

# What We Know

## NEWS

### ABOUT THE AUTHORS



[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.



Jerry Myers is Smith Debnam's Managing Partner and for more than 30 years, he has focused his practice in the area of creditors' rights, with an emphasis on debt collection, judgment enforcement, and commercial litigation. Jerry is certified by the American Board of Certification as a Specialist in the field of Creditors Rights law. Jerry is a past President of the Commercial Law League of America and was the first President of the North Carolina Creditors Bar Association. He has written and lectured extensively on debt collection and

## NC Creditors' Rights Attorneys Unite!

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[The North Carolina Creditors Bar Association \("NCCBA"\)](#) is a specialty bar association that provides support to attorneys across the state who practice creditors' rights law. NCCBA membership includes multiple opportunities throughout the year for continuous education and networking, not the least of which is an annual meeting that includes free CLE credits and the chance to learn and discuss critical issues affecting creditors.

Smith Debnam served as host to the 2015 Annual NCCBA Meeting, which took place on June 10, with approximately 30 creditors' rights attorneys from across the state in attendance. The agenda featured four prominent speakers who are deserving of all the credit for making this year's annual meeting a resounding success:

- Mike Burger and Nick Brown, attorneys with the law firm of Howard Stallings – for providing valuable information regarding commercial loan workouts and bankruptcy.
- Daniel Nelson, an attorney and volunteer with the [North Carolina Lawyer Assistance Program \(NCLAP\)](#) – for sharing a very candid and entertaining story of personal triumph.
- [Bettie Sousa](#), an attorney with Smith Debnam – for providing attendees with extraordinarily insightful tips for helping creditors successfully navigate debtor defenses...many of us in the room were taking copious notes!

NCCBA membership has its benefits...already looking forward to next year's annual meeting!

For more information on how to join, please visit <http://nccreditorsbar.com/>.

judgment enforcement, including CLE presentations sponsored by Wake Forest University School of Law, the North Carolina Bar Foundation, the Commercial Law League of America, and the National Association of Retail Collection Attorneys.



[Tom Gray](#) is a partner in the firm and member of the firm's creditors' rights practice group. He concentrates his practice in commercial litigation, equipment leasing and finance, creditors' rights, and construction law, representing a variety of businesses and individuals through all stages of commercial litigation. He also represents national and local equipment leasing companies and their financing sources seeking to enforce their rights pursuant to the lease, including the recovery of amounts due, recovery of equipment, and representation of creditors in bankruptcy court.

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