
Three Ward and Smith, P.A. Attorneys Named 'Lawyers of the Year'

October 19, 2011

Best Lawyers®, the oldest and most respected peer-review publication in the legal profession, has named three Ward and Smith, P.A. attorneys as 2012 "Lawyers of the Year" for our region. After more than a quarter of a century in publication, Best Lawyers® is designating "Lawyers of the Year" in high-profile legal specialties in large legal communities. Only a single lawyer in each specialty in each community is being honored as the "Lawyer of the Year."

Ward and Smith attorneys recognized by Best Lawyers® as 2012 "Lawyers of the Year" are:

Michael P. Flanagan — *Litigation - Bankruptcy*

C. H. Pope, Jr. — *Real Estate Law*

Kenneth R. Wooten — *Litigation - Construction*

Mr. Flanagan is leader of the Firm's Creditors' Rights Practice Group. He has represented lenders and other creditors in many of the largest bankruptcy cases in North Carolina. Mr. Flanagan has coordinated statewide representation in over 2,500 consumer bankruptcy cases and has managed foreclosures in all 100 counties of North Carolina. He is a former director and chairman of the Bankruptcy Section of the North Carolina Bar Association.

Mr. Pope is leader of the Firm's Real Estate Practice Group. He has extensive experience in representing both entities and individuals in matters involving real estate and construction issues. Mr. Pope advises clients involved in the acquisition, financing, leasing, and sale of real estate and the construction of improvements. He has extensive experience in guiding clients through the maze of governmental approval, zoning, and subdivision issues that surround the development and use of real estate. Mr. Pope also is experienced in the areas of tax-deferred exchanges; construction contracts, disputes, and liens; timber and logging; agricultural issues; and wetlands issues.

Mr. Wooten is one of the Firm's Co-Managing Directors. He handles various types of litigation including construction, business and commercial, contract, public housing, insurance coverage, and federal litigation. Mr. Wooten is an International Fellow and Past District Governor of Civitan International and has served on the executive boards of many civic organizations.