



James M. Wherley, Jr.

Partner

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Practice Groups

Oil & Gas

Civil Litigation

Intellectual Property

Employment

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Areas of Emphasis

Oil & Gas
Civil Litigation

Intellectual Property
Employment

Admissions

Supreme Court of Ohio
U.S. District Court, Southern District of Ohio
U.S. District Court, Northern District of Ohio

U.S. Court of Appeals, Sixth Circuit
United States Patent and Trademark Office

Education

J.D., University of Cincinnati College of Law, *Order of the Coif*
B.S., Grove City College, *cum laude* with double major in molecular biology and biochemistry

Jim's law practice focuses upon oil and gas litigation and consultation, civil litigation, Intellectual property, and employment law. He is registered to practice in multiple state and federal courts and is a registered patent attorney with the United States Patent and Trademark Office.

Oil and Gas: Jim represents oil producers, drilling companies, and service companies in litigation in a broad range of oil and gas issues — including lease rights, production rights, dormant mineral rights, and corporate disputes.

Civil Litigation: Jim has litigation experience — including bench and jury trials, mediations, arbitrations, post-trial practice, and appellate work — in a wide range of matters, such as uniform commercial code, insurance, the trucking industry, product liability, and personal injury.

Intellectual Property: Jim puts to use his undergraduate double major of biochemistry and molecular biology, in conjunction with Black McCuskey's other intellectual property lawyers, representing clients in intellectual property matters, including patent prosecution and protection of intellectual property rights.

Employment: Jim's representation of both private and public employers includes defense of discrimination, employer intentional tort, and asbestos claims; and workers' compensation appeals. He also drafts and advises as to severance agreements and employment handbooks.

Background: Jim grew up in Stone Creek and graduated as co-valedictorian from New Philadelphia High School. He attended Grove City College on a full-academic scholarship from which he graduated *cum laude*, double-majored in molecular biology and biochemistry, and was a 4-year starter on the men's basketball team. In law school, Jim graduated with over a 4.0 grade average and worked as an extern in the 6th Circuit Court of Appeals. After graduating from law school, Jim scored in the 100th percentile on the Ohio Bar examination. Prior to working at Black McCuskey, he worked as a civil litigator for Dinsmore & Shohl, a large regional law firm based in Cincinnati.

Community: Committed to his community, Jim is a former chair of the board of Personal & Family Counseling Services of Tuscarawas Valley, Inc., and is the current chair of its advisory board to Ohio Guidestone. He is a former school board member of Indian Hills Christian School and is a graduate of Leadership Tuscarawas. Jim and his family live outside of Stone Creek. He is an active member of his church, as he is consistory board member and was the past chair of its pastoral search committee.