

NORTH CAROLINA

Local litigation firms

Highly recommended

K&L Gates

McGuireWoods

Moore & Van Allen

Robinson Bradshaw & Hinson

Smith Anderson Blount Dorsett Mitchell & Jernigan

Williams Mullen

Womble Carlyle Sandridge & Rice

Recommended

Brooks Pierce McLendon Humphrey & Leonard

Ellis & Winters

Hunton & Williams

Manning Fulton Skinner

Parker Poe Adams & Bernstein

Smith Moore

Local litigation stars

Catherine Arrowood

Parker Poe Adams & Bernstein
Antitrust, Commercial Litigation

Mark Ash

Smith Anderson Blount Dorsett Mitchell & Jernigan
Commercial Litigation, Employment Litigation,
Intellectual Property

Martin Brackett

Robinson Bradshaw & Hinson
Internal Investigations, Products Liability

Daniel Brawley

Williams Mullen
Commercial Litigation

James Cooney

Womble Carlyle Sandridge & Rice
Appellate, Commercial Litigation, Medical
Malpractice

Peter Covington

McGuireWoods
Complex Commercial Litigation, Financial Services
Litigation, Securities

Donald Cowan

Ellis & Winters
Antitrust, Appellate, Complex Commercial Litigation,
Intellectual Property, Products Liability

Richard Ellis

Ellis & Winters
Antitrust, Appellate, Complex Commercial Litigation,
Intellectual Property, Products Liability

Douglas Ey

McGuireWoods
Complex Commercial Litigation, Financial Services
Litigation

M. Keith Kapp

Williams Mullen
Antitrust, Appellate, Class Actions, Complex
Business Litigation

Douglas Kenyon

Hunton & Williams
Intellectual Property

A Ward McKeithen

Robinson Bradshaw & Hinson
Civil Litigation

James McLoughlin

Moore & Van Allen
Complex Commercial Litigation, Health Law,
Securities, White Collar Crime

Michael Medford

Manning Fulton Skinner
Appellate, Employment Litigation, Financial Services
Litigation

Kiran Mehta

K&L Gates
Complex Commercial Litigation, Environmental
Litigation, Products Liability

Mark Merritt

Robinson Bradshaw & Hinson
Antitrust, Class Actions, Securities

Thomas Myrick

Moore and Van Allen
Products Liability, Securities

Stan Mortenson

Baker Botts
White Collar Crime

Raymond Owens

K&L Gates
Complex Commercial Litigation, Insurance

Carl Patterson

Smith Anderson Blount Dorsett Mitchell & Jernigan
Commercial Litigation, Securities

Paul Peralta

Moore & Van Allen
Commercial Litigation, Environmental Litigation

Jim W. Phillips

Brooks Pierce McLendon Humphrey & Leonard
Complex Business Litigation, Professional Liability,
Securities

Mark Prak

Brooks Pierce McLendon Humphrey & Leonard
Antitrust, Appellate, Commercial Litigation,
Intellectual Property

William Raper

Womble Carlyle Sandridge & Rice
Commercial Litigation

Alice Richey

K&L Gates
Intellectual Property

William Rikard

Parker Poe Adams & Bernstein
Antitrust, Intellectual Property, Products Liability

Matthew Sawchak

Ellis & Winters
Antitrust, Appellate, Complex Commercial Litigation,
Intellectual Property



Elizabeth Davenport Scott

Williams Mullen
Complex Business Litigation, Insurance, Products
Liability

Camden Webb

Williams Mullen
Bankruptcy, Financial Services Litigation

John Wester

Robinson Bradshaw & Hinson
Class Actions, Employment Litigation, Securities

James Williams

Brooks Pierce McLendon Humphrey & Leonard
Antitrust, Commercial Litigation, Professional
Liability, Securities

Future stars

Heather Adams
Smith Anderson Blount Dorsett Mitchell & Jernigan

Robert Bowers
Moore & Van Allen

Cliff Brinson
Smith Anderson Blount Dorsett Mitchell & Jernigan

Meghan Cloud
McGuireWoods

James Cooney
Womble Carlyle Sandridge & Rice

Richard Coughlin
Smith Moore Leatherwood

Kearns Davis
Brooks Pierce McLendon Humphrey & Leonard

Christina Douglas
Womble Carlyle Sandridge & Rice

Melanie Dubis
Parker Poe Adams & Bernstein

Gary Eichelberger
Ellis & Winters

Brian Heslin
Moore & Van Allen

Thomas Holderness
Robinson Bradshaw & Hinson

Valecia McDowell
Moore & Van Allen

Scott Tyler
Moore & Van Allen

Jennifer Van Zant
Brooks Pierce McLendon Humphrey & Leonard

Angelique Vincent
Robinson Bradshaw & Hinson

Judson Welborn
Manning Fulton & Skinner

Jeffrey Young
Moore & Van Allen



North Carolina

The North Carolina legal market has experienced an increase in complex business litigation stemming from the large financial institutions, like Bank of America and Wachovia, that are headquartered in the state. Research Triangle Park, located in the Piedmont region of the state, has been described as “a new Silicon Valley” and intellectual property litigation has skyrocketed in that area.

