

# Thirty-three Ward and Smith, P.A. Attorneys Listed in The Best Lawyers in America® 2014\*

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August 15, 2013

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The publication *The Best Lawyers in America*® has been ranking attorneys annually since 1983 and has become universally regarded as the definitive guide to legal excellence. Because *Best Lawyers*® bases its rankings on an exhaustive peer review survey in which almost 50,000 attorneys cast nearly five million votes on the legal abilities of other lawyers in their practice areas, and because lawyers are not required or allowed to pay a fee to be listed, inclusion in *Best Lawyers*® is considered a singular honor. *Corporate Counsel* magazine has called *Best Lawyers*® "the most respected referral list of attorneys in practice."

Ward and Smith attorneys recognized as 2014 Best Lawyers are the following (the year following each name indicates the first year the attorney was listed):

## Asheville

**Derek J. Allen (2009)** — *Land Use and Zoning Law; Litigation - Land Use and Zoning*

**William S. Durr (2013)** — *Family Law*

**Michael L. Miller (1991)** — *Arbitration; Employee Benefits (ERISA) Law; Mediation; Tax Law; Trusts and Estates*

## Greenville

**A. Charles Ellis (1995)** — *Medical Malpractice Law - Plaintiffs; Personal Injury Litigation - Plaintiffs*

**Lynwood P. Evans (2013)** — *Medical Malpractice Law - Plaintiffs*

**Paul A. Fanning (2011)** — *Banking and Finance Law; Bankruptcy and Creditor Debtor Rights / Insolvency and Reorganization Law; Litigation - Bankruptcy*

**Merrill G. Jones, II (2013)** — *Commercial Litigation*

**John M. Martin (1995)** — *Personal Injury Litigation - Plaintiffs*

## New Bern

**James Lee Davis (1993)** — *Real Estate Law*

**Donalt J. Eglinton (2009)** — *Commercial Litigation; Copyright Law; Litigation - Construction; Litigation - Intellectual Property; Litigation - Patent; Patent Law; Trademark Law*

**Michael P. Flanagan (1995)** — *Bankruptcy and Creditor Debtor Rights / Insolvency and Reorganization Law; Litigation - Bankruptcy*

**S. McKinley Gray, III (2009)** — *Litigation - Labor & Employment; Workers' Compensation Law - Employers*

**William R. Lathan (2005)** — *Banking and Finance Law; Financial Services Regulation Law*

**Gregory T. Peacock (2010)** — *Litigation - Trusts and Estates; Trusts and Estates*

**C. H. Pope, Jr. (1995)** — *Land Use and Zoning Law; Real Estate Law; Timber Law*

**E. Knox Proctor V (2010)** — *Administrative / Regulatory Law; Banking and Finance Law; Corporate Law; Financial Services Regulation Law*

**Clint D. Routson (2005)** — *Real Estate Law*

**Frank H. Sheffield, Jr. (1995)** — *Environmental Law; Litigation - Environmental*

**J. Troy Smith, Jr. (1987)** — *Bet-the-Company Litigation; Commercial Litigation, Corporate Law*

**David L. Ward, Jr. (1983)** - *Banking and Finance Law; Corporate Law; Financial Services Regulation Law; International Trade and Finance Law; Litigation - Antitrust*

**Leigh A. Wilkinson (2010)** — *Health Care Law*

**A. Rexford Willis, III (2012)** — *Corporate Law; Tax Law*

**Kenneth R. Wooten (2005)** — *Bet-the-Company Litigation; Commercial Litigation; Litigation - Construction*

### **Raleigh**

**William Joseph Austin, Jr. (2009)** — *Employment Law - Management; Labor Law - Management; Workers' Compensation Law - Employers*

**Albert R. Bell, Jr. (1995)** — *Employment Law - Management; Labor Law - Management*

**Stuart B. Dorsett (2001)** — *Trusts and Estates*

**William E. Martin (2013)** — *Real Estate Law*

**E. Eric Mills (2012)** — *Copyright Law*

**Gary J. Rickner (1995)** — *Bet-the-Company Litigation; Commercial Litigation; Personal Injury Litigation – Defendants*

**James F. Verdonik (1995)** — *Corporate Law; Technology Law*

### **Wilmington**

**Thomas S. Babel (2013)** — *Commercial Litigation*

**Jenna Fruechtenicht Butler (2010)** — *Commercial Litigation; Litigation – Securities; Litigation – Trusts & Estates; Personal Injury Litigation - Plaintiffs*

**Ryal W. Tayloe (2009)** — *Bet-the-Company Litigation; Litigation - Construction; Litigation - Real Estate*

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(Year) First year the lawyer was listed .

\* Please see <http://www.bestlawyers.com> for a further explanation of the selection process discussed above.