



## B.T. Atkinson

**E:** [btatkinson@wardandsmith.com](mailto:btatkinson@wardandsmith.com)

**P:** 910.794.4845

**F:** 910.794.4877

Post Office Box 7068

Wilmington, NC 28406-7068

### Professional Experience

With nearly 30 years of experience, B.T. is a veteran banking attorney whose practice focuses on corporate, securities, and regulatory matters in the financial services space. He regularly advises regional and community banks, underwriters and issuers, and public and private companies. Clients rely on B.T.'s extensive experience for guidance with securities offerings and reporting, business formation, mergers and acquisitions, regulatory compliance matters under federal and state law, and corporate governance issues.

### Practice Concentrations

Corporate Governance

Public Company

Compliance and Counseling

Financial Institutions Law and Regulations

Public and Private Offerings

### Education

J.D., University of North Carolina School of Law, 1992

B.S., Accounting, University of North Carolina at Charlotte - Belk College of Business, 1987

### Admitted to Practice

North Carolina, 1992

South Carolina, 2013

## Honors and Distinctions\*

*The Best Lawyers in America*, Best Lawyers<sup>®</sup>, 2010–2024



## Representative Experience

In his business practice, B.T. has represented:

Carolina Financial Corporation (Nasdaq: CARO), a \$4 billion bank holding company, in its acquisition by United Bankshares, Inc. (Nasdaq: UBSI), a \$21 billion bank holding company in a stock-for-stock merger transaction valued at \$1 billion.

A \$5 billion bank in its initial public offering to facilitate sales of controlling blocks of stock by two private equity funds.

A nationally prominent investment bank as placement agent for a \$40 million private offering of subordinate debt and as dealer-manager for an issuer tender offer for common stock funded by the proceeds of the offering.

A \$400 million troubled community bank in its recapitalization by a consortium of private equity funds.

A \$600 million community bank holding company issuing \$25 million in subordinate debt to fund a pending acquisition.

A \$2 billion bank holding company in the acquisition of \$300 million publicly-traded community bank in a registered stock-for-stock merger transaction.

A \$3 billion bank holding company in the acquisition of a \$400 million private bank holding company in the first utilization of the South Carolina fairness hearing exemption.

A specialty hospital company in its initial public offering and subsequent private offering of subordinated debt securities.

A publicly-traded rural telephone company in its sale to a multi-state telecommunications company.

A nationally prominent investment bank as placement agent for a \$90 million private offering to fund the purchase, recapitalization, and rebranding of a community bank.

## Professional and Community Affiliations

North Carolina Bar Association

North Carolina Bankers Association

South Carolina Bankers Association

Independent Banks of South Carolina

West Virginia Bankers Association

---

*\* Please see the following websites for an explanation of the membership standards for the following recognitions: [www.bestlawyers.com](http://www.bestlawyers.com); [businessnc.com/special-sections/legal-elite/](http://businessnc.com/special-sections/legal-elite/); and [www.superlawyers.com/north-carolina](http://www.superlawyers.com/north-carolina).*