



D.J. O'Brien III  
PARTNER

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D.J. O'Brien's practice is constantly evolving to advise and represent employers and individuals in commercial litigation, employment law, and regulatory enforcement actions. He has deep experience in all levels of federal and state appellate and trial courts in North Carolina, including the N.C. Business Court.

### EMPLOYMENT LITIGATION

D.J. represents businesses in a variety of employment-related litigation cases, including class and collective actions and discrimination and wage-and-hour claims, before state and federal agencies and courts. He has worked with companies in a broad variety of industries, including technology companies and franchises.

### FALSE CLAIMS ACT AND QUI TAM ACTIONS

As part of his criminal and civil litigation practice, D.J. regularly represents individuals and corporations from a variety of industries, including the health care, construction, defense, transportation, and technology sectors, in claims asserted under the False Claims Act.

Recently, D.J.'s experience has included matters involving medical research grant fraud, including representing a whistleblower in a lawsuit against Duke University, who alleged that university researchers were committing grant fraud by relying on falsified experiment results. The case settled in 2019 for what is believed to be the largest recovery for research grant fraud in the history of the False Claims Act.

### COMMERCIAL LITIGATION

D.J. represents businesses and individuals in a range of sophisticated business disputes, including litigation involving the False Claims Act, securities, real estate, and shareholder disputes. He has deep experience litigating class and collective actions in state and federal court.

## WHITE COLLAR CRIMINAL DEFENSE

D.J. represents executives and companies who are under criminal or regulatory scrutiny concerning their business practices. He has extensive experience conducting sensitive internal investigations for companies, big and small, in a wide range of practice areas, including banking, health care, and securities.

## EXPERIENCE

Caddell Construction Company

## SERVICES

Class Action

Complex Business Litigation

Compliance & Internal Investigations

Employment Litigation

Federal Litigation

Financial Services and Banking

Insurance & Professional Services

Labor & Employment

Litigation

North Carolina Business Court

Professional Liability Litigation

Technology

White Collar Defense & Investigations

## CREDENTIALS

### Clerkships

Law Clerk to The Honorable James C. Dever, III, U.S. District Court, Eastern District of North Carolina, 2006-07

### Honors & Recognitions

Recognized as a "Labor and Employment Star" by *Benchmark Litigation* (2020-2021)

Selected by his peers for inclusion in *The Best Lawyers in America*© for Employment Law - Management (2019-2022)

Recognized in *North Carolina Super Lawyers* (Thomson Reuters) as a "Rising Star" in Business Litigation (2012)

North Carolina Bar Association Leadership Academy, Inaugural Class (2011)

### Education

**Wake Forest University School of Law**, J.D., 2006; Editor-in-Chief, *Wake Forest Law Review*, 2005-06

**Vanderbilt University**, B.A., 1998

### Admissions

North Carolina

U.S. Court of Appeals for the 4th and 11th Circuits

U.S. District Court for the Western, Middle, and Eastern Districts of North Carolina

### PROFESSIONAL & CIVIC

Local Civil Rules Committee, United States District Court for the Middle District of North Carolina (2019-present)

Member, Greensboro Criminal Justice Advisory Commission (2016-present)

Member, Board of Directors, Greensboro Rotary Club (2015-2018)

Member, Board of Trustees, AbolitionNC (2017-present)

Member, Our Lady of Grace Church Finance Council (2015-present)

President, Federal Bar Association, Middle District of North Carolina Chapter (2019-2020)

Youth Soccer Coach (2012-present)

Member, Board of Directors, HandyCapable Network, Inc. (2013-2016)

Member, Labor & Employment Law Section, North Carolina Bar Association

Member, Chief Justice Joseph Branch Inn of Court (2003-06, 2008-10)

## NEWSROOM

### News

72 Brooks Pierce Attorneys Recognized in *The Best Lawyers in America*® 2022 Guide  
*The Best Lawyers in America*®, 08.19.2021

Brooks Pierce Partners Secure Win in False Claims Act Case  
04.12.2021

Brooks Pierce Receives Top Ranking in 2021 Edition of Benchmark Litigation  
*Benchmark Litigation*, 11.09.2020

73 Brooks Pierce Attorneys Recognized in *The Best Lawyers in America*® 2021 Guide  
*The Best Lawyers in America*®, 08.20.2020

D.J. O'Brien Named President of the Federal Bar Association's Middle District of North Carolina Chapter  
11.21.2019

### Speaking Engagements

Brooks Pierce Attorneys Present Webinar on OSHA's New Healthcare Emergency Temporary Standard  
07.29.2021

Brooks Pierce Hosts Webinar on Navigating Non-Compete, Non-Solicitation and Confidentiality  
Agreements  
05.27.2021

Brooks Pierce Partners Participate in North Carolina Bar Association Expert Series CLE  
07.16.2020

Employment Law Changes Lunch and Learn in Greensboro  
04.25.2013

### Publications

Department of Labor "Overtime Rule" Enjoined by U.S. District Court  
11.23.2016

U.S. Department of Labor Publishes New Overtime Regulations

05.20.2016