

# Edwin L. West III

Partner



#### CONTACT INFO

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#### OFFICE

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Ed West defends clients in white-collar criminal investigations and prosecutions, regulatory inquiries, professional licensing board matters and complex civil litigation.



#### 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

## 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 from 2015-2018.

### COMPLEX BUSINESS AND CORPORATE LITIGATION

Ed has advised and represented clients on a wide range of civil litigation in state and federal courts, including "qui tam" and "whistleblower" actions.

With others in the firm, he recently successfully defended the Southern Investigative Reporting Foundation in a defamation suit in federal district court. Ed has been selected for inclusion in the 2017 and 2018 editions of *The Best Lawyers in America*® in the area of Litigation and Controversy - Tax.

### CRIMINAL TAX DEFENSE

Ed has been selected for inclusion in the 2017 edition of *The Best Lawyers in America*® in the area of Litigation and Controversy - Tax. He has defended clients in Internal Revenue Service investigations involving tax evasion, failure to file, filing false returns, failure to collect, fraud and false statements, filing fraudulent returns and structuring. He and others in the firm have experience advising individuals with the Foreign Account Tax Compliance Act (FACTCA).

He has also represented North Carolina taxpayers and businesses under investigation and audit for failure to file, tax evasion, and embezzlement of funds by a public trustee regarding sales tax by the North Carolina Department of Revenue.

### PROFESSIONAL LIABILITY LITIGATION/ LICENSING BOARDS DISCIPLINE

Ed advises 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.

## HONORS

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

Recognized by his peers for inclusion in *Business North Carolina's* "[Legal Elite](#)" in Criminal Defense (2015-2018)

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

Received an "AV" rating by Martindale-Hubbell

## COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT

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

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

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

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, "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)

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 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