

RAGSDALE  LIGGETT

PROFESSIONAL LIMITED LIABILITY COMPANY

OUR LAWYERS. YOUR ADVANTAGE.

CROSSPOINTE PLAZA  
SUITE 400  
2840 PLAZA PLACE  
RALEIGH, NORTH CAROLINA 27612  
TELEPHONE: (919) 787-5200  
FACSIMILE: (919) 783-8991  
[www.rl-law.com](http://www.rl-law.com)

# RAGSDALE LIGGETT

## FIRM PRACTICE AND PHILOSOPHY

**Ragsdale Liggett**, a professional limited liability company, is a full service law firm with emphasis on business, real estate and litigation practice. The office has a broad client base and provides legal representation to a wide variety of clients including individual entrepreneurs and multi-national corporations. Since its beginnings in 1972 as a two-member law firm, the office expanded to become part of a major American law firm, LeBoeuf, Lamb, Greene & MacRae. While the then Raleigh office of LeBoeuf, Lamb, Greene & MacRae had its principal focus in North Carolina, it was uniquely positioned to engage in a law practice which was national and multi-national in scope and capability. On January 1, 1994, the Raleigh office disengaged from the LeBoeuf firm to become an independent Raleigh law firm yet maintaining a unique status as a correspondent firm to the LeBoeuf, Lamb firm.

Approximately twenty attorneys are resident in the Raleigh office of the firm. The attorneys have a unique blend of interests and expertise in a variety of areas of the law. Many of our attorneys are active in community affairs and have served in judicial, board of director and legislative positions. The firm takes pride in being capable and experienced in assisting clients in business and personal matters from the routine to the unexpected in Raleigh and around the world. The firm endeavors to provide the highest quality of legal services to its clients in the most efficient and cost effective manner.

## HISTORY OF THE RALEIGH OFFICE

The immediate predecessor of **Ragsdale, Liggett PLLC** was the Raleigh office of LeBoeuf, Lamb, Greene & MacRae, which was formed in February, 1987, as a result of a merger between the New York City based firm of LeBoeuf, Lamb, Greene & MacRae (then known as LeBoeuf, Lamb, Leiby & MacRae) and the Raleigh, North Carolina, firm of Moore, Ragsdale, Liggett, Ray & Foley, P.A. In 1982, LeBoeuf, Lamb, Leiby & MacRae had opened an office in Raleigh, headed by Joseph E. Johnson, a North Carolina State Senator and graduate of Wake Forest Law School.

Moore, Ragsdale, Liggett, Ray & Foley, P.A. was founded in 1972 by George R. Ragsdale and Frank R. Liggett III, as Ragsdale & Liggett. In 1979, Ragsdale & Liggett was pleased to add its senior partner, former North Carolina Governor Dan K. Moore, who joined the firm after retiring as an Associate Justice of the North Carolina Supreme Court. In 1983, the firm incorporated and changed its name to Moore, Ragsdale, Liggett, Ray & Foley, P.A.



## **BUSINESS LAW DEPARTMENT**

Business department lawyers regularly represent individuals, partnerships and corporations in a variety of matters including business structuring and organization, corporate formation and governance, securities laws, taxation, banking, finance, employer/employee relations, employee benefits, bankruptcy, creditors' rights and state and federal regulatory compliance.

The firm has substantial experience and expertise providing corporate and regulatory representation to insurance companies within North Carolina and throughout the country. The firm serves as general and special counsel to life and property and casualty insurance companies and has continual involvement in mergers, acquisitions and divestitures of insurance companies and their subsidiaries or affiliates.

In connection with its securities law practice, the firm has regularly represented clients in shareholder relations and compliance matters as well as securities offerings and syndications. The firm has represented acquirors as well as target companies in tender offer transactions and maintains an active securities compliance practice. In conjunction with the real estate department, the business department represents clients with the structuring of real estate transactions including syndications and private placements.

Federal and state taxation of individuals and business entities permeates modern business transactions. Lawyers in the business department are experienced in assisting business entities with the tax ramifications of proposed transactions and representation of taxpayers in disputes with the Internal Revenue Service and the North Carolina Department of Revenue. Attorneys in the tax department also assist clients with the preparation of wills and estate plans, family trusts, charitable trusts, probate and estate administration matters.

In the area of banking and commercial finance, clients of the firm have included local and regional banks and savings and loan institutions on a wide variety of issues from original organization and chartering to general regulatory practice before state and federal agencies having jurisdiction over financial institutions. Members of the firm have experience in the design, modification and closing of general and commercial loan transactions and represent lenders and borrowers with collection, loan workout and related bankruptcy matters.

# RAGSDALE LIGGETT

## **REAL ESTATE DEPARTMENT**

Real estate has been a primary area of practice for the firm for many years, with specific emphasis on commercial real estate transactions, construction law, landlord/tenant and commercial real estate finance. The firm also maintains expertise in the emerging area of environmental law as it affects real estate transactions as well as traditional residential practice.

The firm is routinely involved in transactions representing buyers, sellers and developers in the acquisition, financing, construction and leasing of shopping centers, office buildings and industrial projects throughout the Southeast. Representation includes negotiation and drafting of contracts, closing the acquisition of real estate, documentation of complex loan transactions and preparation of partnership and joint venture arrangements, leases and management agreements. The firm also advises and represents the client before city and county authorities having planning and zoning jurisdiction over real estate projects.

Attorneys in the real estate department work closely with other departments of the firm. In connection with syndications and other complex transactions involving real estate matters, tax and securities assistance is readily available from members of the business department. Members of the litigation department are prepared to assist whenever real estate related disputes arise. Conversely, the real estate department frequently assists the firm's other departments, including the development of programs for creative tax-exempt financing for public and private projects and the disposition of bankruptcy, problem loan and collection matters involving real estate.

To complement the commercial real estate practice, several attorneys regularly engage in residential real estate transactions. Members of the firm have substantial experience in the representation of national relocation companies, as well as in-house corporate relocation departments, and have completed hundreds of relocation transactions. Such experience includes closing numerous residential real estate transactions throughout North Carolina, negotiating and resolving contract disputes, resolving problems with homeowners associations and local governmental authorities relating to zoning, set back violations, water and sewer systems and other related problems.



## **LITIGATION DEPARTMENT**

Ragsdale, Liggett's litigation practice includes virtually all phases of civil and commercial litigation in all state and federal courts as well as administrative practice before the various agencies of state and federal government.

Much of the firm's litigation practice involves insurance litigation, either directly representing carriers or representing their insureds. Insurance litigation practice extends throughout the Southeast and entails a variety of matters including insurance fraud, arson, policy coverage, environmental and reinsurance issues. Through its representation of insurance companies and insureds, the firm also has developed expertise in the defense of professional malpractice matters as well as the handling of products liability matters.

Commercial litigation in the Raleigh firm varies widely. The firm has significant experience litigating issues involving real estate and contract disputes, anti-trust and securities matters, employment issues (including the defense of individuals, firms and corporations) and tax matters. The experience of members of the litigation department and the needs of our clients require that our litigators practice not only at the federal and state trial level, but also throughout the appellate system. Several of the office's trial lawyers have a broad range of experience in arbitration matters and act as both arbiters and as advocates in the mediation, arbitration and settlement of disputes where a formal trial can be avoided.