Highly recommended

K&L Gates

With over 1900 lawyers in 31 cities worldwide, K&L Gates is one of the largest law firms in the world. The firm's 2008 merger with Kennedy Covington Lobdell & Hickman cemented its foothold in North Carolina. The merger continues to be discussed by local lawyers, one of whom states that the combination “has greatly strengthened [their] litigation practice.” The litigation department in the Raleigh office is growing quickly, with partners handling class actions on a state and federal level. The firm has successfully litigated cases involving contract disputes, products liability and warranty litigation, ERISA litigation, and personal injury matters. The office's client base includes financial planners, investment advisers, and major banks.

The firm's Research Triangle Park office was established in 2002 with the aim of focusing on health care litigation. The firm boasts clients in various health-related fields including academic medical research institutions, hospitals, pharmaceutical companies, long term care facilities, and specialty providers.

Kiran Mehta excels in complex business litigation including disputes related to private equity investments, toxic torts, and pharmaceutical litigation. He recently served as counsel for the portfolio company of a private equity firm in a number of suits and arbitrations alleging that the company had fraudulently induced franchisees to enter into agreements.

Alice Richey possesses over 20 years of experience tackling intellectual property and business litigation matters. Her expertise lies in handling copyright, false advertising, franchisor/franchisee, and trademark disputes. She is admitted to the United States Supreme Court, Fourth Circuit Court of Appeals, and District Courts for the Eastern, Middle and Western Districts of North Carolina. **Raymond Owens** practices complex commercial, insurance and tort litigation.

McGuireWoods

In the spring of 2008, McGuireWoods merged with Helms Mullis Wicker, creating a new firm of nearly 900 lawyers across 19

offices. One litigator has stated that “McGuireWoods is now a more powerful player in the state” since the merger. The firm's Charlotte office is known for its capabilities in financial services, labor and employment, commercial, and securities litigation. Opened in 1999, the firm's Wilmington office offers financial services, education, securities, and trust and estates litigation to its clients.

Vice chairman **Peter Covington** has over 25 years of experience litigating complex commercial disputes, with a concentration in business torts and shareholder litigation. He represented a major financial services company in a securities fraud case stemming from the collapse of an Italian food and dairy company and defended a national insurance company in a consumer class action in which the plaintiffs alleged improper sale of non-credit insurance products to small loan customers.

Chairman of the financial services litigation department, **Douglas Ey** maintains a concentration in antitrust, banking, commercial, and products liability issues. In 2009, Ey led a team that represented BASF Corporation in an antitrust action, in which Budget Pest Prevention and other plaintiffs alleged a vertical price-fixing conspiracy regarding sales of a chemical product. The plaintiffs also sought certification of a nationwide class. BASF was granted a motion for summary judgment by the trial court; the Fourth Circuit Court of Appeals affirmed the decision.

Moore & Van Allen

Moore & Van Allen continues to command a strong presence in North Carolina with offices in Charlotte and Research Triangle Park. The firm focuses on providing litigation services to blue chip clients, including several Fortune 500 clients headquartered in the state. The firm is a state leader in handling commercial, environmental, construction and intellectual property disputes. The firm represented Muzak in the defense of a patent infringement case brought by Alan Silver. The dispute involved a headset device sold by Muzak and manufactured by the other two defendants in the case, Panasonic and HM Electronics. The firm successfully secured a dismissal for Muzak.

Gregory Murphy represents plaintiffs and

defendants in a wide variety of cases related to securities, antitrust, patent litigation, and contract disputes. He has successfully represented clients in 15 states. Peers call **James McLoughlin** “a very strong lawyer” with a practice focusing on high-profile class actions, ERISA, securities and white collar defense. Along with fellow attorney Mark Nebrig, McLoughlin won dismissal of a Sarbanes-Oxley Act claim against Bank of America Securities. The plaintiff alleged that he was wrongfully demoted and discharged as a result of blowing the whistle on the defendant's allegedly wrongful activities.

Prior to joining Moore & Van Allen, **Brian Heslin** worked as an attorney with the United States Department of Justice and the United States Army Judge Advocate General's Corps. He has parlayed his knowledge into a successful white collar criminal defense and corporate litigation practice. Based out of the firm's Research Triangle Park office, **Jeffrey Young** is highly regarded for his construction, contract dispute, and intellectual property practice. He most recently defended a national video game developer regarding a patent infringement claim, which was favorably settled.

