

# Benchmark Litigation Recognizes Three Ward and Smith Attorneys as 'Labor & Employment Stars'

Written By **S. McKinley Gray, III** (smg@wardandsmith.com) and **William A. Oden, III** (wao@wardandsmith.com), **Devon D. Williams** (ddwilliams@wardandsmith.com)

November 4, 2019



***Benchmark Litigation* has once again selected three Ward and Smith attorneys for inclusion in its annual Labor & Employment guide.**

The publication named Ken Gray, Will Oden, and Devon Williams as a 2019 "Labor & Employment Star," joining 39 attorneys from North Carolina to receive this recognition. Now in its second year, *Benchmark* created the Labor & Employment guide in response to the ever-increasing demand for a specialized study of the labor and employment practice area. Rankings are the result of a survey of firm questionnaires, peer review interviews, and client reviews. You can learn more about the publication's methodology [here](#).



Ken's practice experience encompasses various areas of employment-related litigation. He advises clients and litigates cases involving all forms of employment discrimination, wrongful discharge, and breach of employment contracts from small start-up companies to Fortune 500 corporations. Ken is a frequent lecturer on employment discrimination, workplace retaliation, workers' compensation, and wage and hour law issues. His peers have rated him as being "preeminent" in his fields of law.



Will leads Ward and Smith's Workplace Safety and Health practice. His practice experience encompasses various areas of employment and workplace-related counseling and civil litigation in both the federal and state courts at the trial and appellate levels. Will also regularly represents employers and employees before the United States Department of Labor (USDOL), the Equal Employment Opportunity Commission (EEOC), the Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA), the Mine Safety and Health Administration (MSHA), the North Carolina Department of Labor (NCDOL), the North Carolina Industrial Commission (NCIC), the North Carolina Department of Commerce, Division of Employment Security (DES), and federal

and state wage and hour divisions.



Devon leads the firm's Labor and Employment practice. Her experience focuses on a wide range of labor and employment issues, including wage and hour matters, federal contractor compliance, employment discrimination, and harassment, employee discipline and termination, personnel policies, and background checks. In matters relating to employee benefits, she concentrates on issues confronting welfare benefit plans (such as medical, dental, and other plans) and their sponsors, including the provisions and impact of the Affordable Care Act.

Now in its 12th year, *Benchmark Litigation* exclusively covers the litigation and disputes market in North America.