

Legal
ELITE

BUSINESS LAW

Jeffrey G. Lenhart

Lenhart Obenshain PC

Harrisonburg

Other specialties: Taxes, health care

Birth date: Jan. 25, 1962

Education: Bachelor's degree in political science, 1984, and law degree, 1987, College of William & Mary; master of laws (taxation) degree, Georgetown University, 1994

Other professional pursuits: President-elect, Harrisonburg Rockingham Bar Association; member of board of directors, Harrisonburg Rockingham Free Clinic

Family: Wife: Brenda; children: Ashley, 13, and Will, 9

Pets: West Highland terrier

Hobbies: Running ("helps reduce stress levels"), eight marathons completed

Previous employers: Wharton, Aldhizer and Weaver PLC

Fan of: Boston Red Sox ("does not help reduce stress levels")

Favorite vacation spot: Outer Banks, N.C.

Recently read: "Kite Runner"

by Khaled Hosseini

How has Sarbanes-Oxley and the fallout from corporate scandals affected your clients? "While I don't represent any publicly traded companies, there has been a definite 'trickle down effect' to privately held companies and tax-exempt entities. Corporate governance is more closely scrutinized, and companies are formalizing policies regarding ethics, conflicts of interest and whistleblower procedures, to name a few. On balance, it's been a positive effect on the type of clients that my firm represents."

What types of legal issues do you tend to work on the most in your practice? "I represent closely held businesses across a myriad of industries and professions — construction, health care, technology, manufacturing. It keeps the practice interesting and challenging, with new problems and issues every day. My clients tend to be longtime clients who often look to me for advice that transcends traditional legal issues. It's very gratifying, but a tremendous responsibility."

