



## Michael Houghton

Partner

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**Mike has extensive experience representing governmental entities, banks, trust companies, insurance companies and public utilities in commercial transactions, before regulatory authorities and in legislative matters. For more than 25 years, Mike has also advised numerous companies, including Fortune 500 companies, on unclaimed property issues and in audits and in voluntary compliance programs.**

Mike's governmental affairs clients include governmental entities, such as the Delaware River & Bay Authority and the Delaware Department of Insurance. He has represented various financial institutions and utilities, such as Delmarva Power & Light Company and Comcast, before regulatory authorities and state, county and local governments and in legislative and public policy matters before Delaware government as well.

Mike has been selected for inclusion in *The Best Lawyers in America* since 2009. In the 2020 edition, he was designated "Lawyer of the Year" for administrative and regulatory law. 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

### PRACTICE AREAS

Commercial Transactions  
Governmental Affairs  
Unclaimed Property

### CLERKSHIPS

Delaware Court of Chancery,  
1982-1983

### EDUCATION

University of Virginia School of  
Law, JD, 1982

University of Virginia, BA,  
English/History (American  
Studies), with high distinction,  
1978

### ADMISSIONS

Delaware, 1982

US District Court for the District  
of Delaware, 1983

US Court of Appeals for the  
Third Circuit, 1985

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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.

### **NEWS & INSIGHTS**

32 Morris Nichols Attorneys Recognized in *The Best Lawyers in America 2022*  
Media Mention, *The Best Lawyers in America*, 08.19.2021

Unclaimed Property Enforcement Amidst Regulatory Compliance Challenges  
Speaking Engagement, Webinar, 05.06.2021

Delaware's Unclaimed Property Program Roars Back, Hundreds of New Reviews and Audits Coming in 2021  
Client Alert, 02.19.2021

Leadership Delaware: Government, Finances, and Leading Through a Crisis  
Speaking Engagement, Virtual, 02.05.2021

Unclaimed Property Trends and Litigation Updates  
Webinar, Webinar, 12.09.2020

31 Morris Nichols Attorneys Listed in *The Best Lawyers in America 2021*  
Firm News, 08.20.2020

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Michael Houghton Appointed Chair of National Law Group's New Study Committee on Mitigation of Public Health Emergency Business Disruptions  
Firm News, 05.04.2020

Unclaimed Property: A Delicate Balance for Delaware - Enforcing the Law in the Face of Ongoing Legal Challenges and Economic Uncertainty  
Article, *Delaware Business magazine*, May/June 2020

Mike Houghton, Chair of DEFAC, Quoted on State of Delaware Declining Revenue Estimates Amid COVID-19 Pandemic Uncertainty  
Media Mention, *The News Journal and Delaware State News*, 04.21.2020

Delaware, our Government, Economy, Finances, and Leadership  
Speaking Engagement, New Castle, Delaware, 02.07.2020

## **PROFESSIONAL & CIVIC**

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, Drafting Committee to Revise the Uniform Unclaimed Property Act (Co-Chair), Executive Committee (President, 2012-2013, Chair, 2010-2011), Scope and Program Committee (Chair, 2008-2009; Vice President, 2006-2007), Legislative Committee (Chair, 2000-2005))

