

# Edwin L. West III

Partner



## CONTACT INFO

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## OFFICE

150 Fayetteville Street  
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Ed West's practice areas include white-collar defense and investigations, crisis and reputational management, data privacy and breach response, professional licensing board discipline and complex business disputes.

## MY PRACTICE

### WHITE COLLAR DEFENSE AND INVESTIGATIONS

Ed is an experienced criminal trial lawyer in both state and federal courts. He has handled investigations of companies and individuals by a myriad of state and federal agencies.

He has been recognized by his peers for inclusion in *Business North Carolina's* "Legal Elite" in the area of Criminal Law (2015-2019), *North Carolina Super Lawyers* for Criminal Defense (2018-2019), and *The Best Lawyers in America*® for Criminal Defense: White-Collar (2018-2020).

### COMPLEX BUSINESS AND CORPORATE LITIGATION

Ed has represented businesses and organizations both large and small, including publicly traded companies, health care providers, utilities, municipalities, school boards, closely-held and small businesses, as well as individuals in a wide

## PRACTICE AREAS

Administrative and Regulatory  
Compliance & Internal Investigations  
Health Care  
Litigation  
› Complex Business Litigation  
› Federal Litigation  
› North Carolina Business Court  
› Professional Liability Litigation  
Privacy  
White Collar Defense and  
Investigations

## INDUSTRIES

Accounting & Professional Services  
Health Care  
Insurance  
Technology

## EDUCATION

Wake Forest University School of Law  
J.D., 1995; Chief Justice, Wake Forest  
Moot Court Board  
Hampden-Sydney College  
B.A., 1992, *magna cum  
laude*; Harry S. Truman  
Scholar; Venable Scholar

## BAR & COURT ADMISSIONS

North Carolina  
US Supreme Court  
US Court of Appeals  
4th Circuit  
US Court of Federal Claims  
US District Court - North Carolina  
Western District  
Middle District  
Eastern District  
US Tax Court

variety of civil matters. These have included business disputes of all kinds, eminent domain takings, shareholder actions, defamation, legal malpractice defense, personal injury and a wide range of insurance matters.

He has been recognized in *The Best Lawyers in America*® for Commercial Litigation (2018-2020).

## TAX LITIGATION

Ed routinely represents individuals and businesses with civil and criminal tax issues. He has represented businesses and individuals with inquiries, investigations, audits, liens, and collections issues by both the Internal Revenue Service and the North Carolina Department of Revenue. He has defended clients in criminal investigations involving tax evasion, failure to file, filing false returns, failure to collect, fraud and false statements, filing fraudulent returns, structuring, embezzlement of funds by a public trustee regarding sales and withholdings tax.

Ed has been selected for inclusion in *The Best Lawyers in America*® in the area of Litigation and Controversy - Tax (2017-2020).

## PROFESSIONAL LICENSING BOARDS DISCIPLINE

Ed represents professionals and practices facing matters before licensing boards. He has advised and represented individuals with matters involving the North Carolina State Bar, North Carolina Medical Board, North Carolina Board of Certified Public Accountant Examiners, North Carolina Board of Examiners for Engineers and Surveyors, North Carolina Real Estate Commission, North Carolina Irrigation Contractors Licensing Board, North Carolina Nursing Board, and North Carolina Social Work Licensing Board.

He is panel defense counsel for Lawyers Mutual of North Carolina.

## DATA PRIVACY

Ed counsels companies responding to data breaches, including notifications to consumers, state regulators, insurers and vendors in various states. He also helps companies identify data privacy issues on the "front-end" and implement policies to reduce the risk of a future data breach. Ed helps digital media and e-commerce companies to draft privacy policies for online services and mobile applications and to avoid risks.

## HONORS

Selected by his peers for inclusion in *The Best Lawyers in America*® for Commercial Litigation (2018-2020), Tax Litigation and Controversy (2017-2020), and Criminal Defense: White-Collar (2019-2020)

Recognized by his peers for inclusion in *Business North Carolina's "Legal Elite"* in Criminal Defense (2015-2020)

Recognized by *North Carolina Super Lawyers* (Thomson Reuters) for Criminal Defense (2018-2020)

Received an "AV" rating by Martindale-Hubbell

## COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT

Adjunct Professor (Legal Crisis Management), [University of North Carolina School of Law](#), Spring 2020

Chair (2018-present), Vice-Chair (2017-2018), Member (2015-present), Board of Advisors, [Wilson Center for Leadership in the Public Interest](#), Hampden-Sydney College

Member, [Southeastern Economic Development Commission](#) (2013-2017)

Chair (2016-2017); Member (2013-2017), Board of Directors, [The Arts Council of Wilmington and New Hanover County](#)

Chairman, Board of Directors, [New Horizons Elementary School](#) (2013-2015)

Member, White Collar Crime Committee, [National Association of Criminal Defense Lawyers](#) (2011-present)

Past Chair and Council Member, [Criminal Justice Section, North Carolina Bar Association](#) (2006-2007)

Past Member, [National Association of Corporate Directors](#) (2009-2010)

Past Council Member, [Corporate Counsel Section, North Carolina Bar Association](#) (2009-2010)

Past Member, New Hanover County Schools Advisory Council on Education of Children with Special Needs (2008-2010)

## PUBLICATIONS & MEDIA

Presenter, "Criminal Tax Investigations and Prosecutions," J. Nelson Young Tax Institute, April 2019

Presenter, "Legal Crisis Management," UNC School of Law Festival of Legal Learning, February 2019

Presenter, "The Relationship Between Accountants and Attorneys in Civil and Criminal Tax Fraud Investigations," 2018 Fraud and A&A Conference, October 2018

Presenter, "The Lawyer as Crisis Manager," UNC School of Law Festival of Legal Learning, February 2018

Co-presenter (with Julia Ambrose), "Ethics Update for In-House Counsel: Litigation, Investigations and Management," Association of Corporate Counsel event, December 2017 (repeated for ACC Triad Chapter, March 2018)

Panelist, "Dealing with Co-Defendants and Related Topics," Federal Criminal Practice Seminar, Federal Criminal Justice Act Panel, November 2017

Panelist, "Jack Nicklaus, Trial Strategy, and Focus Groups...with Apologies to Bill Murray," Federal Criminal Practice Seminar, Federal Criminal Justice Act Panel, November 2016

Seven Brooks Pierce Attorneys to Present at the 2019 Festival of Legal Learning, January 29, 2019

Ed West Named Chair of Hampden-Sydney College's Wilson Center Board of Advisors, May 25, 2018

Brooks Pierce Attorneys to Present at the 2018 Festival of Legal Learning, January 3, 2018

Twelve Brooks Pierce Attorneys to Present at the Festival of Legal Learning, January 12, 2017

Ed West Named to Wilson Center for Leadership's Board of Advisors, October 16, 2015

Six New Partners Named at Brooks Pierce, October 1, 2014

Ed West Appointed to Economic Development Commission, April 30, 2013

Brooks Pierce Opens Wilmington Office, January 1, 2013

Three Coastal-Area Attorneys Join the North Carolina Firm [Read more](#)

## SPEAKING ENGAGEMENTS

Brooks Pierce Partner Presents on Criminal Tax Investigations, May 6, 2019

Brooks Pierce Partners Present Ethics CLE for Triad Members of ACC , May 4, 2018

Brooks Pierce Partners Ed West and Julia Ambrose Present Ethics CLE for Association of Corporate Counsel, January 30, 2018