

Ward and Smith, P.A. Attorney Appointed to Joint Legislative Commission on Seafood and Aquaculture

June 1, 2011

Ward and Smith, P.A. is pleased to announce that attorney **A. Rexford Willis, III**, was recently appointed to the Joint Legislative Commission on Seafood and Aquaculture by Governor Beverly Perdue.

In his new role, Mr. Willis will be part of a 15-member commission that monitors the current seafood industry in North Carolina, including studies of the feasibility of increasing the State's production, processing, and marketing of seafood. Among other duties, the commission evaluates actions of the Department of Environmental and Natural Resources Division of Marine Fisheries and the Wildlife Resources Commission, as well as any other board, commission, department, or agency of the State or local government as such actions relate to the seafood and aquaculture industries. The commission also reviews existing and proposed State laws and rules affecting the seafood and aquaculture industries and determines whether any modification of those laws or rules is in the public's interest.

Mr. Willis works primarily with clients who are forming, acquiring, or disposing of business or investment entities, or who are in need of tax planning or representation in a tax controversy. He has been a certified public accountant since 1982. Mr. Willis regularly represents clients with income, estate, excise, employment, sales and use, and property tax problems. In addition to his taxation and business planning areas of expertise, he serves as the Firm's contact for several of our corporate and business clients. Mr. Willis has been rated by his peers as being "preeminent" in his fields of law.