

What We Know

NEWS

ABOUT THE AUTHORS



[Connie Elder Carrigan](#) is a partner in the firm, with a practice concentration in Business Law. Her focus is assisting clients with issues regarding employment law, business advice and litigation, construction law, equipment leasing and creditor bankruptcy. Connie has lectured on topics ranging from employment law, bankruptcy, and equipment leasing to construction law.



[Lynn Wilson McNally](#) is a partner in the firm and member of the firm's Family Law practice group. She is a Board Certified Family Law Specialist and certified Family Financial Settlement Mediator by the North Carolina Dispute Resolution Commission. She represents individuals in matters regarding separation, divorce, child custody, child support, alimony, equitable distribution, domestic violence, termination of parental rights, legitimation and other matters pertaining to family law.

Four Smith Debnam Attorneys Recognized in Business North Carolina's "2017 Legal Elite"

January 5, 2017 | by

Raleigh, N.C. (January 5, 2016) – Raleigh-based law firm Smith Debnam today announced that [Business North Carolina Magazine](#) has named four Smith Debnam attorneys to the magazine's [2017 Legal Elite](#), a high-profile listing of the state's top lawyers.

Each year via a statewide balloting process, the magazine polls active members of the North Carolina Bar Association on the following question: "Of the Tar Heel lawyers whose work you have observed firsthand, whom would you rate among the current best in these categories?" Voters are not allowed to vote for themselves, and can only select members of their firms if they also select out-of-firm lawyers in the same categories, with the latter votes weighted more heavily. Since winners are not chosen by the publication's editors, but by the state's lawyers, Business North Carolina's *Legal Elite* has become the model for other awards and lists.

The Smith Debnam attorneys named to *Business North Carolina's* 2017 "Legal Elite" are:

[Lynn W. McNally](#) for Family Law

[Connie E. Carrigan](#) for Employment Law

[Caren D. Enloe](#) for Business Law

[Bettie K. Sousa](#) for Business Law

ABOUT SMITH DEBNAM

Founded in 1972, Smith Debnam is a leading, multi-practice law firm for institutions and private individuals who value a responsible and caring approach from an accomplished team of experienced legal professionals. Representing clients in Banking, Financial Services, Equipment Leasing, Construction, Mortgage Servicing, Manufacturing, and Professional Services industries, the firm has extensive experience in state and federal courts across a diverse list of practice areas, including Corporate and Business Law, Business Litigation, Commercial Bankruptcy and Reorganization, Foreclosures, Creditor Representation, Collections, Commercial & Residential Real Estate, Construction Law, Employment Law, Equipment Leasing & Finance, Family Law, Elder Law & Advocacy



Services, Estate Planning & Administration, and Probate Litigation.

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[Caren Enloe](#) leads Smith Debnam's consumer financial services litigation and compliance group. In her practice, she defends consumer financial service providers and members of the collection industry in state and federal court, as well as in regulatory matters involving a variety of consumer protection laws. Caren also advises fintech companies, law firms, and collection agencies regarding an array of consumer finance issues. An active writer and speaker, Caren currently serves as chair of the Debt Collection Practices and Bankruptcy subcommittee for the American Bar Association's Consumer Financial Services Committee. She is also a member of the Defense Bar for the National Creditors Bar Association, the North Carolina State Chair for ACA International's Member Attorney Program and a member of the Bank Counsel Committee of the North Carolina Bankers Association. Most recently, she was elected to the Governing Committee for the Conference on Consumer Finance Law. In 2018, Caren was named one of the "20 Most Powerful Women in Collections" by *Collection Advisor*, a national trade publication. Caren oversees a blog titled: [Consumer Financial Services Litigation and Compliance](#) dedicated to consumer financial services and has been published in a number of publications including the Journal of Taxation and Regulation of Financial Institutions, California State Bar Business Law News, Banking and Financial Services Policy Report and Carolina Banker.



[Bettie Kelley Sousa](#) has been practicing law with Smith Debnam since becoming licensed in 1981. She is a Board Certified Creditors' Rights Specialist. She has a wealth of experience in state and federal courts, including bankruptcy courts, at both trial and appellate levels. She represents mostly business owners and businesses --- large and small --- in a variety of matters, including contract review, drafting and disputes.

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