

JAMES L. CONNER II

RAGSDALE LIGGETT, PLLC
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Professional certifications

Certified Mediator: all N.C. courts; United States District Courts for the Eastern and Middle Districts of North Carolina. Original certification: 1994.
Member of the Bar: North Carolina Supreme Court (since 1984), Federal District Courts, United States Court of Appeals, Fourth Circuit
Certified Arbitrator: Mecklenburg County courts.

Professional experience

RAGSDALE LIGGETT, PLLC
Raleigh, North Carolina
Of Counsel May 2009 to present

Mediation of all types of civil disputes, with an emphasis on environmental matters and other complex cases. Representation of clients before all courts in environmental law matters, other administrative and government law matters, and general commercial litigation.

OFFICE OF ADMINISTRATIVE HEARINGS

Raleigh, North Carolina
Administrative Law Judge April 2000 to January 2006

Heard and decided contested cases between litigants involving over one hundred different causes of action. Environmental law expert. Wrote decisions, orders, and other documents. Mediated and settled active cases. Studied complex questions of law and policy. Conducted trials and hearings. Managed large docket.

J. CONNER & ASSOCIATES

Durham, North Carolina
Principal attorney and mediator March 1995 to April 2000
January 2006 to April 2009

Managing attorney and business owner for small, high-tech law firm. Mediated numerous civil actions in the Superior Courts and the Office of Administrative Hearings. Litigated and advised clients in a variety of environmental, agricultural, and land use matters. Managed extremely large and complex cases. Lead counsel group in major CERCLA case. Represented local governments in litigation and transactional matters. Represented companies on CERCLA and other pollution issues. Represented citizen groups, plaintiffs, and other injured parties.

KENNEDY COVINGTON LOBDELL & HICKMAN

Charlotte, North Carolina May 1993 to March 1995
Lead attorney, Environmental Practice Group; mediator

BROOKS, PIERCE, MCLENDON, HUMPHREY AND LEONARD

Greensboro, North Carolina July 1989 to May 1993
Environmental and litigation attorney

At both firms: Litigated and negotiated environmental matters with state and federal agencies, with an emphasis on representation of substantial enterprises. Litigated and negotiated cost recovery and site remediation matters under RCRA, CERCLA, and state law. Advised companies, from Fortune 100 corporations to sole proprietorships, as to their rights and obligations under environmental statutes and regulations. Provided advice on environmental matters to corporate, banking, and real estate attorneys and their clients. Supervised associate attorneys.

ALAMANCE COUNTY HEALTH DEPARTMENT

Burlington, N.C. April 1988 to July, 1989
Recycling Coordinator

Conceptualized and developed a comprehensive recycling plan for Alamance County, convinced elected officials and the public of its efficacy, obtained the necessary twenty fold funding increase, and implemented it. The program is broadly regarded as among the most successful in the state, and has been used as a model for other programs.

ABERNATHY, ROBERSON, AND CONNER

Graham, North Carolina September 1985 to April 1988
Partner, law firm

Handled bench and jury trials and all other aspects of a general and administrative litigation practice. Advised clients on a wide variety of matters. As a partner, involved in all management decisions.

ENVIRONMENTAL LAW INSTITUTE

Washington, D.C. June 1984 to September 1985
Associate Editor, Environmental Law Reporter

Editor of national environmental law reference at this national, non-partisan environmental think tank. Edited for style and substance articles for publication from outside authors, both law faculty and practicing attorneys. Wrote articles for publication. Analyzed case law and legislation. Coordinated with other staff on their projects.

UNIVERSITY OF ILLINOIS COLLEGE OF LAW

Champaign, Illinois August 1983 to June 1984
Visiting Instructor of Law

Taught legal research, writing, and appellate advocacy to law students.

Education

UNIVERSITY OF NORTH CAROLINA SCHOOL OF LAW
Chapel Hill, North Carolina
J.D. with Honors, May 1983

DUKE UNIVERSITY
Durham, North Carolina
A.B. cum laude in Botany, December 1978

Honors and activities

Council member, Environmental and Nat'l Res. Law Section,
N.C. Bar Assn. (1987-91)(2001-2004)(2008-2011)
Elder, First Presbyterian Church (Member of Session 1997-2001)
Facilitator, Durham Public Edu. Network Achievement Gap Initiative (2001)
Co-chair, Diversity Committee, First Presbyterian Church (2000-02)
Candidate, Durham City Council (1999)
Recipient, Pyne Historic Preservation Award (1996)
Board of Directors, Durham Community Shelter for Hope (1998-99)
Member, Durham City/County Environmental Affairs Board (1995-2000)
Vice-Chair (1997-98); Chair (1998-99)
Program co-planner, Annual Meeting of the Environmental and Natural
Resources Law Section, North Carolina Bar Association (1994,
2003).
Board of Directors, Piedmont Land Conservancy (1992-93)
Founder and Chair (1988-90), Haw River Group, Sierra Club
Recipient, Chapter Service Award, North Carolina Sierra Club (1990)
Board of Directors, North State Legal Services (1986-89)
Member, North Carolina Law Review (1982-83)
Founder and Chair, Equal Justice Foundation, N. C. Chapter (1982-83)
American Jurisprudence Awards in Torts and Contracts (highest
grade)(1980)
Various other community and bar service activities

Personal

Active SCUBA diver: certified to highest recreational level, and holder of
the professional certification "Divemaster". Owner of SCUBA
charter boat, the M/V Hawksbill out of Carolina Beach, NC.