PETER C. BURNETT

Personal

Born: 1950, Portland, Maine
Residence: Hamilton, Virginia
Married to Diana B. Burnett. Two daughters: Abigail and Elizabeth

Education

1977 J.D., Antioch School of Law, Washington, D.C.
1972 B.A., Hobart College, Geneva, N.Y.

Professional experience

1988-present Principal, Burnett & Williams, P.C., Leesburg, VA.
1978-1988 Sole practitioner, private practice of law, Leesburg, VA.
1977-1978 Instructor, Antioch School of Law, Washington, D.C.

Professional memberships

Virginia State Bar
District of Columbia Bar
Virginia Trial Lawyers Association
Loudoun County Bar Association
Winchester-Frederick County Bar Association
Virginia Women Attorney's Association
American Association for Justice

Bar activities

Virginia State Bar

VSB Council, Executive Committee (2021-2022)
Senior Lawyers Conference Chair (2021-2022)
Senior Lawyers Conference Board of Governors (2014 - present)
Diversity Conference Board of Governors (2010 - present; Chair, 2012/2013)
Bar Council (2007 - 2013)
Seventh District Disciplinary Committee (2000 to 2006; Chair, 2001)
Judicial Nominations Committee (1996 to 1999); Chair, 1997-1999)
Special Committee on Fee Dispute Resolution (1997 to 2002)
Panel Member, Conference of Local Bars, Bar Leadership Institute (1998, 2001)

Loudoun County Bar Association:

President (1999 -2000)
Chair, Courthouse Planning Committee (1995 - 2002)
Ad hoc Committee for Additional Circuit Court Judge (1997)
Past Director, Treasurer, and member of various Bar committees

Awards and Recognition

Loudoun Environmental Excellence Award 2026 (338 Net Zero Building)
Town of Leesburg Tolbert Environmental Award 2026 (338 Net Zero Building)
Signatures of Loudoun, 2022 Design Excellence Award (338 Net Zero Building)
Recognized in The Best Lawyers in America by Best Lawyers for work in Personal Injury Litigation: Plaintiffs (2023-2026)
Lawyer of the Year-Washington D.C.-Best Lawyers (2022-2025)
Avvo Rated Top Lawyer (2022)
Lawyer of the Year-Northern Virginia Magazine (2021-2025)
Virginia State Legislature Resolution – Ampersand Project (2020)
Town of Leesburg Proclamation of Recognition – Ampersand Project (2020)
Town of Leesburg Proclamation of Recognition - Hall of Fame (2019)
Virginia Lawyers Hall of Fame (2019)
Best Law Firms in America - US News and World Report (2013, 2017, 2021-2026)
Legacy Business - Town of Leesburg (2013)
Best Lawyers in America (2013-2024)
Top Personal Injury Lawyer - Northern Virginia Magazine (2012, 2018, 2021-2024)
Community Blue Ribbon Award 2012 - Loudoun Preservation Society
Community Leader of 2011 - Loudoun County Chamber of Commerce
Top 100 Virginia Trial Lawyers (2010, 2011, 2018-2025)
National Trial Lawyers Association
Leaders in the Law 2010 - Virginia Lawyers Weekly
Loudoun County Outstanding Volunteer of the Year (April, 2010)
Signatures of Loudoun, 2010 Design Excellence Award (Burnett Residence)
George C. Marshall Award, Town of Leesburg (2009)
Signatures of Loudoun, 2009 Design Excellence Award (Wells Fargo Building)
Washington, D.C. Metro Area Super Lawyer (2007- 2012)
Resolution of Commendation for Public Service, Loudoun County Board of Supervisors (2008)
Virginia Super Lawyer (2006- 2025)
Fellow, Virginia Law Foundation (2007)
Signatures of Loudoun, 2006 Design Excellence Award (Joshua Chamberlain Building)
Certificate of Recognition, Town of Leesburg (2006)
Certificate of Recognition, Leesburg Board of Architectural Review (2006)
Outstanding Corporate Volunteer Award (2005) (Burnett & Williams, P.C.)
Loudoun Volunteer Services Board
George C. Marshall Award, Town of Leesburg, (2003)
Architectural Excellence Award, Town of Leesburg (Courthouse Design, 2003)
Certificate of Recognition, Town of Leesburg (Log cabin restoration, 2000)
Peter C. Burnett Day, Proclamation of the Loudoun County Board of Supervisors, (March 17, 1999)
Local Bar Leader of the Year, Virginia State Bar, (1998)
Certificate of Recognition, Town of Leesburg (1998)
Award of Merit, Preservation Society of Loudoun County (1992)
Annual Environmental Advisory Commission Award-Leesburg, VA. (1992)
Honorable Mention, Loudoun County Board of Supervisors Affordable Housing Competition (1991)
Preservation Society of Loudoun County Award for achievement

in excellence in preservation of the natural and cultural heritage of Loudoun County (1986)