Our attorneys are admitted to practice before the state and federal trial and appellate courts affecting North Carolina clients including the United States Supreme Court, the United States Courts of Appeals and the United States Tax Court.



## **LOBBYING AND GOVERNMENT RELATIONS GROUP**

The members of the Lobbying and Government Relations team recognize that the worlds of business, law and politics often intersect. We are dedicated to providing service to our clients in all these areas. Our attorneys have experience in business law, real estate and construction law and insurance and banking law.

The Lobbying and Government Relations team at Ragsdale Liggett has and maintains relationships with policymakers and extensive knowledge of the legislative and regulatory processes. As a result, our lobbying professionals and attorneys are able to provide clients with effective and successful representation before the legislative and executive branches at many levels. Past and current clients include government, public and private business entities and trade associations.

RAGSDALE  LIGGETT

## **FIRM HISTORY**

*Ragsdale & Liggett 1972*

*Ragsdale, Liggett & Cheshire 1977*

*Ragsdale & Liggett 1978*

*Moore, Ragsdale, Liggett, Ray & Foley 1982*

*LeBoeuf, Lamb, Leiby & MacRae 1987*

*Ragsdale, Liggett & Foley 1994*

*Ragsdale Liggett PLLC 1999*



### FRANK R. LIGGETT III

Frank R. Liggett III is a founding member and managing partner at Ragsdale Liggett PLLC. A seasoned corporate lawyer who focuses his practice on **corporate and insurance regulatory law**, Frank is admitted to practice in the United States Supreme Court, United States District Court for Eastern, Middle and Western Districts of North Carolina, United States Tax Court, and all North Carolina State Courts. Frank is a member of the American, North Carolina and Wake County Bar Associations, the North Carolina State Bar, and the 10th Judicial District Bar, where he was a member of the Executive Committee. Frank also has served on the American Bar Association subcommittee on Limited Liability Companies.

During his prominent career, Frank has represented both insurance and non-insurance entities with respect to **merger and acquisition transactions, general corporate governance and regulatory issues**. He has assisted associations, third-party administrators and insurers on a variety of litigation, regulatory and compliance issues as well as **holding company, acquisition, tender offer and merger transactions**. He has also assisted directors and owners of privately held entities in preparation for going public and in corporate governance issues.

Frank is a member and director of the exclusive Federation of Regulatory Counsel (FORC, pronounced "force"), a multi-national association of lawyers with significant experience in the practice of insurance regulatory and corporate law. FORC elected Frank to its board of directors for a second term during a meeting held at the National Association of Insurance Commissioners in Chicago in 2005 and is currently serving as its vice chairman. FORC is considered the authoritative source for regulatory insurance information, and the organization publishes a quarterly journal. Liggett has authored articles and notes on insurance topics for the Federation of Regulatory Counsel Quarterly Journal of Insurance Law and Regulation, as well as the ABA Tort and Insurance Practice Committee News of the Public Regulation of Insurance Law Committee.

Frank authored and presented "Legal Survival in the New Surplus Lines Market "at the annual meeting of the North Carolina Surplus Lines Association. He was named the recipient of their Outstanding Service Award and has served as the Association's Legal Counsel since 1989. A frequent lecturer in continuing education classes regarding surplus and excess lines matters, Frank has written and lectured for continuing legal education seminars on "Considerations in Buying or Selling a Business in North Carolina: Structure of the Acquisition and on Negotiating a Purchase and Sale Agreement". He was adjunct professor of the North Carolina State University School of Design from 1977 to 1979, where he taught Legal Aspects of Architecture, Landscape Architecture and Design. He has been recognized as one of [North Carolina's Super Lawyers](#) and is listed in [The Bar Register of Preeminent Lawyers](#).

Frank has served on the boards of directors of numerous publicly-traded and private business organizations. He is a former member of the board of directors and Executive Committee of McM Corporation, an insurance holding company; a former member of the board of directors of Peninsular Life Insurance Company and Peninsular Title Insurance Company; and a former member of the board of directors of Pan American Van Lines, Inc. He has also filled leadership positions in the fields of the natural sciences and wildlife conservation, including serving as chairman of the board of trustees of the North Carolina Natural History Society (now Friends of the North Carolina State Museum of Natural Sciences), the board of directors of the North Carolina Wildlife Federation and as chairman of the Raleigh area committee of Ducks Unlimited, Inc., which he founded in 1967. Frank has recently been named honorary director of the Delta Waterfowl Foundation, North America's leader in waterfowl ecology and waterfowling.

Donating time to civic and charitable organizations is important to Frank. He has served on the board of trustees and chaired the Triangle North Carolina Chapter of the National Multiple Sclerosis Society. He has served on the board of directors of the Beta Chapter of Delta Kappa Epsilon, Inc.; the Woodberry Forest School Advisory Council; the board of trustees of the N.C. Natural History Society; the board of directors of Westport III, Inc.; the board of visitors of Trinity Center of the Episcopal Diocese of East Carolina; and the board of directors of Jones Island Club, Inc. Frank participates in several area clubs, including the Terpsichorean Club, Carolina Country Club, Coral Bay Club, English-Speaking Union Old School Society and Sphinx Club. He was a charter member of both the Capital City Club and the Cardinal Club.

Born in St. Petersburg, Florida, Frank attended Woodberry Forest School in Orange, Virginia. He completed an English-Speaking Union International Fellowship at Denstone College, Uttoxeter, Staffordshire, England in 1959, the first student from the Southern United States to be awarded that particular Fellowship. That same summer, Frank studied at the University of Paris (Sorbonne).

Frank married Mildred (Mimi) LeBlond in 1961 and two years later graduated from the University of North

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Carolina at Chapel Hill. He received his Juris Doctor from the University of North Carolina School of Law in 1966 and was admitted to practice in the State of North Carolina, where he has built a distinguished reputation, coming a long way since the day in 1972 when he and George R. Ragsdale founded the Ragsdale & Liggett law firm and borrowed their first piece of equipment—an orange IBM Selectric typewriter.

Frank and Mimi attend Christ Episcopal Church and have three grown children: Frank R. Liggett IV; David K. Liggett, who is also a partner at Ragsdale Liggett PLLC; and Louise L. Sprunt.

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### **DOROTHY BASS BURCH**

A partner at Ragsdale Liggett PLLC, Dottie Burch practices in the firm's corporate and real estate law departments. Dottie focuses her practice in business law, including day-to-day business counsel, business mergers and acquisitions, insurance regulatory law and commercial real estate transactions. She practices in a wide range of areas in these fields and manages younger lawyers in the firm. Dottie offers general strategic advice to the firm's clients on a daily basis, including advice about contract negotiation, business strategies, corporate formation, management and dissolution, closing various types of financing and other transactions and assisting clients with insurance regulatory compliance and advocacy needs.

Dottie has been admitted to all North Carolina courts as well as the United States District Court for the Eastern, Middle and Western Districts of North Carolina. She is listed in the Bar Register of Preeminent Lawyers, a directory of top legal professionals designated by their colleagues as preeminent in their field. Dottie is a member of the American, North Carolina and Wake County Bar Associations as well as the 10th Judicial District Bar. She has received a prestigious "BV" Peer Review Rating from Lexis-Nexis Martindale Hubbell, a rating which reflects the opinions of lawyers outside Dottie's firm as to her competence and ethics. A "BV" rating indicates a "High to Very High" legal ability rating and a "Very High" ethical standards rating.

