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Ms. Hughes is a university scholar and fellow in commercial law at the Indiana University Maurer School of Law. She is a nationally recognized expert on payment systems (domestic, international, Internet banking, smart cards, wire transfers, checks, embezzlement and credit cards); public and private methods to deter, detect and prosecute domestic and international money laundering; and consumer protection and financial privacy.

She received the Maurer School of Law's Leon Wallace Teaching Award in 1993 and the graduating class's Gavel Award in 1996, 1997 and 2000. Her courses include Sales, Negotiable Instruments, Secured Transactions, Regulated Industries—Banking Law, and White Collar Crime.

Ms. Hughes is a member of the American Bar Association's (ABA) Cyberspace Law Committee, where she co-chairs the Working Group in Electronic Payment Services, and the Business Law, Antitrust and International Law Sections. In the ABA Business Law Section, she focuses on the areas of electronic commerce, payments systems and the uniform commercial code.