



# Michael J. Parrish

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

**P:** 252.672.5411

**F:** 252.672.5477

Post Office Box 867

New Bern, NC 28563-0867

## Professional Experience

Michael is a civil litigator with a diverse practice before various federal and state courts, including bankruptcy courts and the North Carolina Business Court. He has significant experience at all stages of litigation in cases involving a broad range of commercial, organizational and business, contract, landlord-tenant, collections, trusts and estates, tax, and bankruptcy issues. Michael also frequently handles appellate matters in those areas. He finds creative strategies to assist his clients in pursuing their goals through the court system and alternative means for dispute resolution.

## Practice Concentrations

Commercial Litigation

Financial Institutions Litigation

Trusts and Estates Litigation

## Education

J.D., *magna cum laude*, Wake Forest School of Law, 2008.

[Wake Forest Law Review](#).

Order of the Coif, Moot Court, Honor Council, Recipient—James B. Taylor, Jr. Scholarship.

B.A., The University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill, 2004

## Admitted to Practice

North Carolina, 2008

All state courts in North Carolina

United States Court of Appeals for the Fourth Circuit

United States District Court for the Eastern, Middle, and Western Districts of North Carolina

## Honors and Distinctions\*

"Rising Star," *North Carolina Super Lawyers*, 2013-2021

40 and Under Hot List," *Benchmark Litigation*, 2018-2020

Presenter at 2019 Complex Business Issues Arising in Complex Litigation

"Legal Elite," *Business North Carolina*, 2015-2016



## Representative Experience

Represented landlord before North Carolina Supreme Court resulting in landmark decision in housing law

Represented plaintiff in commercial lease dispute with landlord involving accelerated rent damages in excess of \$20 million

Obtained dismissal of complaint filed against client by bankruptcy trustee seeking to recoup in excess of \$5 million from client

Obtained favorable trial verdict in favor of plaintiff and against insurance company on claims of payment under flood policy and unfair and deceptive trade practices

Represented various public housing authorities and other landlords in all stages of eviction matters involving drug-related criminal activity, failure to pay rent, and other lease violations

Obtained judgment in favor of lender in case involving impact of forged instruments on lender's interest in real estate collateral

Recovered more than \$10 million in tax refunds owed to failed banks for the benefit of Federal deposit insurance agency

Obtained judgment that lender client's collateral rights in valuable equipment were superior to competing lenders

## Professional and Community Affiliations

Chi Psi Fraternity (Alpha Sigma) (Alumni Advisory Board)

Eastern North Carolina Inn of Court

Federal Bar Association

New Bern Area Chamber of Commerce (Leadership Craven Alumnus, Class of 2011; member, Young

Professionals Group)

North Carolina Bar Association — Committee: Citizen Lawyer

North Carolina Bar Association — Section: Litigation

---

*\* 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).*