A member of Triangle Commercial Real Estate Women (TCREW), Dottie was recently re-elected to the board of directors as its Special Events Officer for the second consecutive year. Dottie has chaired the 400 person Champion Awards Event for TCREW for several years and the event has gained significantly in stature and recognition under her leadership.

A Raleigh native, Dottie received her Bachelor's degrees in American History and Political Science from Meredith College in Raleigh, graduating second in her class, summa cum laude. Dottie went on to attend law school at the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill where she received her Juris Doctor in 1991. Dottie has been a guest lecturer on corporate and real estate law at the UNC School of Dentistry and at the North Carolina State University College of Veterinary Medicine. Dottie recently presented a seminar at Meredith entitled "Owning Your Own Business." She will also be the guest speaker at the 2006 annual induction banquet for Kappa Nu Sigma, Meredith College's academic honor society, of which she is a member.

In August of 2006, Dottie was awarded the "Women In Business" award by the Triangle Business Journal, recognizing her as one of the top 25 business professionals currently working the Triangle.

Children and animals are among the causes that Dottie espouses and she has served as director, officer and legal counsel to the board of directors for the Make A Wish Foundation of Eastern North Carolina. Dottie is a very active lifetime member of Hudson Memorial Presbyterian Church in Raleigh where she serves on the Finance and Nominating Committees and helps with elementary Sunday School. Dottie and her husband, Asheville native Kevin Burch, reside in Raleigh and have two young children with whom they are actively involved in school, sporting, equestrian, dance and music activities. Kevin is a Professional Engineer in Raleigh and owns his own civil engineering firm, Clearwater Engineering & Design, PLLC.



## DAVID K. LIGGETT

David K. Liggett is a partner and member of Ragsdale Liggett PLLC's **business law** department. A former litigator with extensive experience in **commercial litigation**, David provides his clients with practical day-to-day counsel on business matters. David focuses his practice on **corporate mergers and acquisitions and insurance regulatory law, representing insurance companies with licensing, compliance** and other issues before the North Carolina Department of Insurance.

David has been a guest lecturer on corporate law at the University of North Carolina School of Dentistry and remains a member of the North Carolina Association of Defense Attorneys and the Defense Research Institute (DRI), a national organization of defense trial lawyers and corporate counsel that provides educational and informational resource to its members.

Admitted to all North Carolina state and federal courts, David is a member of the American, North Carolina, and Wake County Bar Associations. He is listed in The Bar Register of Preeminent Lawyers, a publication which lists only those select law practices and law firms that have earned the highest rating and have been designated by their colleagues as preeminent in their field.

An environmentally conscious outdoor enthusiast, David is a member of the Delta Waterfowl Foundation, North America's leader in waterfowling and a private non-profit organization that supports graduate student research on the ecology and management of waterfowl and wetlands. He served as Delta Waterfowl's area chairman for three years. As a supporter of the arts, David has served on the board of directors of Artspace, a non-profit visual art center dedicated to presenting quality exhibitions and educational programs within an open studio environment.

Born in Chapel Hill, David grew up in Raleigh and graduated from Virginia Episcopal School in Lynchburg, Virginia in 1983. He received a Bachelor of Science degree from the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill in 1988, and he went on to earn his Juris Doctor from the University of North Carolina School of Law in 1995.

David and his wife reside in Raleigh and have three children. They are members of several local clubs and civic organizations and are very active in Raleigh's Christ Episcopal Church, where David serves on a number of church committees and boards.

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## GEORGE R. RAGSDALE

George R. Ragsdale is a senior partner and a founding member of Ragsdale Liggett PLLC, a law firm that since its formation in 1972 has developed an extraordinary reputation in the area of civil litigation, enjoying significant courtroom successes ranging from local state courts to the United States Supreme Court in areas with far-reaching implications. George has been recognized by *The Best Lawyers in America*, *Who's Who in American Law*, *The Bar Register of Preeminent Lawyers*, and has a lifetime membership in the *National Registry of Who's Who*. He enjoys the prestigious designation as a Diplomat of the National College of State Trial Judges and has been a recipient of numerous awards, among them the North Carolina Distinguished Citizens Award. Business Leader Magazine described him as "...among the top lawyers in North Carolina."

With a law practice in a wide range of areas including complex business litigation, real estate and administrative law, George's civil practice encompasses many phases of litigation, including an extensive trial and motion practice, discovery, writs, appeals, arbitrations and mediations. He is admitted to practice in all state and federal courts in North Carolina, as well as the Supreme Court of the United States. George successfully argued *Darden v. Nationwide*, U.S. Supreme Court, (112 S. Ct. 1344 (1992)), resulting in a unanimous decision in favor of Nationwide Mutual Insurance Company.

Born in Raleigh, North Carolina, George graduated from Georgetown Preparatory School with honors in 1954. He received a Bachelor of Arts degree from the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill in 1958, where he was elected President of the Senior Class, as well as Permanent President, Class of 1958, and Chairman of the Men's Honor Council. He was honored by membership in Order of the Grail and the Order of the Golden Fleece. George received his *LLBJD* in 1961 from the University of North Carolina Law School, where he was a recipient of the prestigious Richardson Fellowship. After law school, George served as Assistant to the Chief Counsel and Staff Director, United States Senate Subcommittee on Constitutional Rights under well-known United States Senator Sam J. Ervin, Jr., who was later chairman of the Senate Watergate hearings during the Nixon era.

In 1962, George became a partner in the firm of Bailey & Ragsdale and in 1965 was named Legal Counsel to Dan K. Moore, Governor of North Carolina. George was appointed Judge of the North Carolina Superior Court in 1968, following in the footsteps of his great-great uncle, Superior Court Judge William Smith O'Brien Robinson. At 32 years old, George became one of the youngest persons ever appointed as a Superior Court judge. George returned to private practice in 1970 as a founding partner in the Ragsdale Liggett law firm.

George's public service includes membership on the Board of Trustees of the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill, where he also served as its chairman. He has served as a member and chairman of the Board of Trustees of the UNC Endowment, and since 1979, he has been a member of the UNC Board of Visitors. In demand for his considerable expertise, George has served on the boards of directors of a number of publicly traded companies both in this country and abroad, among them the British-American Insurance Company, Ltd.; the Occidental Fire and Casualty Company of Denver, Colorado; the Occidental Life Insurance Company of North Carolina; and the Windsor Life Assurance Co., Ltd., Windsor, England.

George is co-author of "You Can Be Sued By People Who Are Not Your Patients"; "Punitive Damages: Are they Constitutional in North Carolina and Does Your Liability Policy Cover Them"; and "Race-Based Peremptory Challenges of Civil Jurors Held Unconstitutional." A frequent lecturer, George has lectured on the collapse of the Kansas City Hyatt Hotel Skywalks, where he was lead defense counsel to the insurance carriers. He has spoken before the North Carolina Association of Defense Counsel on the Doctrine of Comparative Negligence in Admiralty Cases and before the Excess/Surplus Lines Claims Association on the Defense of Mass Catastrophe Litigation.

Active all his adult life in civic and charitable causes, George maintains membership in a number of clubs, citizen and professional associations. He is a founding member and First Vestry Clerk at Raleigh's Holy Trinity Church, a member of the Anglican Communion Network. George and his wife, Adora, have two sons and a daughter and reside in Raleigh.



