

MORRIS NICHOLS ARSHT & TUNNELL



MICHAEL HOUGHTON
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PRACTICE AREAS

Banking & Financial Services
Commercial
Governmental Affairs
Unclaimed Property

EDUCATION

J.D., 1982, University of Virginia
School of Law

B.A., English/History (American
Studies), with high distinction, 1978,
University of Virginia

CLERKSHIPS

Delaware Court of Chancery, 1982-
1983

ADMISSIONS

Delaware, 1982
U.S. District Court for the District of
Delaware, 1983
U.S. Court of Appeals for the Third
Circuit, 1985

Mike's practice involves the representation of governmental entities, such as the Delaware River & Bay Authority and the Delaware Department of Insurance, as well as representation of banks, trust companies, insurance companies and public utilities in commercial transactions and before regulatory authorities and state, county and local governments and in legislative and public policy matters before Delaware government as well. His clients include Delmarva Power & Light Company and Comcast.

For more than 25 years, Mike has also advised numerous entities, including Fortune 500 companies, on unclaimed property issues. He has represented various companies in connection with unclaimed property audits as well as voluntary compliance with unclaimed property laws. Mike has been selected for inclusion in *The Best Lawyers in America* from 2009-2019 and designated "Lawyer of the Year" for administrative and regulatory law for 2020. He frequently speaks on unclaimed property issues and is coauthor of the revised Bloomberg BNA Corporate Practice Series Portfolio, *Unclaimed Property*. Mike has Co-Chaired the Uniform Laws Commission Drafting Committee to Revise the Uniform Unclaimed Property Act, legislation which forms the basis for the law of unclaimed property for over 40 states.

Mike has served in numerous leadership roles with both Delaware and national business and professional organizations. He has served as President of the Uniform Law Commission, a bi-partisan organization which drafts and enacts uniform and model legislation for all of the states on a variety of topics affecting individuals and businesses and he is also a Trustee of the Uniform Law Foundation. He is a Past President of the Delaware State Bar Association and member of the board of the Delaware Bar Foundation. He was appointed in 2017 by Delaware Governor John Carney to serve as Chair of the Delaware Economic and Financial Advisory Council ("DEFAC"), a council with representatives from both the public and private sectors, charged with providing non-partisan and objective revenue and expenditure estimates to the Governor and General Assembly and with providing advice to the Governor and the Secretary of Finance on the State's overall financial conditions, current and projected economic conditions and trends, tax policy and current and projected trends in the national and local economies which may affect Delaware.

Mike also serves as counsel to the Board of the Delaware State Chamber of Commerce, and is a former board member, and serves on the Board of the Delaware Public Policy Institute, the Pete du Pont Freedom Foundation, Artesian Resources Corporation and the Rockefeller Trust Company of Delaware.

Active in Delaware politics for more than 35 years, Mike has advised, and raised funds for the campaigns of, Delaware Governors, Attorneys General and Insurance Commissioners as well as numerous members of the Delaware

General Assembly and other Delaware elected officials.

Professional Activities

- American Bar Association
- Delaware Economic and Financial Advisory Council (Chair)
- Delaware Public Policy Institute (Board Member)
- Delaware State Bar Association (Past President)
- Delaware State Chamber of Commerce (Counsel and former Board Member)
- Pete du Pont Freedom Award Foundation (Board Member)
- Uniform Law Commission (Past President; Co-Chair, Drafting Committee to Revise the Uniform Unclaimed Property Act; President, 2012-2013; Chair, Executive Committee, 2010-2011; Chair, Scope and Program Committee, 2008-2009; Vice President, 2006-2007; Chair, Legislative Committee, 2000-2005)

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