



Irvin W. Hankins III

Retired of Counsel

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t 704.335.9016



Hank Hankins served as the firm's managing partner from 1986 to 2002. After that, he was the firm's general counsel until 2017, when he became a retired partner. He has extensive experience in both state and federal courts. He has represented a wide variety of clients, including public utilities, insurance companies, manufacturing companies, chemical and textile companies, accounting firms, and attorneys.

In addition, Hank has advised professional organizations regarding management issues, partnership structures, partnership disputes, and legal ethics.

Hank has lectured on substantive and procedural aspects of litigation for various sponsors of continuing legal education and has made presentations regarding legal ethics and law firm management. He is admitted to practice before the federal district courts in North Carolina, the Fourth Circuit Court of Appeals, and the United States Supreme Court.

He has held leadership positions in the North Carolina State Bar and the community, including State Bar president (2007-2008), chairman of the Ethics Committee (2001-2003), chairman of Authorized Practice Committee (1999-2000), and council member (1997-2009). He has served as president of the UNC Law Alumni Association (2004) and general counsel to the Charlotte Chamber of Commerce (2002-2003). He was also an ABA House of Delegates member, a Queens University of Charlotte trustee, a UNC-Chapel Hill Board of Visitors member, and chairman of the North Carolina IOLTA board of trustees. Furthermore, he's an ABA Foundation Fellow, a member of the North Carolina Disciplinary Hearing Commission, a Queens University trustee emeritus, and a North Carolina State Bar Foundation trustee.

Hank served in the United States Navy from 1968 to 1972, as gunnery officer of the USS Manley DD-940, and as weapons officer, chief engineer, and operations officer of the USS Courtney DE-1021.

At the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill School of Law, Hank was administrative editor of the *North Carolina Law Review*, 1974-1975.

REPRESENTATIVE EXPERIENCE

- Insurance coverage and defense.



CHARLOTTE OFFICE



PRACTICE AREAS

- Electric & Gas Utilities
- Product Liability & Mass Tort
- Professional Negligence Defense
- Real Estate Litigation Litigation



EDUCATION

- University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill
JD, with honors, 1975
- University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill
AB, 1968



ADMISSIONS

- North Carolina, 1975
- U.S. District Court – Eastern District of North Carolina
- U.S. District Court – Middle District of North Carolina
- U.S. District Court – Western District of North Carolina



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- Products liability and industrial accidents.
- Personal injury, death and property damage, including claims unique to the defense of public utilities.
- Professional malpractice defense, particularly with respect to attorneys, accountants and design professionals.
- Toxic torts.
- General commercial disputes, including claims concerning real property, contracts, the Uniform Commercial Code and various forms of unlawful competition.

CLIENT ALERTS

- "Your Insurance Company is Defending a Lawsuit – Defense Counsel Selection in the Tripartite Relationship," February 2005

PUBLICATIONS

- "On Truthfulness in Negotiations," January 2009

HONORS

- UNC Law Alumni Association Lifetime Achievement Award
- American Bar Foundation, Fellow
- *The Best Lawyers in America* in Commercial Litigation, 2006-2020
- *Business North Carolina* magazine's "Legal Elite" in Litigation, 2002-2003, 2006 & 2008
- *North Carolina Super Lawyers*, 2006
- Martindale-Hubbell AV® Preeminent™ in Energy & Utilities; Products Liability; Insurance Coverage; Professional Negligence Defense; Tort Defense; Real Property Disputes; Litigation



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MEMBERSHIPS

- American Bar Association
- North Carolina Association of Defense Attorneys
- Southern Conference of Bar Presidents
- North Carolina State Bar, Disciplinary Hearing Commission, 2012-2018
- Mecklenburg County Bar
- North Carolina Bar Association