Christopher G. Browning, Jr.

Partner

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OVERVIEW

Chris is a highly experienced litigator with a strong background in appellate practice, complex commercial litigation, business torts, environmental disputes, and governmental relations.

Chris served for seven years as the first solicitor general for the state of North Carolina. He has argued five times before the U.S. Supreme Court and has had multiple arguments before the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Fourth Circuit, the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Eleventh Circuit, the North Carolina Supreme Court, and the North Carolina Court of Appeals.

As North Carolina's first solicitor general, Chris established the policies and procedures for that office and the process for the solicitor general's review and management of all civil appeals involving the state of North Carolina. In addition, he served as an adviser to the North Carolina attorney general with respect to appellate issues and other policy matters. As solicitor general, Chris worked closely with virtually every division and section within the North Carolina Department of Justice, as well as numerous general counsel and agency heads within the executive branch of North Carolina state government. In recognition of his service as solicitor general, then-Governor Beverly Perdue awarded Chris the Order of the Long Leaf Pine for extraordinary service to the state.

Prior to working for the state, Chris was a partner at a law firm where his practice focused on complex litigation matters. While at that firm, he was part of a trial team handling one of the longest war crimes proceedings in history — a case tried in the Hague, Netherlands before the International Criminal Tribunal for the former Yugoslavia.

Chris recently completed a three-year term as a vice president of the Board of Governors of the North Carolina Bar Association and is a past chair of the association's Appellate Rules Committee. He is among the first attorneys certified as an appellate practice specialist by the North Carolina State Bar Board of Legal Specialization and was appointed to the State Bar's Appellate Practice Specialization Committee. He served as North Carolina's representative to the Fourth Circuit's Advisory Committee on Rules and Procedures.

Chris also served as the Fourth Circuit representative to the ABA's Standing Committee on the Federal Judiciary, is a past chair of the American Bar Association's Judicial Division, and has worked on numerous other ABA committees and working groups. He is a Fellow of the American Bar Foundation. Chris is also a Fellow of the American Academy of Appellate Lawyers.

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Chris has taught appellate practice at Duke University School of Law as a senior lecturing fellow. He is a frequent speaker before bar associations and other organizations on issues relating to appellate practice, complex litigation, and original actions before the U.S. Supreme Court.

AWARDS

- *Super Lawyers North Carolina:* Appellate (2013-2023)
- *Best Lawyers in America*®: Appellate Practice (2015-2027), Commercial Litigation (2016-2027)
- *Business North Carolina*: "Legal Elite" (2020)
- *Chambers USA*: Litigation: General Commercial, North Carolina (2016-2026) and Litigation: Appellate, North Carolina (2022-2026)
- *Best Lawyers in America*®: "Lawyer of the Year" in Appellate (2017)
- North Carolina State Bar Certified Specialist: Appellate Practice
- Order of the Long Leaf Pine

TOP AREAS OF FOCUS

- Appellate + Supreme Court
- Business Litigation
- Government + Regulatory Litigation

ALL AREAS OF FOCUS

- Appellate + Supreme Court
- Business Litigation
- Environmental Litigation + Enforcement Defense
- Government + Regulatory Litigation
- Litigation + Trial
- State Attorneys General

PROFESSIONAL/COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT

- United States Court of Appeals for the Fourth Circuit – Advisory Committee on Rules and Procedures (2011-2017)
- Duke University School of Law, Senior Lecturing fellow (Appellate Practice) (2012)
- North Carolina Bar Association – vice president, Board of Governors (2023-2026)
- North Carolina Bar Foundation – vice president, Board of Directors (2023-2026)
- North Carolina Bar Association – Appellate Rules Committee, past-chair
- North Carolina State Bar – Appellate Practice Specialization Committee (2011-2022)
- Chair, Judicial Division, American Bar Association (2021-2022)
- Fourth Circuit Representative, American Bar Association Standing Committee on the Federal Judiciary (2024-2025)
- Chair, Judicial Division Lawyers Conference, American Bar Association (2016-2017)
- Executive Committee of the Section Officers Conference, American Bar Association (2013-2015)
- Permanent member, Fourth Circuit Judicial Conference

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- UNC Law Alumni Association, Judicial Clerkship Committee
- Campbell University School of Law, Board of Visitors (2012-2018)
- Fellow, American Bar Foundation
- Fellow, American Academy of Appellate Lawyers

PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

- Solicitor general, State of North Carolina, 2004-2011

EDUCATION AND CERTIFICATIONS

EDUCATION

- University of North Carolina School of Law, J.D., *with honors, Order of the Coif*, 1986, research editor, *North Carolina Law Review*
- University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill, B.A., *Phi Beta Kappa*, 1983

BAR ADMISSIONS

- North Carolina
- Georgia

CLERKSHIPS

- Hon. James C. Hill, U.S. Court of Appeals, Eleventh Circuit, 1986-1987

SPEAKING ENGAGEMENTS

- Panelist, ABA's Bench & Bar Academy, April 4-5, 2022.

MEDIA COMMENTARY

- Quoted, "Supreme Preparation," *ABA Journal*, March 31, 2023.
- Quoted, "Do Midnight Filing Deadlines Offer Flexibility or Burden? Lawyers Debate Time Change Proposal," *Law.com*, October 5, 2022.
- Mentioned, "Circuit Split Not 'Minor' in $58M Tax Row, Tobacco Co. Says," *Law360*, May 21, 2019.
- Mentioned, "Supreme Court Asked to Burn Tobacco Co.'s $58M Tax Tab," *Law360*, January 29, 2019.

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