Community activities

Ampersand Pantry Project, Founder (2020)
Virginia Diversity Foundation, Board of Directors (Chair, 2012 - present)
Westmoreland Davis Foundation, Board of Trustees (2011)
Downtown Improvement Association (2007 - present) (Co-Chair, 2007 - 2008)
Loudoun Cares, President (2002 - 2016)
Loudoun Law Foundation, Board of Directors (Chair, 1999-2017)
Loudoun County Courts Facilities and Grounds Task Force (Chair, 2000- 2008)
Christmas in April, Board of Directors (1999, 2000)
Fresh Air - Full Care, Board of Directors (2004- 2006)
Loudoun County Economic Development Commission (1999, 2000)
    Policy and Implementation Committee (1999, 2000 (Vice Chair))
Town of Purcellville, Historic District Advisory Committee (1997)
Loudoun County Courts Complex Advisory Committee (1997-2002)
    Related Activities:
    Harvard Graduate School of Design Continuing Education Course: The American Courthouse (August 1997)
    Participant, National Court Technology Conference, Detroit, MI (October 1997)
    Planning Committee Member, "Delivering Justice in the Next Millennium", Third International Courthouse Design Conference, Toronto, Canada (September 1998).
Loudoun County Youth Soccer Association, Coach (1995-1998; 2002-2003)
Counsel, Loudoun Arts Council, Inc. (1996-1999)
Founding Director and Board Member, Loudoun Abused Women's Shelter (1984-1988)
Committee Member, Loudoun County Rural Land Management Plan (1984)

Horse related activities

Virginia Racing Commission (Appointed by Governor Warner, 2003-2011); (Chair, 2007 - 2011; Vice Chair 2004-2006)
    Racing Safety and Medication Committee (Chair, 2004 - 2011)
    Security and Enforcement Committee (Chair, 2003 - 2011)
National Racing Compact (Virginia Representative, appointed by Governor Kaine (2006 - 2009; Chair, 2007 - 2009)
Association of Racing Commissioners International (Chair, 2007; Director, 2005 - 2008)
    Racing Integrity Services Inc. (Director, 2006)
North American Pari-Mutual Regulators Association (Director, 2003 - 2006)
    Virginia Horsemen's Benevolent and Protective Association (2000 - 2003)
    Vice President (2001-2003)
    Benevolence Committee (2000 - 2003; Chair, 2001-2003)
Virginia Racing Commission Racing Benevolence Fund (Chair, 2000-2003)
Virginia Racing Task Force (2000-2003)
Charles Town (West Virginia) Horsemen's Benevolent and Protective Association, Board of Directors (2000-2003)
Virginia Thoroughbred Association

Maryland Horse Breeders Association
Maryland Thoroughbred Horsemen's Association
Thoroughbred Owner's licenses: Virginia, Maryland, Pennsylvania, West Virginia, Delaware

Cases of Interest

Combs v. Combs-Lafleur (2012) - $15,000,000 record wrongful death verdict
Kerdasha v. Kondurov, 271 Va.646, 629 S.E.2d 181(2006)
Kerdasha v. Kondurov, 270 Va.356, 619 S.E.2d 457 (2005)
Combs v. Hahn, 205 W. Va. 102, 516 S.E.2d 506 (1999)
USAA Casualty Insurance Company, v. Randolph, 255 Va. 342; 497 S.E.2d 744 (1998)
Tingler v. Whitehill, United States District Court, Western District of Virginia (1994)
Johnson v. Smith, 241 Va. 396, 403 S.E.2d 685 (1991)
Baker v. University of Virginia, Virginia Industrial Commission, Claim 136-20-27 (1990)
Chesapeake & Potomac Telephone Company v. Williams , 10 Va. App. 516, 392 S.E.2d 846 (1990)
Lust v. Clark Equipment Co., 792 F.2d 436 (4th Circuit 1986)