

Shelley Coleman

With seventeen years of litigation experience, Shelley presently focuses her practice on defending employers and their insurance carriers in a multitude of workers' compensation matters, with particular emphasis on workers' compensation coverage. Her coverage experience includes policy cancellation issues, matters involving multi-level contractor issues and independent contractor issues. Beyond cases involving coverage, Shelley regularly handles a variety of other types of workers' compensation claims including litigation of injury by accident issues, occupation disease claims, death claims, fraud claims and complex medical causation matters. Shelley's litigation career began with defending mass product liability claims. She also has experience handling other general civil matters including premises liability and personal injury.

Shelley also heads Hedrick Gardner's appellate advocacy team. This work routinely leads her to handle cases before the North Carolina Court of Appeals and the North Carolina Supreme Court. She advises clients about appellate issues, devises strategies for framing the arguments, and recommends a course of action when deciding whether to appeal. Additionally, she takes on matters at the appellate level even when those cases have been handled by other attorneys through trial. Shelley actively engages in educating other lawyers about appellate practice as well. She recently participated with Supreme Court Justices and Court of Appeals Judges to provide continuing education on oral advocacy.

Shelley frequently speaks at firm hosted seminars and is routinely requested as a speaker for industry events. She also served as a Kids Chance of North Carolina board member for a

number of years. In between practicing law and serving as a taxi driver for her twin sons and daughter, Shelley enjoys running and reading.

Practice Areas

- Appellate Advocacy
- Civil Litigation
- Insurance Law
- Workers' Compensation

Education

- J.D., Washington and Lee University, 1995
- B.S., University of Alabama, (cum laude), 1991

Professional and Civic Involvement

- North Carolina State Bar
- North Carolina Bar Association
- North Carolina Association of Defense Attorneys
- Mecklenburg County Bar Association
- American Bar Association
- Defense Research Institute

Bar and Court Admissions

- North Carolina State Bar
- U. S. Court of Appeals, Fourth Circuit
- U. S. District Courts, Eastern and Western Districts of North Carolina