

Jim Williams Receives Advocate's Award

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The North Carolina Bar Association held its annual meeting on June 24-27, 2010 in Wilmington, NC. During the meeting, Brooks Pierce partner Jim Williams was honored as the third person to receive the Advocate's Award, given by the North Carolina Bar Association's Litigation Section in recognition of superstars of the profession.

In order to be considered for the award, nominees must: (1) have the highest ethical standards; (2) have shown great skill and ability as a litigator/trial lawyer and commitment to the very best work product; (3) demonstrate a true commitment of service to clients; (4) demonstrate a respect for and love of the law; (5) be held in the highest regard by both bench and bar; (6) be dedicated to the community and the bar with a track record of pro bono and/or volunteer service; and (7) serve as an example of how to effectively balance both outstanding professional performance and other life endeavors.

In recommending Jim for the award, Wake Forest University President Nathan O. Hatch said, "In reading the list of criteria for this award and thinking about Mr. Williams' commitment and record, it seemed as if they were written to describe him.... He brings the same keen mind, rigorous logic and purposeful commitment to his service as a trustee that he brings to his law practice."

One colleague noted, "As an attorney and as a client, I have had the unique opportunity to observe his skill and effectiveness as a trial lawyer, his professional ethics and his true character as a person.... Jim was the most diligent and effective attorney with whom I worked as in-house counsel... his skill in the courtroom is unmatched.... I do not believe that there is a trial lawyer in North Carolina who is more deserving of the recognition as a 'superstar' of the legal profession."

Another lawyer commented, "Jim is a prodigious worker, but he is balanced. He has managed to be an outstanding attorney, a community leader, and a dedicated husband, father, and grandfather, in addition to being a skilled sailor and photographer.... I can personally witness to his interest and efforts on preserving and enhancing the attributes that have made the practice of law a noble profession.... He is the perfect example of the lawyer leader, committed to serving his clients, his profession, his community, and his family."

Jim Williams' practice is concentrated in business litigation and corporate matters for both businesses and professional organizations. He was twice recognized as the leading business litigator in North Carolina by *Business North Carolina* (2002 and 2003) and thereafter as a member of its "Legal Elite Hall of Fame". He has consistently been listed in *The Best Lawyers in America*

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(Woodward/White) and was named the first ever "Greensboro *Best Lawyers Bet-the-Company* Litigator of the Year" in 2009. *North Carolina Super Lawyers* listed him among the top ten lawyers in North Carolina in 2006-2009. He also has been recognized as one of the leading attorneys in Litigation: General Commercial, by "*Chambers USA: America's Leading Lawyers for Business*."

Jim is a member of The American College of Trial Lawyers and has served as Chair of the North Carolina State Committee of The American College of Trial Lawyers.