

# Ronald L. Gibson

RUFF, BOND, COBB, WADE & BETHUNE, L.L.P.  
831 E. Morehead Street, Suite 560  
Charlotte, North Carolina 28202  
Telephone: (704) 377-1634; Cell (704) 302-4069  
Email: [rgibson@rbcwb.com](mailto:rgibson@rbcwb.com)

## Summary of Experience

Mr. Gibson is a seasoned trial attorney, having litigated numerous cases in Federal and State Court to decision or verdict, and through appeals, including class action employment cases, administrative proceedings before the Nuclear Regulatory Commission, the North and South Carolina Utility Regulatory Commissions and the North Carolina Property Tax Commission. His diverse professional career involves legal and management experience, including private law practice, in-house counsel, officer level management and external management consulting.

His current law practice primarily involves representing various agencies and departments of North Carolina's largest County, including the Tax Assessor, Building Code Enforcement and the Board of Elections. He has served as counsel to Livingstone College in Salisbury, North Carolina since 2005, handling a broad range of matters, including litigation, employment, academic accreditation and NCAA compliance. Mr. Gibson led the confidential review of management of a collegiate athletic conference, which led to significant reforms of Conference operations.

He has held significant leadership positions in the legal profession, including:

- President of the North Carolina State Bar, the organization responsible for the regulation of the legal profession in the state, including ethics opinions and attorney discipline.
- Member of the Board of Law Examiners, which is responsible for grading the North Carolina Bar Exam and conducting hearings on applicants' character and fitness to be licensed to practice law.
- Director of Lawyers Mutual Insurance Company of North Carolina, serving as Chair of the Claims Committee and as a member of the Governance and Finance and Audit Committees.
- Presented with the Chief Justice's Professionalism Award by the Chief Justice of the North Carolina Supreme Court for "dedication and commitment to the principles of professionalism in the legal community in North Carolina".

## **Education**

JD - University of North Carolina School of Law, 1978  
Watson Fellow, Independent Travel-Study, 1975  
Davidson College, BA, Economics, 1974

## **Affiliations**

North Carolina State Bar: Elected Councilor, 1985-1991 and 2003-2012; Vice- President, 2013; President-Elect, 2014; President, 2015

Certified Mediator by the NC Dispute Resolution Commission  
North Carolina Board of Law Examiners, 2017 to present  
Director, Lawyers Mutual Insurance Company of North Carolina, 2012 to present  
American Bar Association NC Delegate, 2016-2019  
UNC Law Alumni Association Board of Directors  
Vann Center for Ethics Advisory Board, Davidson College  
Davidson College Board of Visitors

## **Significant Appellate Cases**

*State ex rel. Utilities Comm. v. Public Staff* (S. Ct. No. 416A89)  
*In re: Harris Teeter, LLC* (S. Ct. No. 311A20), COA No. 19-927  
*In re: Pop Capitol Towers, LP* COA No. 21-357  
*Gribble v. Madcat Enters., Inc.*, No. COA 19-1092  
*In re: Coggins*, COA No. 17-1275  
*DeBruhl v. Mecklenburg County Sheriff*, COA No. 17-880  
*In re: Michelin North America, Inc.*, COA No. 15-414  
*Jensen v. Jessamy, et al*, COA No. 15-35  
*Williams v. Livingstone College, Inc.*, COA No. 14-696  
*Hurst, et al v. Moorehead I, LLC*, COA No. 12-1285

## **Significant Presentations**

- National Conference of Bar Presidents 2016 Mid-Year Meeting, Challenges for Unified Bars- “The LegalZoom Controversy and Settlement”
- Lawyer Assistance Program (LAP) 2015 Annual Conference
- North Carolina Superior Court Judge’s Conference 2015

## **Professional Experience**

2003 to present - private law practice<sup>1</sup>

**RUFF, BOND, COBB, WADE & BETHUNE, L.L.P.** since 2011:

- Representing Mecklenburg County in litigation in Federal and State Courts and before administrative agencies, including the North Carolina Property Tax Commission.
- Providing counsel and representing various County departments, including the Tax Assessor and the Board of Elections.
- Counsel to Livingstone College in Salisbury, North Carolina since 2005, handling a broad range of matters, including litigation, employment, academic accreditation and NCAA compliance.
- Representing other clients in various litigation matters, including contract and construction disputes.

1999 - 2003 - **owner of Gibson Insurance Agency, Inc.**

- Property, casualty, life and health insurance, and financial services; Series 6 and 63 Securities Licenses (Inactive)

1997 - 1998 **Scott, Madden & Associates, Management Consultants**, Raleigh, North Carolina

Key Consultant Engagements and Presentations:

- Led the planning team of a four service municipal utility system develop critical success factors, key performance measures and a new business planning model;
- Performed diagnostic assessments of utility marketing functions for gas and electric utilities;
- Led cross-functional teams in development and implementation of marketing planning processes;
- Designed an organization structure for a natural gas distribution company;
- Led a large electric utility sales and customer service process improvement team; and
- Developed a strategic plan for a municipal electric system preparing for electric industry restructuring.

1983 - 1997 **Duke Power Company (now Duke Energy)**

Vice President, Sales, March 1996 to February 1997, responsible for the sales force for all customer segments in the electric company, economic development efforts and energy services.

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<sup>1</sup> Private practice with different firms from 2003 to 2011.



Vice President, Marketing, May 1995 to March 1996, responsible for development of plans and strategies for retail electric customers, which included market planning, research, forecasting, budgeting and process measurements.

Vice President, Marketing and Customer Planning, November 1992 to May 1995, responsible for market planning, research and advertising, and regulatory relations.

Manager, Rate Department, June 1990 to November 1992, responsible for:

- Electricity pricing and regulatory relations with the Commissioners and Staffs of the North and South Carolina Regulatory Commissions.
- Preparation of the 1991 General Rates cases in North and South Carolina and before the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission.

Legal Department, 1983 - June 1990

- Trial attorney for licensing hearings before the Nuclear Regulatory Commission for the Catawba Nuclear Station, 1983.
- Trial attorney for general rate cases before North Carolina and South Carolina State Regulatory Commissions, 1983-88.
- Responsible for a variety of regulatory and other legal matters including regulatory approval of the acquisition of Nantahala Power Company; and
- Lobbied the North Carolina legislature for re-enactment of the utility fuel-clause adjustment statute and enactment of a new utility facility siting statute.

1979 - 1983 **Chambers, Stein, Ferguson, Watt, Wallas, Adkins & Fuller, P.A.**

Private law practice in Charlotte, North Carolina, primarily engaged in employment discrimination class action and school desegregation litigation in North and South Carolina Federal Courts.

1978 - 1979 Law Clerk to The Honorable James B. McMillan, United States District Judge for the Western District of North Carolina