

Craig Schauer

Partner



CONTACT INFO

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OFFICE

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Craig Schauer helps clients identify and solve a wide variety of legal problems, ranging from small legal questions to large constitutional lawsuits. He assists clients in resolving issues with contractual disputes, government regulations, business torts, and unfair competition. Craig also works with clients on questions concerning permissible political activity, election laws, and First Amendment rights.

MY PRACTICE

COMPLEX LITIGATION

Craig has represented businesses of all sizes—from small partnerships to Fortune 100 corporations—in state and federal courts, arbitration proceedings, and various regulatory agencies with disputes regarding contractual relationships, constitutional rights, class actions, unfair competition claims, government regulations, defamation, and other commercial issues. He has worked with clients in a variety of sectors, including healthcare, construction, professional sports, nonprofit, franchises, energy,

PRACTICE AREAS

Business and Corporate
› Franchise
Election & Ethics Law
Litigation
› Complex Business Litigation
Utilities

INDUSTRIES

Accounting & Professional Services
Health Care
Not-for-Profits
Utilities

EDUCATION

Duke University School of Law
J.D., 2010, *magna cum laude*; Order of the Coif; Managing Editor of *Law and Contemporary Problems*, DeHoff/Arnold Endowed Law Scholar
University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill
B.A., 2005, with distinction, Chairman of Honor Court

CLERKSHIP

Law Clerk to Associate Justice Paul M. Newby, Supreme Court of North Carolina, 2010-2011
Law Clerk to James C. Dever III, U.S. District Court, Eastern District of North Carolina, 2011-2012

BAR & COURT ADMISSIONS

North Carolina
US Court of Appeals
4th Circuit
US District Court - North Carolina
Western District
Middle District
Eastern District

financial services, public utilities, and local and state government.

UTILITIES REGULATION

Craig's regulatory experience includes issues concerning public utilities. He has represented parties in substantial matters before state regulatory commissions, including rate proceedings, resource planning proceedings, and other regulatory matters. Before pursuing a legal career, Craig was an investment banker who advised companies on mergers and acquisitions, which has given him a deep understanding of the numerous financial aspects of the regulation of utilities, including rate of return, capital structure, and cost of service.

ELECTION LAW AND FIRST AMENDMENT

Craig helps clients confidently express their political voice by ensuring that their political conduct complies with the law. He advises corporations on how to form entities that will be politically active, either directly or indirectly, and helps craft company policies on political activity and lobbying practices. He represents clients before the Board of Elections and the Ethics Commission in regulatory proceedings and confidential investigations. He also assists local and state governments in ensuring compliance with federal and state elections law, including the Voting Rights Act and other constitutional requirements.

Craig not only assists clients with political activity, but also helps them navigate other free speech and First Amendment issues within the public sphere.

HONORS

Selected by his peers for inclusion in [The Best Lawyers in America®](#) in Commercial Litigation (2021)

Selected for [Benchmark Litigation's](#) "Under 40 Hot List" (2020)

Selected by his peers for inclusion in [Business North Carolina's](#) "[Legal Elite](#)" in the Young Guns category (2019)

Recognized by [North Carolina Super Lawyers](#) (Thomson Reuters) as a "Rising Star" in Civil Rights Law (2018); Business Litigation (2019-2020)

COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT

Member, State Judicial Council (2021-present)

Board of Directors, [North Raleigh Young Life Committee](#) (2019-present)

Ruling Elder, [Midtown Community Church](#) (2015-2019)

Board of Directors, [Greater-Raleigh Young Life](#) Committee (2011-2019)

PUBLICATIONS & MEDIA

Co-presenter (with Eric Fletcher), "[Entering the Political Fray: Corporate Participation in the 2020 Election](#)," Association of Corporate Counsel Continuing Legal Education, June 24, 2020

Brooks Pierce Partner Appointed to North Carolina Judicial Council, July 28, 2020

Eighteen Brooks Pierce Attorneys Recognized for Pro Bono Work, December 16, 2019

Craig Schauer Named Partner at Brooks Pierce, October 8, 2019

SPEAKING ENGAGEMENTS

Brooks Pierce Attorneys to Present Election Law CLE for Association of Corporate Counsel, June 15, 2020

Craig Schauer to Address N.C. Sheriff Chaplains Association on Free Speech Rights, September 18, 2015

Craig Schauer to Speak to NC State University Students on Free Speech Rights, September 18, 2015