

## FAMILY

### JANET HANEY AMBURGEY

#### GHMA LAW

Hometown: Asheville

Undergrad: University of Tennessee, Knoxville

Law school: Appalachian School of Law, 2008

Practiced Law: 15 Years

Family: Husband of 15 years, Thomas Amburgey, and our 10-year-old daughter and 8-year-old son.

## DRIVEN & DEPENDABLE



**FIRST JOB:** My first job was with a criminal defense attorney in Asheville, where I was the only attorney handling family law matters. The attorney encouraged me to find answers by reaching out to other family law attorneys, court personnel and judges. This experience pushed me to build connections and establish relationships with people who became integral to my early practice, and who continue to be valuable colleagues.

**WORKING SMARTER:** While it might feel satisfying in the moment to send a swift, sharp email, I've learned that the short-term relief rarely outweighs the long-term impact such communications can have. Now, I give myself 24 hours to reflect on how I want to respond and what message I truly want to convey.

**FAVORITE NORTH CAROLINA PLACE:** Old Edwards Inn in Highlands.

**MISSION ACCOMPLISHED:** Seeing Adele perform in person.

**WHY I BECAME A LAWYER:** I come from a long line of attorneys on my mother's side, and my grandfather, Papa Jerry, practiced probate law in California for many years. His tales of clients and their wild cases, some exaggerated (but just barely), kept everyone captivated. I loved visiting his office, sitting at his big desk, eating his candy, and playing with the ceramic monkey on his bookshelf. I knew then I wanted a career I was as invested in as he was in his – and I wanted that monkey! Papa Jerry, who is now 95, gifted me the ceramic monkey when I started practicing law. It sits in my office for my kids to play with, right next to the candy.

**2025 MILESTONES:** I will retire from the executive committee of the Buncombe County Bar after 10 years of service.

**ALTERNATIVE CAREER CHOICE:** Costume designer for movies and TV shows.

**STILL ON BUCKET LIST:** Attend a show during New York Fashion Week.

**STRESS RELIEVER:** Put my cell phone away, turn on music and sit outside in the sun.

**YOUR EDGE:** Relationships and friendships I've built with fellow attorneys, our incredible office staff, and the dedicated courthouse staff.

**FAVORITE PASSIONS:** Tennessee football and travel.

**LAW SCHOOL IN 2 OR 3 YEARS:** Definitely three. Only after starting my practice did I realize how much there was still to learn.

#### ABOUT GHMA LAW

**FOUNDED:** 1980

**OFFICE:** Asheville

**MANAGING PARTNER:** Patrick McCroskey

**HOW MANY ATTORNEYS, STAFF:** Two attorneys, two staff

**KEY SPECIALTIES:** Family law