Robinson Bradshaw & Hinson

Operating out of Charlotte and Chapel Hill, Robinson Bradshaw & Hinson is a full service firm with strong antitrust and intellectual property practices. Founded in 1960, the firm takes a more modern approach to solving legal problems. The firm's compensation system is not based on billable hours or origination credits; instead the firm focuses on working directly with the client to craft the best team of lawyers to handle a case. A competitor calls partner **John Wester** “a very good trial lawyer.” He has spent his entire legal career at Robinson Bradshaw & Hinson and focuses on complex civil litigation, with an emphasis on ERISA claims and shareholder disputes.

Martin Brackett enjoys a vibrant practice handling wrongful death, catastrophic injury and white-collar criminal matters. He has represented victims who suffered injuries as a result of the collapse of Lowe's Motor Speedway. Clients have turned to **Ward McKeithen** and **Mark Merritt** for their stellar antitrust and class action practices. McKeithen has served as lead counsel on the prosecution and defense of antitrust matters. Merritt has experience tackling SEC matters and government investigations. Peers recognize **Thomas Holderness** for his skill in handling money mismanagement claims. **Angelique Vincent** is known for her talent in employment law.

Smith Anderson Blount Dorsett Mitchell & Jernigan

Founded in 1912, Smith Anderson Blount Dorsett Mitchell & Jernigan is one of the oldest law firms in the state and is one of the largest litigation firms in Research Triangle

Park. The firm has 43 litigation attorneys and 24 partners with first chair trial experience. The firm's partners handle insurance disputes and securities fraud cases. Clients include Archer Western Contractors, Pepsi Bottling Ventures, and Trammel Crow Residential Services.

Mark Ash has been practicing since 1978 and has handled litigation related to First Amendment rights, employment, aviation, trade secrets and products liability matters. Representative clients include American Airlines, DSM Pharmaceuticals and the Research Triangle Institute. **Carl Patterson** heads the firm's commercial litigation practice and has represented financial institutions, officers, directors, large lenders, and professional advisors.

Heather Adams joined the firm in 2005 after serving as general counsel of Sageworks, a major software company located in Raleigh. Previously of Hunton & Williams, Adams brings to the firm her expertise in antitrust compliance, construction agreement, unfair trade practice and class actions cases. **Cliff Brinson's** practice consists of contract litigation, commercial litigation, securities, and appellate. Brinson has successfully represented a CEO in a dispute with her former employer regarding post-employment benefits and a company founder seeking to regain funds that were loaned to his former business.

Womble Carlyle Sandridge & Rice

Womble Carlyle Sandridge & Rice has offices the major cities of Greensboro, Raleigh, Research Triangle and Winston-Salem. The firm has 530 lawyers across all their locations, which include offices in Delaware, Georgia, South Carolina, Virginia, and Washington, D.C. The firm's Charlotte and Greensboro offices specialize in commercial and business litigation. Its Raleigh office has strong mass torts and public finance law practices. The Research Triangle office serves biotechnology enterprises and advanced technology clients. And the Winston-Salem office, where Womble Carlyle traces its origins, maintains a vibrant business litigation practice. This is also the center of the firm's intellectual property practice, which comprises 60 attorneys and counsels GlaxoSmithKline, Lee Laboratories, and Thermal Engineering.

James Cooney is well known for tackling some of the more difficult and high-profile criminal cases in North Carolina. One competitor has called him a "good commercial lawyer" with a "high level of expertise in death penalty cases." Cooney made headlines by defending one of the erroneously charged college athletes from the now infamous 2006 "Duke Lacrosse Rape Case." Cooney has tried over 50 cases to verdict and has handled more than 30 appeals in state and federal courts. Peers note that Charlotte partner **William Raper** excels at professional negligence defense. He is

admitted to practice before all North Carolina state and district courts, the Fourth Circuit Court of Appeals, and the US Supreme Court. **Christina Douglas** litigates business tort claims, civil rights cases, and personal injury claims.

Recommended firms

Brooks Pierce McLendon Humphrey & Leonard

Peers have praised Brooks Pierce McLendon Humphrey & Leonard for its fine business litigation work. With locations in Greensboro and Raleigh, the firm continues to successfully serve its local and national

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clients. One competitor calls Brooks Pierce a "fantastic one stop shop firm." Another peer asserts Brooks Pierce "deserves recognition for its broad litigation scope." Practice areas include antitrust, environmental litigation, professional liability, and white-collar litigation.

James Phillips tackles employment issues, tax issues, defamation cases, construction matters and business torts. **Mark Prak** concentrates on media litigation, representing newspapers and wire services. **James Williams' practice** runs the gamut of business litigation. Notable areas include antitrust, securities and professional liability matters. **Kearns Davis** heads the firm's white collar criminal defense, criminal trials and appeals practice. He has worked as an Assistant US Attorney and has served as the United States' lead prosecutor in fraud, conspiracy, money laundering, and other felony trials. **Jennifer Van Zant** represents companies in antitrust actions, class actions, contract disputes and securities claims. She has expertise handling complex multi-party cases.