## MARY HULETT

Mary Hulett is a partner at the law firm of Ragsdale Liggett PLLC, where her practice encompasses **complex, high-profile civil litigation**. She has a solid record of accomplishment in a variety of cases involving **products liability, business claims, employment issues and environmental and toxic torts**. Mary is admitted to practice in California, the District of Columbia, North Carolina, and Virginia, as well as all Federal District Courts in California and North Carolina, and the Fourth and Ninth Circuit Courts of Appeal.

Mary has handled cases involving **lead** and other **environmental contaminations**. Her high profile cases have included arguments before the California Supreme Court on a significant **water contamination** case. She served as **lead defense litigation lawyer** in the Dupont Hotel fire in San Juan, Puerto Rico, a case with more than 2000 plaintiffs and 200 defendants and was one of the biggest cases ever tried in the United States. The trial lasted 18 months, and Mary was the only defense lawyer present from the first day to the last and she won the case for her client.

Mary's professional affiliations have included serving on the board of the Southern California Defense Association and serving as counsel to the Consumer Products Safety Commission. She is a member of the Order of the Coif, an honorary scholastic society with the purpose of encouraging excellence in legal education. Mary is the author of: "Privacy and the Freedom of Information Act," published in the Administrative Law Review.

The Federation of Defense and Corporate Counsel has recently accepted Mary as a member of their organization. Composed of leaders in the legal community, FDCC members have been judged by their peers to have achieved professional distinction and to be committed to promoting knowledge, fellowship, professionalism and the course of justice. As experienced attorneys who are engaged in the administration and defense of civil litigation throughout the world, FDCC represents the interests of those who need a defense in civil lawsuits.

Human rights are a cause Mary is drawn to espouse. After receiving a Bachelor of Arts degree in 1963 from Stanford University, Mary developed an interest in legal issues when she became involved in the rights of neglected and abused children. She worked with a group in Washington, D.C. to close an ineffective institution used to house neglected children and place them in foster homes. She also worked on the subsidized adoption law for the District of Columbia to help children with needs find adoptive placements. Mary has been a board member of two separate service organizations—one that helped families deal with adolescent drug use and another that provided services to the homeless and poor in northern Virginia.

Mary received her Juris Doctor from George Washington University in 1977 with high honors. She was appointed commissioner on the Human Rights Commission in Fairfax County, V.A., the first such commission in a southern state.

Mary is a member of the Community Church of Chapel Hill, where she serves on the board of directors and is co-chair of the building committee responsible for \$1.8 million in new construction and renovation. She resides in Chapel Hill and has three children and four grandchildren.



## WALTER L. TIPPETT, JR.

Walter L. Tippett, Jr. is a partner at Ragsdale Liggett PLLC, where his practice is concentrated on **corporate disputes and civil litigation**, typically involving **business transactions and real estate development**. He is admitted to all North Carolina courts, as well as the U.S. District Court for the Eastern, Middle and Western Districts of North Carolina, and the United States Supreme Court.

Walt's practice focuses on **disputes pending in state and federal courts, though he also represents clients in private arbitrations**. His clients include publicly and privately held businesses; medical and dental practices and their physicians; design firms and their owners; local, regional and national developers and general contractors; and insurance companies.

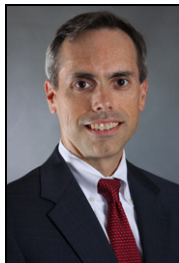
Walt **negotiates and closes transactions** incidental to his litigation practice and as requested by his clients. He regularly handles **commercial and trade-secrets litigation; construction litigation and arbitration;**

**lien prosecution and defense; shareholder derivative actions; lis pendens litigation; partition proceedings; and business tort litigation**, including misappropriation, fraud, constructive fraud, breaches of fiduciary duties, interference with contracts and unfair and deceptive trade practices.

With his extensive experience in the governance of privately held companies, Walt is especially adept at handling disputes concerning complex offers to purchase and sell. Walt also focuses on employment matters, non-competition agreements, homeowner's association disputes, premises liability, and landlord-tenant matters. His regulatory and administrative compliance experience includes matters before the medical, dental, contractor, insurance, environmental and real estate boards and agencies.

Walt received a Bachelor of Science in Business Administration from the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill in 1991 and his legal degree at its School of Law in 1995. He was also admitted to practice by the North Carolina Bar in 1995. Prior to law school, Walt worked as a staff member of a standing Joint Committee of the United States Congress and as a barrister's research assistant in Lincoln's Inn, London.

Walt is a member of the American, North Carolina, and Wake County Bar Associations. Walt also maintains membership in the North Carolina Association of Defense Attorneys and the Defense Research Institute. Walt has been a guest lecturer at The University of North Carolina Dental School and North Carolina State University School of Veterinary Medicine.



#### JOHN M. NUNNALLY

A partner at Ragsdale Liggett PLLC, John M. Nunnally practices in the litigation department and focuses his law practice in a wide range of **construction litigation** and **insurance law**. As a seasoned litigator who handles **complex insurance defense litigation**, John represents design professionals such as architects and engineers, often defending them from professional **negligence claims**. Among the other clients that John frequently represents in litigation matters are trucking companies, which rely on his counsel and defense leadership to provide balance within the justice system before jurors and to resolve all disputes.

His civil practice encompasses all phases of litigation, including **trial and motion practice, discovery, writs, appeals, arbitrations and mediations**. John has practiced extensively in Wake and Gaston counties, as well as the U.S. District Court for the Eastern, Middle and Western Districts of North Carolina.

A member of the American, North Carolina and Wake County Bar Associations, John also belongs to the North Carolina Association of Defense Attorneys, which is an organization that brings together civil defense attorneys to promote the exchange of information, ideas, and litigation techniques to enhance the knowledge and improve the skills of defense lawyers practicing in North Carolina. Devoting a majority of his time to the defense of civil litigation, John is a member of the Defense Research Institute (DRI), a national organization of defense trial lawyers and corporate counsel that provides educational and informational resources to DRI members and offers many opportunities for liaison among defense trial lawyers, corporate America, and state and local defense organizations.

Prior to joining Ragsdale Liggett in 1999, John was a Partner with Stott, Hollowell, Palmer and Windham in Gastonia, North Carolina. From 1998 to 1999, John served as president of the Gaston County Bar Association. He has received several Distinguished Service Awards from Legal Services of Southern Piedmont (LSSP) for the pro bono hours he contributed to the Volunteer Lawyers Program, providing legal assistance in civil matters to low-income persons in the Charlotte area and in west-central North Carolina.

In 2005, John was named to the board of directors for the Friends of the North Carolina State Museum of Natural Sciences, a statewide nonprofit organization with activities that include grant administration, Museum Store operations, Museum leasing activities, the North Carolina Naturalist magazine publication, fundraising and membership opportunities, and special exhibit operations. In his role on the board, John helps with the planning and coordination of programs to enhance public awareness of the museum and its mission. John is a lifetime member of the private, non-profit organization that supports the North Carolina Zoo in Asheboro, North Carolina.

Dedicated to his community, John serves on his homeowners association board of directors and currently is president of the association. John is an active member of the Raleigh Kiwanis Club and received the Carl B. Hyatt award from the Raleigh Kiwanis Club for his contributions to Camp Victory Junction, a camp for children with life-threatening illnesses or disabilities located in Randleman, North Carolina.

