



Lisa M. Williford

Partner

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Lisa is an experienced litigator who focuses her litigation practice on handling employment litigation matters, governmental investigations, and employment counseling.

Recognized for her skill both in the courtroom and at the bargaining table, she guides colleges (both private and public), municipalities, health care providers, and a wide variety of businesses through the dispute resolution process.

Lisa also is a leader in the North Carolina legal community. She previously served as the elected president of the Greensboro Bar Association and as the elected chair of the Young Lawyers Division (YLD) of the North Carolina Bar Association.

Labor & Employment

Clients turn to Lisa to protect their interests when litigation involves claims of discrimination, harassment, hostile work environment, wrongful termination, Title VII, Title IX, Section 1981, the Retaliatory Employment Discrimination Act, the Americans with Disability Act, and the Family and Medical Leave Act. She regularly assists employers with responses to charges before the Equal Opportunity Employment Commission, the Office of Civil Rights, and the North Carolina Department of Labor. She has also appeared on behalf of employers for unemployment hearings.

In the hopes of avoiding costly litigation, Lisa also provides clients valuable employment law counseling. She creates employment policies and procedures, advises on hiring and firing decisions, and drafts employment agreements. She also has experience in litigating website accessibility issues.

Public Sector Litigation

Lisa has experience representing public sector clients, including municipalities and public educational institutions. A skilled trial lawyer, Lisa has worked on both sides of the “v” in governmental matters. She defends municipalities in a full spectrum of litigation in state and federal court, including cases that involve negligence, breach of contract, condemnation actions, and equal protection claims, as well as civil rights claims. She also advises and counsels public sector clients on open meeting laws, freedom of information act requests, governmental immunity, and other statutory matters that are specific to public clients.

Traditional Business Litigation

Lisa also handles a variety of business litigation matters, including cases involving breach of contract, noncompete clauses and general litigation.

Services

- Litigation
- Labor & Employment
- ADA Title III Disability Access
- Private & Independent Schools
- Higher Education
- Education

Before Fox Rothschild

Lisa was a senior associate at Smith Moore Leatherwood LLP, which combined with Fox Rothschild in 2018.

While in law school, she served as editor in chief of the *North Carolina Journal of Law and Technology* and received the 2010 Gressman-Pollitt Award for Outstanding Oral Advocacy, Best Overall; Ferebee Taylor Award for UNC Honor System, Chancellor's Award; Hampton Shuping Prize for Kenan-Flagler Business School, Chancellor's Award; Hal Kearns Reynolds Class of 1924 Memorial Scholarship; and Jimmy Garrell-Tabor City Award for Excellence in Leadership.

Beyond Fox Rothschild

Lisa served as the president of the Greensboro Bar Association from 2020-2021. Under her leadership, which was during the COVID-19 pandemic, the association surveyed attorneys to help improve the state court system, hosted virtual networking events, and found new ways to connect members with local leaders.

Following the end of her term, Lisa chaired the Young Lawyers Division (YLD) of the North Carolina Bar Association. The YLD offers programming for young lawyers who are 36 and under or within the first 10 years of their legal career to help them develop their practices. It also offers networking opportunities and career development opportunities for young lawyers interested in growing their practices.

Lisa previously served as a board member to the YWCA of Greensboro.

In recognition of her service to North Carolina, she received the North Carolina Bar Association's Charles F. Blanchard Young Lawyer of the Year Award in 2019.

Bar Admissions

- North Carolina

Court Admissions

- U.S. District Court, Western District of North Carolina
- U.S. District Court, Middle District of North Carolina
- U.S. District Court, Eastern District of North Carolina
- U.S. Bankruptcy Court, Middle District of North Carolina

Education

- University of North Carolina School of Law (J.D., *with honors*, 2012)
- University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill (B.S., *highest honors*, 2009)

Memberships

- North Carolina Bar Association

- Young Lawyers Division
 - Chair, 2022-2023
 - Chair-Elect, 2021-2022
 - Secretary, 2020-2021
 - Chair, Citizen Lawyer Committee, 2016-2018
- Leadership Academy, Class of 2016
- Greensboro Bar Association
 - Fellow, Greensboro Bar Association Foundation, 2025
 - President, 2020-2021
 - President Elect, 2019-2020
 - Board Member, 2016-present
 - Greensboro Young Lawyers Section Board Member, 2014-2021
 - President of Greensboro Young Lawyers Section, 2016-2017
- NITA Trial School Graduate

Board of Directors

- YWCA of Greensboro (2021)

Honors & Awards

- Recognized in *Business North Carolina's* Legal Elite for Employment (2026), Litigation (2020) and Young Guns (2019-2024)
- Selected to the "Best Lawyers in America" list for Commercial Litigation in Greensboro, NC by *Best Lawyers* (2024-2026)
- Named an Outstanding Women in Business Honoree by the *Triad Business Journal* (2023)
- Recipient of the North Carolina Bar Association's Young Lawyers Division Charles F. Blanchard Young Lawyer of the Year Award (2019)
- Named to the *Triad Business Journal's* 40 Under 40 list (2018)
- Included in a list of North Carolina *Super Lawyers*, Rising Stars Edition, for Business Litigation (2017-2022)
- Greensboro Bar Association's Herb Falk Society
- North Carolina Bar Association Leadership Academy, 2016