Ellis & Winters

With 29 lawyers spread across two locations, Ellis & Winters provides strong legal counsel to Fortune 500 companies. The firm's offices are located in Raleigh and Greensboro and one competitor notes "the firm's Raleigh practice is excellent." The firm focuses on class actions, construction litigation, medical malpractice, products liability and securities law. In January 2009, the firm achieved a \$57 million plaintiff verdict in Wake County Superior Court in an action against a Chinese business that was accused of stealing a secret cancer treatment formula from the firm's client Serenex, a Research Triangle Park drug-development firm.

Richard Ellis has extensive complex litigation experience in medical malpractice and products liability disputes. He has represented numerous manufacturers and suppliers of medical devices and pharmaceutical products. He most recently served as trial counsel for a major pharmaceutical company in a breast implant litigation case. **Matthew Sawchak** focuses his practice on antitrust, intellectual property, and fraud litigation. Sawchak formerly chaired the Antitrust and Trade Regulation Section of the North Carolina Bar Association. **Gary Eichelberger** practices employment, insurance coverage, products liability, and real estate litigation.

Hunton & Williams

Hunton & Williams' accomplished litigation team receives accolades from local competitors. In addition to its Charlotte office, the firm has locations across the United States, Europe and East Asia. The firm's North Carolina office was established in 1995 and specializes in white collar crime, employment law, and commercial litigation. The firm boasts significant experience handling intellectual property, securities and employee benefits matters. Representative clients include Altria, Bank of America, and Wells Fargo.

Douglas Kenyon is commended for his intellectual property practice. His focus lies in trademark disputes, copyright issues, technology licensing, and publishing matters.

Manning Fulton

Founded in 1954, Manning Fulton maintains a strong practice which encompasses commercial disputes, construction, employment, personal injury, and real estate litigation. The firm also has a celebrated appellate practice, having handled state and federal appeals. Representative clients include insurance companies, manufacturing businesses, and large public and privately-held companies.

A peer praises **Michael Medford** for his "fine litigation skills." He has over 30 years of experience dealing with complex business litigations involving lending issues, malpractice claims, securities law, and shareholder and partnership disputes. IBM and Swiss Reinsurance Company are representative clients. **Judson Welborn** focuses on business and construction litigation. He has acted as lead counsel for a software developer, a restaurant franchisee and an international real estate investment group.

Parker Poe Adams & Bernstein

Parker Poe Adams & Bernstein houses an impressive litigation practice, with a focus on antitrust, construction, environmental, intellectual property and white-collar criminal defense litigation. The firm has secured favorable verdicts for trucking company Daily Express, Affiliated Computer Services, and a subsidiary of Johnson & Johnson. **Catherine Arrowood** is well-regarded for her work in antitrust and intellectual property matters. She has worked on cases at the state, national and international level. Prior to joining the firm, Ms. Arrowood was an Associate Attorney General handling antitrust matters for the North Carolina Department of Justice. **William Rikard** contributes over 30 years of experience in the areas of antitrust, business torts, commercial contracts, and products liability cases. **Melanie Dubis** handles Federal Trade Commission claims, class action

antitrust litigation, patent infringement cases, and FINRA arbitrations.

Smith Moore Leatherwood

Smith Moore Leatherwood has 180 lawyers in six locations across the southeastern US. The recent addition of Dave Krasnow has buttressed the strength of the firm's intellectual property practice. A former in-house counsel for Bausch & Lomb, Krasnow's practice focuses on chemical patents. The firm's practice is comprised of work in antitrust class actions, intellectual property and toxic torts. **Richard Coughlin** is singled out for his representation of clients in the insurance and intellectual property arenas.

Williams Mullen

Williams Mullen is still highly active in the litigation sphere after 100 years. With offices in North Carolina, Virginia, Washington,

D.C. and London, the firm enjoys a broad multistate practice with a diverse client base. No single office contains a full practice area team; rather all the offices pool their resources together to create the most effective litigation group for the firm's clients.

Keith Kapp is vice president of the firm's board of directors and practices in antitrust, shareholder rights, consumer protection, and warranty litigation. He represents both multinational corporations and modest family-owned enterprises.

Daniel Brawley has been a trial lawyer for over 40 years and has extensive experience working on complex cases. He practices in the fields of construction, maritime law, and products liability. **Elizabeth Scott** has an impressive litigation practice focusing on insurance coverage disputes. She has particular expertise handling construction coverage, errors and omissions policies, and stop loss coverage for health insurance plans.

