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Health Care

WVU Health System's legal chief Jessica Alsop talks about her career transition from energy to health care (2025 C-Suite Awards)



Image: Jim Harris/PBT

Jessica Alsop, senior vice president and chief legal officer, WVU Health System



By [Mike Larson](#) – Managing Editor, Pittsburgh Business Times
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Story Highlights

- Jessica Alsop leads WVU Health System's legal team.
- Alsop helped grow WVU Health System from 6 to 25 hospitals.
- Pittsburgh Business Times honors 23 executives at C-Suite Awards.

On Oct. 15, the Pittsburgh Business Times will be honoring 23 of the region's most successful and impactful executive leaders at the annual [C-Suite Awards](#). Over the coming days, we will be rolling out online written profiles on each of this year's honorees. These profiles will also be included in the Oct. 10 print issue of the Business Times.

Jessica Alsop is the chief legal officer for West Virginia University Health System. Alsop, a WVU College of Law graduate, started her career in 2002 with law firm Jackson Kelly PLLC, where she gravitated to work in mergers and acquisitions, mostly with coal, oil and gas companies. In 2015, she parlayed her experience with energy companies into a general counsel position at Noble Energy Inc. in Canonsburg. However, after a little more than a year, Alsop was lured back to WVU, where she has risen through the ranks at WVU Health System from associate general counsel to her current position. In 10 years with the health system, Alsop has been a key part of a leadership team that has spearheaded significant growth, from six hospitals to 25.

Has it been a difficult transition to go from working in the energy field to health care? I think I've been able to keep up with it pretty well. I knew coming into my (current) role that I had a lot to learn. So, I spent a lot of time researching and educating myself. I had a lot of on-the-job training as we brought hospitals in.

What accomplishment are you most proud of at your job? I think the accomplishment I'm most proud of is the ability to manage multiple complex things at once. We have a lot of things going on, and I also manage a very large group of lawyers and feel like part of my responsibility to the organization is to make sure that those lawyers are growing and having the opportunities to support our business vision. So I think my ability to handle a lot of things at once has been one of the most helpful things and one of the things I'm most proud of.

What advice would you give to a young person starting their career? I would say one is to learn everything you can. If you are dealing with something you don't understand, go figure it out. Ask questions. You need to understand the business. Second would be you need to build strong relationships. I find it really important to maintain strong relationships with our business and clients. That takes time and you being consistent and steady with them, so that they know they can trust you.

What are some of the things you enjoy doing when you aren't at work? I am married and have three daughters who are all very active, so they really help fill all my spare time, which I greatly enjoy. My younger two daughters are still playing sports. One is playing college softball and the other is a high school basketball player. My husband works in athletics at WVU, so we are frequently at WVU athletics events.