Born in Ft. Belvoir, Virginia, John spent his later childhood in Raleigh, which he considers home. John received a Bachelor of Arts degree from North Carolina State University in 1988. He went on to attend law school and received his Juris Doctor in 1992 from Campbell University, where he was an associate editor of the Law Review and a member of the National Moot Court Team. Admitted to the North Carolina Bar in 1992, John prides himself as a lawyer who practices ethically and responsibly, keeping the interests of his loyal clients in mind in his personal goal to benefit society in the area of civil justice.

John and his wife, Alicia live in Cary and are devoted to their delightful young son, Alexander. The couple attends the First United Methodist church, where Alicia is active in Mothers of Preschoolers (MOPs), a support network of women who share the common bond of preschool age children.

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## MELISSA D. BRUMBACK

Melissa Dewey Brumback is a partner at Ragsdale Liggett PLLC, where she practices in the litigation department, concentrating on complex commercial, business and construction litigation. The bulk of Melissa's practice consists of representing architects and engineers in construction-related claims, including construction administration and management, plan defects, testing failure claims and delay claims. Melissa has represented design professionals in State and Federal courts as well as in binding arbitration, when the parties wish to avoid the formality, time, and expense of a trial. Her practice includes the defense of all sizes of claims, from residential homeowner cases to private commercial construction to multi-prime public construction projects.

In addition to construction cases, Melissa handles commercial litigation, business disputes, and director and officer liability. Melissa also heads the creditor's rights/collections practice group at Ragsdale Liggett.

Admitted in all State and Federal Courts in North Carolina, Melissa is a member of the American, North Carolina, and Wake County Bar Associations, as well as the 10th Judicial District. She maintains memberships in Wake Women Attorneys, the North Carolina Association of Women Attorneys, the North Carolina Association of Defense Attorneys, and the Defense Research Institute. She currently serves as Assistant Editor of the Affiliate newsletter, an ABA YLD publication, and maintains membership in the Raleigh Chamber of Commerce Young Professionals Network.

Melissa grew up in the Corning/Elmira area of upstate New York. She received her Bachelor of Arts degree from the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill with Phi Beta Kappa honors and highest distinction in 1994. Desiring a challenging, exciting career that would put her writing and speaking skills to good use, Melissa obtained her Juris Doctor in 1998 from the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill, where she was awarded a Gressman-Pollitt Appellate Advocacy Award. She has studied as a Visiting Scholar at the University of Manchester, England School of Law.

Melissa began her law career by practicing insurance defense, general corporate law, workers' compensation defense and creditor's rights at Stuart Law Firm, PLLC in Raleigh, North Carolina. She joined Ragsdale Liggett in March 2001 as an associate attorney and became a partner in January 2006.

Melissa has served on several professional committees, including the Public Service committee and Lawyers in the Schools subcommittee of the Wake County Bar, as well as the North Carolina Bar Association's Law Day Committee. She served on the committee that established Pro Bono 101, the first legal seminar of the Young Lawyer's Division of the North Carolina Bar Association. Melissa's committee spearheaded the first development of this seminar, which teaches attorneys how to get involved in pro bono work. Melissa was recognized as one of the Triangle Business Journal's "40 Under 40" Award in 2006, an award which honors up-and-coming leaders under the age of 40 who are making a difference in their community.

Active in civic and charitable organizations, Melissa re-chartered the Chapel Hill chapter of the Jaycees in the fall of 2002, almost single-handedly resurrecting what had been a dormant organization. Since then she has served in several Jaycees leadership positions. Through her involvement in the organization, Melissa has raised funds for the North Carolina Jaycee Burn Center at UNC, starting the first annual yard sale. In addition, Melissa has led and participated in fund-raising efforts for the Duke Cancer Center, Lake Waccamaw Boys' and Girls' Home, the victims of Hurricane Katrina and other worthy causes. For these outstanding efforts, the Jaycees awarded Melissa with their North Central Region Membership award in 2003 and their "All Star Team" award in 2004. She was appointed in 2007 as General Counsel for the North Carolina Jaycees, a position in which she advises the state umbrella organization on legal issues affecting the states' Jaycees chapters.

Melissa founded a book club for women attorneys, which is currently in its fifth year. In 2007, Melissa obtained her Competent Communicator/Certified Toastmaster designation from the High Noon Toastmasters in Raleigh. Melissa was also appointed in 2007 to serve on the Women Against Multiple Sclerosis (WAMS) Steering Committee, a group that runs a key fundraiser for the Eastern Chapter of the National Multiple Sclerosis Society.

She resides in Chapel Hill with her husband, Stephen.

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## **SANDRA W. MITTERLING**

Sandra W. Mitterling is a partner at Ragsdale Liggett PLLC, where she practices in the firm's litigation department in the primary areas of insurance defense and general commercial litigation. Admitted in North Carolina state courts as well as United States District Court for the Eastern, Middle and Western Districts of North Carolina, the Fourth Circuit Federal Court of Appeals and the U.S. Supreme Court, Sandy is well equipped to represent a wide variety of clients. She is a member of the American, North Carolina and Wake County Bar Associations.

In her insurance defense practice, Sandy frequently defends construction design professionals such as architects and engineers in complaints before state licensing boards. Through various insurance companies, Sandy provides litigation defense for corporate clients in a variety of matters including employment, construction, mold contamination, lead exposure, minor personal injuries and contract disputes. She has worked on hundreds of construction litigation cases, including commercial and residential disputes, and has handled cases involving multi-party litigation. Prior to joining Ragsdale Liggett, Sandy practiced with both the Kilpatrick Stockton and Lewis & Roberts firms in Raleigh, North Carolina. Sandy's past experience as a plaintiff's attorney also gives her valuable insight into how her opposition is planning for and pursuing their claims.

As a member of the Women in the Profession Committee at the North Carolina Bar Association, Sandy has been active in the plans and preparation for a visit from Justice Ginsberg to North Carolina in the Fall of 2007. She is also working on a subcommittee to ensure women are recognized for their work and contributions to the practice of law throughout the state. Additionally, Sandy recently served as a judge to the Mock Trial Competition, hosted by the UNC and Duke Law Schools, which invited teams from all over the country to compete.

Sandy is also active in her community, where she serves on the A.E. Finley YMCA Branch Advisory Board. On that Board, she works with other members from the community to help establish programs and support the Finley YMCA, one of the largest in the country, in its efforts to serve its constituency in issues of health, wellness and fitness. She also donates time and service to various other nonprofit and charitable organizations, including Hudson Memorial Presbyterian Church, girl scouts and St. Timothy's Episcopal School.

Born in Morehead City, Sandy grew up in nearby New Bern, North Carolina. A charismatic high school teacher who made politics and government fascinating first drew Sandy's attention to the idea of law school, and she continued her studies of government and the legal system well into college. In 1986, Sandy received an Associate of Arts degree from Peace College in Raleigh, North Carolina, and then went on to attend the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill, where she earned a Bachelor of Arts degree in 1988. Sandy enrolled in law school at UNC and graduated with her Juris Doctor in 1991.

Married to Senior Vice President of Financial Development John Mitterling of the YMCA of the Triangle, Sandy lives in Raleigh with her husband and two daughters.

