

# Three Attorneys Named 'Labor and 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)

October 2, 2018



**Benchmark Litigation, the prestigious guide to litigation firms and attorneys, has selected three Ward and Smith attorneys for its first-ever Labor and Employment guide.**

This publication is in response to the ever-increasing demand for a specialized study of labor and employment litigation practices. The attorneys named as a "Labor and

Employment Star" goes as follows:



Ken Gray leads the firm's Labor and Employment practice. His 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.



Will Oden 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 Williams

Devon Williams' 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.

The methodology for the inaugural Labor and Employment guide mirrors that of all Benchmark studies. Rankings are the result of a survey of firm questionnaires, peer review interviews, and client review. You can learn more about the publication's methodology [here](#).

Now in its 11th year, Benchmark exclusively covers the litigation and disputes market in North America.