

JOHN S. BUFORD

Partner

John Buford's practice involves a variety of complex commercial and employment litigation at the trial and appellate levels in federal and state courts in Virginia and North Carolina, including the North Carolina Business Court and federal bankruptcy courts, as well as administrative proceedings before the State Corporation Commission. He also has experience in arbitration and other alternative dispute resolution fora. His interest is in using litigation technology to successfully position modern disputes for modern juries and judges.

John has represented corporate and individual clients in a variety of sophisticated business matters, including lawsuits involving internal corporate and LLC governance disputes, contracts, trademarks, unfair and deceptive trade practices, trade secrets, business defamation and other business torts, federal taxation, construction, bankruptcy adversary proceedings, and land use. John also represents employers in litigation brought by employees, including disputes involving discrimination, retaliation, and non-competition claims. In addition, he oversees the firm's electronic discovery software platform, including electronic document collection, review and production.

A native Virginian, John earned his law degree cum laude in 2002 from Washington & Lee University, where he was Executive Editor of the Law Review. John graduated from the University of Virginia in 1999, where he was a resident of the Lawn. Before joining the firm, he clerked for Senior District Judge Jackson L. Kiser in the Western District of Virginia and practiced for twelve years as an associate and partner in North Carolina.

Associations and Professional Memberships

American Health Lawyers Association
Federal Bar Association
North Carolina Bar Association
Virginia Bar Association



Practice Areas

Appellate
Commercial Litigation
e-Discovery
General Tort, Insurance, and
Product Liability Defense
Labor & Employment

Licensure

North Carolina
Virginia
U.S. District Court - Eastern
District of Virginia
U.S. District Court - Western
District of Virginia
U.S. District Court - Middle
District of North Carolina
U.S. District Court - Western
District of North Carolina
U.S. District Court - Eastern
District of North Carolina
U.S. Court of Appeals, Fourth
Circuit
U.S. Bankruptcy Court - Eastern
District of Virginia
U.S. Bankruptcy Court -
Western District of Virginia

Academic Credentials

University of Virginia, B.A.
Washington and Lee University,
J.D., *cum laude*

Executive Editor, *Washington &
Lee Law Review*

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Career Highlights

AV Preeminent®, Martindale-Hubbell®

Virginia Super Lawyers - Business Litigation (2025)

"Legal Elite," Virginia Business - Civil Litigation (2023, 2024)

"Rising Star," Virginia Super Lawyers - Business Litigation (2016, 2017)

"Rising Star," North Carolina Super Lawyers - Business Litigation (2010-2015)

"Legal Elite," Business North Carolina - Litigation (2014); Young Guns (2011)

"40 Under Forty," Triad Business Journal (2011)

Charles F. Blanchard "Outstanding Young Lawyer Award," North Carolina Bar Association (2010)

Community Involvement

Federal Bar Association Richmond Chapter Board of Directors (2023 - present)

Guilford County Historic Preservation Commission, Chairman (2008-2015)

North Carolina Bar Association and NCBA Foundation, Chairman - Young Lawyers Division; Member - Board of Governors (2012-2013)

Early Childhood Center of Greensboro, Board Member and Counsel to the Board

Bon Air United Methodist Church, Choir

Publications

Annual Contributor, Business Courts chapter, ABA Business & Corporate Litigation Committee's *Annual Review of Developments in Business and Corporate Litigation*, 2011-2015.

Guest Editor, *North Carolina Business Litigation Report*, 2010.

"Business Court: What North Carolina companies need to know," *Business North Carolina*, 2015.

Speaking Engagements

Business Court and Trial Technology Topics - UNC Festival of Legal Learning and Greensboro Bar Association