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### CARRIE BARBEE

Carrie Barbee is an associate in the firm's litigation department and dedicates her practice primarily to the representation of design professionals on construction projects. Her practice also extends to other construction claims, general business litigation, and defense of businesses and professionals from various state regulatory bodies. Carrie has represented clients in state court in North Carolina, as well as in mediation and arbitration. In her past experience as a construction attorney, she has represented general contractors, subcontractors, and home inspectors, among others, in cases ranging from complex construction projects to residential payment disputes. This experience gives Carrie a keen perspective in representing design professionals, as she is familiar with the pressures they experience from these other parties to the construction process.

Carrie graduated from Wake Forest University with a B.S. in Business from the Wayne Calloway School of Business and Accountancy. Upon graduation, Carrie worked for Congressman Mike McIntyre from the Seventh Congressional District of North Carolina. During this time, Carrie tracked federal legislation on issues including banking, transportation, and children, answered constituent mail, and served as liaison for Congressional Membership Organizations.

After two years in Congressman McIntyre's office, Carrie entered into law school at the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill. During her tenure in law school, she worked at the North Carolina Department of Justice, fulfilling responsibilities including analyzing election law, government contracting, and other issues for Attorney General advisements and opinions; researching issues for workplace violence legislation; and writing weekly legislative reports. Carrie also worked one summer for Everett, Gaskins, Hancock & Stevens, researching and preparing memoranda, pleadings, and motions relating to construction law and other issues, participating in hearings, and attending depositions and trials. Carrie also served as an extern in the office of Chief Judge John Martin of the North Carolina Court of Appeals.

A native of Raleigh, Carrie takes an active interest in local philanthropic activities. She is a member of the Junior League of Raleigh, having served as a member of the Planning Team, chair of the Literary Luncheon, and chair of the Carolina Color Gallery fundraiser. She is also active in local bar activities, participating with the Wake County Bar Association's Public Service Committee, and serving as the Chair of the Young Lawyers' Division Public Service Committee. In addition to these local organizations, Carrie volunteers for the negotiation skills training seminar for first year law students at the University of North Carolina School of Law, serving as a moderator for mock settlement negotiations between the students.

Carrie is admitted to practice in North Carolina and the Federal Court of the United States, Eastern District of North Carolina. She is a member of the North Carolina Bar Association and the Wake County Bar Association.



### JON DAVID HENSARLING

Jon David Hensarling is an associate practicing in the litigation department at Ragsdale Liggett PLLC, where he represents clients in complex business disputes, contract and construction disputes, professional malpractice disputes, and disputes involving unfair and deceptive trade practices, personal injury, and complex insurance matters. His practice also involves advising clients regarding e-discovery issues. A member of the North Carolina State Bar, the State Bar of Texas and the District of Columbia Bar, he is admitted to practice before the United States Supreme Court, the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Fourth, Fifth, and D.C. circuits, as well as the District of Columbia Circuit Court, the U.S. District courts for the Eastern, Western and Middle districts of North Carolina, and the U.S. District courts for the Southern, Northern, Eastern and Western districts of Texas.

JD has litigated cases involving mass torts and represented clients in the energy, petroleum, insurance, healthcare, education, telecommunications, railroad, medical, construction and brewing industries. Prior to joining Ragsdale Liggett, he practiced at a large Washington, D.C. firm, where he was an associate in the trial section dedicated to litigation involving securities fraud and contract claims. In Kazakhstan, JD has had experience in transactional work involving cross-border securities and financial transactions, local corporate law, structuring of foreign investments, regulatory compliance, capital markets development, and bank and financial sector reform. He also worked in the trial section of one of Houston's largest firms and as in-house counsel for SBC, now AT&T.

Born in Houston, Texas, JD studied at the Leningrad Polytechnic University in Leningrad, Russia, U.S.S.R. and completed a Bachelor of Arts degree in Russian/Soviet Studies and History from The College of William and Mary in Williamsburg, Virginia in 1992. He earned his *Juris Doctor* in 1996 at the University

of Houston Law Center in Houston, Texas, where he served on the *Houston Law Review*, and was a member of the Order of the Barristers, the National Moot Court Team and Phi Delta Phi. In 2005, JD earned a Master of Liberal Arts in Russian Studies from St. Thomas University in Houston.

Active in professional organizations, JD has served on the Board of Directors of the Texas Young Lawyers Association. He maintains memberships in the North Carolina Bar Association, the North Carolina Association of Defense Attorneys, the Wake County Bar Association, the 10th Judicial District Bar and DRI, the national organization of defense trial lawyers and corporate counsel. His affiliation with DRI includes involvement with the Commercial Litigation Committee, the E-discovery Committee, the Products Liability Committee and the Professional Ethics Committee. He lives in Raleigh, North Carolina with his wife and two sons.

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### **JOHN E. McKNIGHT**

John Edward McKnight is an associate attorney practicing in the litigation department of Ragsdale Liggett PLLC, where he concentrates on general and civil litigation. His practice includes cases involving construction law, employment law and contract dispute resolution. John is admitted to practice before all North Carolina state courts as well as the Federal Court for the Eastern District of North Carolina. He is a member of the American Bar Association, the North Carolina Bar Association, the Wake County Bar Association, the 10<sup>th</sup> Judicial District Court and the National Academy of Trial Lawyers.

Prior to joining Ragsdale Liggett, John served as an associate attorney at Hatch, Little & Bunn, LLP, where he gained extensive courtroom experience and managed all aspects of the firm's Domestic Law practice. At that time, John focused primarily on domestic law, but also handled cases involving local government issues, landlord-tenant disputes and breach of contract claims.

Originally from Greensboro, North Carolina, John received a Bachelor of Arts degree in Political Science in 1999 from the University of Central Florida in Orlando and his *Juris Doctor* from the Wake Forest University School of Law in Winston-Salem, North Carolina in 2004. He was a member of the Moot Court Board from 2002-2005, and served as the Chief Justice of that Board during the 2003-2004 term. He also competed in National Moot Court competitions and upon graduation was selected for membership in the National Order of Barristers.

John has remained active in local, state and national politics for years, including serving as Campaign Director and Treasurer for Lorrin Freeman's 2006 campaign to be the Wake County Clerk of Court. His involvement with this campaign was highlighted by his successful planning of campaign fundraisers and management of campaign activities, helping pave the way for Lorrin Freeman's victory in 2006. To this day, John remains Treasurer for the campaign committee and continues to manage financial reports and general accounting matters.

John currently resides in Raleigh, North Carolina.

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### **AMIE C. SIVON**

Amie C. SIVON is an associate attorney practicing in the litigation department of Ragsdale Liggett PLLC, where she concentrates on both general and complex civil litigation. Amie handles a variety of litigation matters, including business litigation, corporate disputes, insurance defense and appellate advocacy. She is admitted to practice before North Carolina state and federal courts, including the Fourth Circuit Federal Court of Appeals.

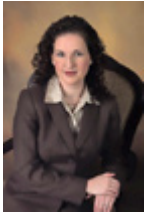
Amie is a member of the North Carolina Bar Association, the North Carolina Association of Women Attorneys, the Wake County Bar Association and the Wake Women Attorneys.

Amie grew up in Hickory, North Carolina, and received a Bachelor of Arts degree in History in 1998 from Wake Forest University, graduating *cum laude* and with Honors in History. Amie went on to attend the University of North Carolina School of Law where she received her *Juris Doctor* with High Honors in 2005 and was elected to the Order of the Coif.

