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# Ward and Smith, P.A. Receives 2016 Best Law Firm Rankings

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Ward and Smith received Tier 1, Tier 2, and Tier 3 rankings in the 2016 Edition of U.S. News - Best Lawyers® "Best Law Firms."

Firms included in the 2016 "Best Law Firms" list are recognized for professional excellence with persistently impressive ratings from clients and peers. Achieving a ranking signals a unique combination of quality law practice and breadth of legal experience. The 2016 rankings are based on the highest number of participating firms and highest number of client ballots on record. In addition, to provide personal insight, a new Law Firm Leaders Survey was implemented in the decision-making process.

Firms with offices in the identified "metropolitan areas" and with the highest overall scores are included on the metropolitan area lists. For ranking purposes, U.S. News and Best Lawyers® incorporated Greenville into the Raleigh metropolitan area and New Bern into the Wilmington metropolitan area. Ward and Smith's metropolitan area offices include Asheville, Raleigh, and Wilmington. Rankings for these cities include:

## **Metropolitan Tier 1**

### **Asheville**

Bankruptcy and Creditor Debtor Rights / Insolvency and Reorganization Law  
Litigation — Land Use & Zoning

### **Raleigh/Greenville**

Bankruptcy and Creditor Debtor Rights / Insolvency and Reorganization Law  
Employment Law — Management  
Labor Law — Management  
Litigation — Bankruptcy  
Medical Malpractice Law — Plaintiffs  
Personal Injury Litigation — Plaintiffs

### **Wilmington/New Bern**

Commercial Litigation  
Corporate Law  
Health Care Law  
International Trade and Finance Law  
Land Use & Zoning Law  
Litigation — Construction  
Litigation — Intellectual Property  
Litigation — Trusts & Estates  
Real Estate Law

## **Metropolitan Tier 2**

**Asheville**

Land Use & Zoning Law

**Raleigh/Greenville**

Banking and Finance Law

Commercial Litigation

Corporate Law

Employee Benefits (ERISA) Law

Tax Law

Technology Law

Trusts & Estates Law

**Wilmington/New Bern**

Litigation — Labor & Employment

Personal Injury Litigation — Plaintiffs

Trusts & Estates Law

**Metropolitan Tier 3****Asheville**

Family Law

**Raleigh/Greenville**

Arbitration

Family Law

Mediation

Venture Capital Law

Workers' Compensation Law — Employers

**Wilmington/New Bern**

Litigation — Real Estate