

Chelsea Merritt

Associate

Charlotte

chelsea.merritt@troutman.com

D 704.916.2366



OVERVIEW

Chelsea focuses her practice on representing both plaintiffs and defendants in a wide variety of complex civil litigation matters. She received her J.D. from the University of North Carolina School of Law.

REPRESENTATIVE MATTERS

- Overturned a municipality's denial of real estate developer's master plan approval after a multiday hearing involving multiple witnesses.
- Upheld a national restaurant operator's zoning and property rights on appeal from a municipal administrative decision.
- Representing a public utility in land use and tort disputes.
- Representing national real estate developers before quasi-judicial bodies.
- Representing a national grocery store chain in contract disputes.
- Represented national insurance companies in both affirming and challenging public contract awards.
- Represented a national bank in class action regarding mortgage forbearances.
- Obtained one of the year's largest summary judgment awards in North Carolina federal courts for national company in contract dispute.
- Obtained victory in the North Carolina Supreme Court on behalf of a public utility regarding easement rights.
- Represented a bank and loan servicer in defeating class allegations in a case involving California consumer protection statutes.
- Represented restaurants and restaurant management companies in alleged class action.

AWARDS

- Pathfinder Program, Leadership Council on Legal Diversity

TOP AREAS OF FOCUS

- Business Litigation
- Class Action

ALL AREAS OF FOCUS

- Business Litigation
- Class Action
- Litigation + Trial

PROFESSIONAL/COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT

- Participant, Saturday Lawyer Program, Atlanta Volunteer Lawyers Foundation

PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

- Department of In-House Counsel, Duke Energy Corp., 2016

EDUCATION AND CERTIFICATIONS

EDUCATION

- University of North Carolina School of Law, J.D., *with honors*, 2018, recipient, Gressman-Pollitt Oral Advocacy Award; coach, Winners of 2018 Southern Regional Thurgood Marshall Mock Trial Competition
- University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill, B.A., *with honors*, 2012

BAR ADMISSIONS

- Georgia
- North Carolina

PUBLICATIONS

- Co-author, "Why the Data Care Act Matters," *National Law Journal*, January, 25, 2019.