While at UNC, Amie was a senior staff member of the North Carolina Journal of International Law and Commercial Regulation. She also received the Gressman-Pollitt Award for Excellence in Oral Advocacy and served as Pro Bono Board Public Relations Coordinator. During her law school tenure, Amie served as a legal extern to Justice Mark Martin on the North Carolina Supreme Court. She also worked with the North Carolina Department of State Treasurer, the Equal Employment Opportunity Commission and the Labor Section of the North Carolina Department of Justice.

Amie is active in Capital Area Teen Court, a private, nonprofit diversion/sentencing option in which youth offenders admit responsibility for their offenses and agree to be sentenced in a court of their peers.

Amie and her husband Jason reside in Apex, North Carolina.



### **ANGELA M. ALLEN**

An associate at Ragsdale Liggett PLLC, Angela M. Allen practices in the litigation department and joined the firm in January of 2010.

Angela received a B.A in Politics from Wake Forest University in 2002 and attended the Wake Forest University School of Law where she received her Juris Doctor in 2006.



### **JAMES L. CONNER II**

James L. Conner II ("Jim") is of counsel at Ragsdale Liggett PLLC. His practice emphasizes environmental law, administrative law, mediation, and commercial litigation. He is admitted to practice in the N.C. Supreme Court since 1984, Federal District Courts and the U.S. Court of Appeals, Fourth Circuit. Jim is a certified mediator for all N.C. courts (since 1992) as well as the U.S. District Courts for the Eastern and Middle Districts of North Carolina, and has served as a certified arbitrator for the Mecklenburg County courts.

Judge Conner advises and assists clients in:

\* Environmental law:

- o Evaluating and resolving environmental impacts and liabilities arising in connection with business and real estate transactions.
- o Obtaining environmental permits for and challenging environmental penalties for business enterprises.
- o Litigating in the Office of Administrative Hearings, the Superior Courts, and the federal courts questions of environmental liability, permitting decisions, and other matters.
- o Representing individuals and groups opposing illegal impacts upon the environment, zoning violations, and property impacts.

\* Health care law: Advising clients and advocating for them before agencies and courts regarding health care matters, including Medicaid eligibility and provider certification and reimbursement issues.

\* Litigation: Defending and prosecuting litigation in the state and federal courts involving real estate transactions and other business and commercial matters.

\* Administrative law: In addition to the above, representing clients before the Office of Administrative Hearings on a wide variety of challenges to government action.

He performs these duties by employing his extensive knowledge and background in litigation and in legislative and regulatory matters, including 25 years of litigation and government relations experience.

Judge Conner is also a very active and successful mediator. He concentrates in the mediation and resolution of complex matters.

Prior to joining Ragsdale Liggett, Jim worked as a judge, a large firm lawyer, and in his own boutique practice. Jim spent eight years as an attorney and mediator with J. Conner & Associates of Durham, N.C. and served as Administrative Law Judge for the Office of Administrative Hearings in Raleigh from 2000 to

2006. He previously served as the lead attorney for the Environmental Practice Group at Kennedy Covington Lobdell & Hickman in Charlotte, N.C. and an environmental and litigation attorney for Brooks, Pierce, McLendon, Humphrey and Leonard in Greensboro, N.C. During the 1980s his positions included partner at Abernathy, Roberson and Conner in Graham, N.C., recycling coordinator for Alamance County (N.C.), associate editor of the national Environmental Law Reporter at the Environmental Law Institute in Washington, D.C., and visiting instructor of law at the University of Illinois College of Law in Champaign, Ill.

He received his Juris Doctor with honors from the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill School of Law in Chapel Hill, N.C. after earning a bachelor's degree cum laude in Botany from Duke University in Durham in 1978.

A member of the N.C. Bar Association, Jim is now serving his third term as a council member for the Environmental and Natural Resources Law Section of the N.C. Bar Association and was program co-planner for its annual meeting in 1994 and 2003. Jim is a frequent speaker at N.C. Bar Association CLEs and other professional events.

Jim's community activities include serving on the Durham City/County Environmental Affairs Board, where he served as chair and vice chair. He was a member of the boards of directors of the Piedmont Land Conservancy, Durham Community Shelter for Hope, and North State Legal Services. In law school, he was founder and chair of the N.C. chapter of the Equal Justice Foundation, was a member of the N.C. Law Review, and earned the American Jurisprudence Awards in Torts and Contracts. Jim is an elder in the Presbyterian Church and has acted as a facilitator for the Durham Public Education Network Achievement Gap Initiative. He ran as a candidate for the Durham City Council in 1999.

Born in Roanoke, Va. and raised in Silver Spring, Md., Jim resides in Durham with his wife, Kathryn Summers, and two sons. He also has two grown sons, both of whom live in Asheville, N.C. He is an avid SCUBA diver, holder of the professional certification 'Divemaster', and former owner of Cape Fear Divers LLC and the SCUBA charter boat M/V Hawksbill.



### **WILLIAM A. MANN**

A partner at Ragsdale Liggett PLLC, William A. Mann practices in the firm's real estate department. Bill practices primarily in the fields of **real estate lending, tax and entity structuring for commercial real estate, mergers and acquisitions, and international law.**

Bill acts as counsel for sales to real estate investment trusts (REITs) and for developments such as privatized student housing facilities that are financed with tax-exempt bonds. He represents banks in connection with construction loans for commercial property. Bill helps clients form joint ventures or partnerships for the financing of all manner of real estate projects, including residential and mixed use projects, commercial office buildings, hotels, shopping centers and multi-family housing.

Bill is a member of the American, North Carolina, and Wake County Bar Associations, as well as the North Carolina Bar Association's Real Property Section. He belongs to the Christian Legal Society (CLS) and is listed in the *Bar Register of Preeminent Lawyers*, a directory of top legal professionals designated by their colleagues as preeminent in their field.

After forming his own firm in 1976, Bill merged his practice with Graham & James, a 450-lawyer firm based in San Francisco with eight domestic and nine foreign offices. As the former managing partner of the Raleigh office of Graham & James, Bill has represented many international companies in corporate and real estate contexts. In 1994, Bill joined Ragsdale Liggett as head of the firm's commercial real estate department.

Born in Los Angeles, Bill spent most of his formative years in northern New Jersey. He attended Phillips Academy, in Andover, Massachusetts. Bill received his Bachelor of Arts degree in English from the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill in 1965. He received his *Juris Doctor* from the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill in 1968 and was admitted to the North Carolina Bar.

Bill has served on the board of the Council for Entrepreneurial Development (CED), which provides an interactive forum for entrepreneurs, investors, service professionals, academicians, researchers and public policy makers to create an environment in which entrepreneurship can flourish. In other civic and charitable work, Bill is active in several ministries in and out of his church. He does pro bono and 501(c)(3) work for parachurches, nonprofit organizations and ministries. He has had a part in forming two churches, one of which now has over 2000 members. Bill and his wife, Sis, have three grown children and five grandchildren.



### **ROBERT J. RAMSEUR, JR.**

Robert J. Ramseur, Jr. is a partner at Ragsdale Liggett PLLC and chair of the Residential Real Estate Department. His practice focuses exclusively on residential and commercial real estate transactions, real estate financing and development, tax and entity structuring, lease negotiation and drafting, and real estate litigation.

