clients in financial transactions, mergers, acquisitions, and divestitures. He also counsels clients in other strategic areas such as corporate governance issues and miscellaneous contracts. Over the course of his practice, Joe has negotiated and drafted numerous transactions for buyers and sellers ranging in size from approximately \$10 million to \$325 million. Recently, he assisted a client in the negotiation and implementation of a \$92.5 million credit facility and assisted another client in divesting itself of “stranded assets” and their associated liabilities for cash consideration of approximately \$325 million. Joe’s practice primarily pertains to the natural resources, rail transportation, banking, and private equity industries. Prior to joining Steptoe & Johnson PLLC, Joe worked for a boutique law firm focused entirely on energy and real estate transactions.

**REPRESENTATIVE EXPERIENCE**

- Negotiated, drafted and implemented on behalf of a coal mining company the divestiture of its "standard assets" and associated liabilities for cash consideration of approximately \$325 million
- Negotiated and drafted \$265 million membership interest purchase agreement between coal company and competitor
- Negotiated, drafted and implemented \$92.5 million credit facility on behalf of a coal mining company
- Negotiated, drafted and implemented \$46 million Section 351 rollover transaction between rail transportation company and private equity sponsor
- Negotiated, drafted and implemented \$35 million line of credit on behalf of a bank involving one of its coal mining clients
- Negotiated, drafted and implemented \$26 million loan between mining entity and private investor
- Negotiated, drafted and implemented \$15 million stock sale on behalf of waste management company
- Litigated legal and equitable claims of overriding royalty interest holder against debtor in Chapter 11 bankruptcy proceeding

Negotiated, drafted and implemented exploration agreement and option to lease on 240,000 acres of oil and gas bearing lands

Negotiated and drafted the acquisition of active mining assets from a Chapter 11 debtor

Negotiated, drafted and implemented the outright sale of one coal seam for \$25 million from a fee tract that contained multiple coal seams which was encumbered by a lease on all seams without the consent of the lessee and without violating the lease

Negotiated, drafted and implemented \$20 million asset divestiture on behalf of a coal mining company

Negotiated, drafted and implemented \$16 million stock purchase of an active coal mining operation

Negotiated, drafted and secured \$10 million development loan on behalf of coal mining company

Regularly draft and negotiate rights-of-way, easements, licenses, contractor agreements, indemnification agreements, letters of intent, confidentiality agreements, and contractual instruments for natural resources companies

## **WORK EXPERIENCE**

2013-present Member, Steptoe & Johnson PLLC

2007-present Managing Member, The Ridges Development Company, LLC

2010-2013 Associate, Jones & Associates

2003-2007 Manager of Strategic Planning and Director of Finance, Central Coal Company

2002-2003 Business Development Analyst, Norfolk Southern Corporation

## **RECENT PUBLICATIONS / SPEAKING ENGAGEMENTS**

Author, "A Justified Assault Upon the Citadel of Privity and the First Amendment: A Theory of Liability for Investors Seeking Recovery from Credit Rating Agencies," Puerto Rico Business Law Journal (2010)

## **MEMBERSHIPS AND AWARDS**

### **PROFESSIONAL**

The Best Lawyers in America® 2013-2021 (Mining Law; Commercial Transactions/UCC Law)

American Bar Association

Chairman, Coal Subcommittee, West Virginia State Bar

### **INDUSTRY/CIVIC**

Energy & Mineral Law Foundation

Board Member, WVU College of Law Center for Energy and Sustainable Development

Board Member, West Virginia Consolidated Public Retirement Board