

Bernard E. Layne III



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Born in the tiny coal mining community of Williamson, West Virginia, and raised by blue collar working class parents, who placed a premium on hard work, honesty, and personal integrity, Bernie Layne learned from an early age that his path to success would have to be paved with over achievement. While both of his parents grew up in abject poverty that can only be understood or imagined by those who have experienced day-to-day life in 'coal camp' housing in Southern West Virginia, they became acutely aware of the value and necessity of education and sweat equity as a means of rising above their circumstance. It is from this culture and environment that Bernie's parents instilled in him, and his two sisters, to never forget where they have come from and to always use their God-given talents and abilities to help people around them who are disadvantaged, hurting, disabled, destitute, or who are being abused by those in a more powerful position than themselves in society. Rising from the social position of an 'underdog,' it isn't hard to understand how Bernie has come to embrace these roots by becoming a highly successful legal advocate and defender of the rights of injured working class West Virginians throughout our Mountain State.

As you can imagine, it takes tremendous family support and lots of competitive spirit to become one of only a few college graduates in his family and to become the first lawyer in his immediate or extended family. That love for competition was introduced to him as a child, by his father, an accomplished sportswriter at the Williamson Daily News. Bernie developed a love for the game of basketball and

baseball and eventually earned a baseball scholarship to attend the University of Charleston in Charleston, West Virginia. As a college student-athlete, Bernie was introduced to the importance of academic and athletic discipline, teamwork, handling success and overcoming failure.

Law Firm Name: Mani Ellis & Layne PLLC
Number of Lawyers in Firm: 1-10
First Admitted: 1950
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