Bob acts as counsel for buyers and sellers of residential and commercial real estate, real estate developers, homebuilders, banks and mortgage brokers, real estate brokers, landlords and tenants. His practice encompasses a wide variety of real estate issues, including foreclosure and eviction proceedings, partition actions, boundary disputes, title defect resolution and contract drafting. In addition to his extensive experience in all aspects of real estate transactions, Bob is a licensed North Carolina Real Estate Broker.

Licensed to practice law in North Carolina in 1996, Bob formed his own firm in 1997 and merged his practice with Ragsdale Liggett PLLC in 2001. He is admitted to practice in all State Courts of North Carolina, the District Court of the United States (Eastern District of North Carolina) and the United States Supreme Court. Bob is a member of the Wake County, 10th Judicial District and North Carolina Bar Associations and the Wake County Real Property Lawyers Association.

Business North Carolina, a magazine that covers business trends and issues in the state, each year mails ballots to every lawyer licensed by the State Bar and living in North Carolina. The ballots ask: "Of the North Carolina lawyers whose work you have observed firsthand, whom would you rate among the current best?" Voters in 2006 and 2007 selected Bob and he was subsequently inducted into the Legal Elite. Less than 3 percent of the state's lawyers made the list. In 2007, Bob received the *Triangle Business Journal's* 40 Under 40 Leadership Award. This award honors successful business leaders under the age of 40 who are making a difference in the community through business accomplishments and community involvement.

A native of Raleigh, Bob graduated with honors from Needham B. Broughton High School and received a Bachelor of Arts in History, *cum laude*, from Wake Forest University in 1992. He earned his law degree from Wake Forest University in 1995.

Civic and charitable activities take up an important part of Bob's life. In 2005, he was elected to the board of directors for The Theatre in the Park (TIP), the largest nonprofit community theatre in North Carolina. Bob will serve as President of the Board during 2007. He also serves on the Board of Directors of the Rotary Club of the Capital City as the Chair of International Service.

Donating his time, Bob has provided pro bono legal advice on housing issues and landlord-tenant disputes to low-income citizens in North Carolina. He volunteers and raises funds for Camps Sea Gull and Seafarer and is a "Wish-Granter" for the Make-A-Wish Foundation of Eastern North Carolina. He is a member of Hayes Barton United Methodist Church.

He and his wife, Amanda, have a son and a daughter and reside in Raleigh.

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### RICHARD O. BOLTON

A partner at Ragsdale Liggett PLLC, Richard O. Bolton practices in the real estate department. Richard's practice focuses on **real estate transactions, the formation of corporate entities for ownership of real estate, and the representation of various lenders, title companies and real estate developers**. Richard routinely **negotiates leases and contracts** and also handles **estate/probate** work. He is a member of the American, North Carolina, and Wake County Bar Associations.

Prior to Ragsdale Liggett, Richard was an attorney at Boxley, Bolton & Garber, LLP, where he practiced **probate, estate planning, real estate law, corporate law and civil litigation**. Deciding to concentrate on commercial real estate, Richard made the move to Ragsdale Liggett in 2005.

Richard's passion is mentoring inner city youth. He is a mentor for the literacy based YMCA community Hope program, for which he tutors and mentors children from a Raleigh housing community. Richard also volunteers time at his church and serves on the board of directors of Make-A-Wish Foundation of Eastern North Carolina as director, officer and legal counsel. Make-A-Wish grants the wishes of children with life-threatening medical conditions.

Dedicated to his community, Richard serves on the board of directors of the Dave Brumitt Foundation for Gastric and Esophageal Cancer Research. In 2004, Habitat for Humanity of Wake County named Richard Outstanding Legal Services Volunteer. He is a director of Camp Oak Hill and Retreat Center, a Christian camp that he has supported for many years, both financially and as a volunteer camp counselor.

Richard grew up in Raleigh, North Carolina and received his Bachelor of Arts degree cum laude from Wake Forest University in 1994. He received his Juris Doctor from the Wake Forest University School of Law in 1998, when he was admitted to practice in North Carolina. Richard and his wife, Angel, reside in Raleigh.

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### LISA PIERCY

Lisa Piercy works as a lobbyist in the Lobbying and Government Relations Group at Ragsdale Liggett PLLC, where her practice is devoted to lobbying on behalf of the firm's clients, as well as providing consulting services related to government agency matters. Lisa has been ranked among the Top 50 Lobbyists in North Carolina by the North Carolina Center for Public Policy Research. She is well known for her strong record of success representing clients with legislative and executive leaders of both political parties.

Prior to joining Ragsdale Liggett, Lisa owned and operated a Triangle lobbying and consulting firm for 11 years. She has worked on the staff of United States Senator Terry Sanford and served as assistant secretary in the North Carolina Department of Administration and as an entrepreneurial development specialist for the North Carolina Department of Commerce for Governor James B. Hunt Jr. She was also appointed by Governor Hunt to a four-year term on the North Carolina Employment Security Commission. Lisa has more than twenty years of government relations experience.

Originally from Boiling Springs, North Carolina, Lisa received a Bachelor of Arts degree in Political Science and French from Meredith College. She is a former board member of the Capital Area YMCA, Central YMCA and the Urban Ministries of Raleigh.

She lives in Raleigh, North Carolina.



### ASHLEY H. CAMPBELL

Ashley Campbell is an associate attorney at Ragsdale Liggett PLLC, where she practices in the areas of civil litigation and legislative and executive representation. Prior to joining Ragsdale Liggett, Ashley was tax counsel to the North Carolina General Assembly and served as committee counsel to the House Finance Committee.

Ashley handles a variety of litigation matters at Ragsdale Liggett, including business litigation, appellate advocacy and insurance defense and has extensive experience practicing in both state and Federal courts. Ashley also represents client interests before the North Carolina General Assembly and various government agencies.

Prior to joining the North Carolina General Assembly, Ashley was an attorney for Legal Aid of North Carolina, Inc., where she provided legal services to low-income residents in Gaston, Cleveland and Lincoln counties. She continues her work with Legal Aid by volunteering with Project Together, a project that partners attorneys in private practice with victims of domestic violence for purposes of obtaining a domestic violence protective order.

Ashley has been active in local, state and national politics for years, including stints on the D.G. Martin and Erskine Bowles for Senate campaigns. In 2002, she managed the successful re-election campaign of North Carolina Senator David Hoyle, and in 2001, she worked for Senator John Edwards in Washington, D.C.

Ashley is a member of the Board of Directors for the Women's Center of Wake County, which provides shelter and services for homeless women and children. A leader in the Junior League of Raleigh, Ashley focuses her volunteer efforts on training women to be community volunteers. She is a member of the North Carolina Bar Association, the North Carolina Association of Defense Attorneys, the North Carolina Association of Women Attorneys, and the North Carolina Professional Lobbyists Association.

Ashley was recently awarded the 2008 Pro Bono Impact award by Business Leader Media for her volunteer work with Project Together. She also received the *Triangle Business Journal's* 2008 40 Under 40 Leadership Award, which honors the best and the brightest of the Triangle's rising leaders under the age of 40.

Ashley is a native of Gastonia, North Carolina. She received a Bachelor of Arts with Honors in American Studies from the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill in 1999, and her *Juris Doctor* from the University of North Carolina School of Law in 2003.

Ashley and her husband Russell reside in Raleigh and attend White Memorial Presbyterian Church.