



## Linda Stephens Of Counsel

OFFICE Raleigh, NC

PHONE (919) 719-2820

FAX (919) 832-9425

EMAIL [lstephens@hedrickgardner.com](mailto:lstephens@hedrickgardner.com)

[www.HedrickGardner.com](http://www.HedrickGardner.com)

### **PRACTICES**

Workers' Compensation,  
Appellate Advocacy

### **EDUCATION**

J.D., University of North  
Carolina at Chapel Hill, 1979

B.A., University of  
South Carolina, magna  
cum laude, 1973

### **BAR AND COURT ADMISSIONS**

North Carolina State Bar

U.S. District Court, Eastern  
and Middle Districts  
of North Carolina

U.S. Court of Appeals,  
Fourth Circuit

U.S. Supreme Court

Judge Linda Stephens brings nearly four decades of experience to her clients, including eleven years as a NC Court of Appeals Judge, four years as a Deputy Commissioner at the NC Industrial Commission, and over 20 years of private practice. At Hedrick Gardner, she serves a client base ranging from small and medium size businesses to Fortune 500 companies.

Linda's distinguished career includes many firsts. She was the first person in her family to graduate high school and became the first female law clerk to Court of Appeals Judge Fred Hedrick. After serving four years as a Deputy Commissioner at the NC Industrial Commission, she became the first female associate at a Raleigh law firm and five years later, its first female partner. She served as the first female president of the NC Association of Defense Attorneys and was the first person to ever receive the highest awards from both the NC Association of Defense Attorneys and the North Carolina Advocates for Justice.

Judge Stephens was appointed to the Court of Appeals by Governor Mike Easley in 2006. During her years as a judge, she earned a reputation of applying the law fairly to everyone. In her last campaign, she earned the endorsements of both the North Carolina Association of Defense Attorneys and the North Carolina Advocates for Justice, representing opposing sides in the courtroom.

### **PRESENTATIONS**

Presenter of continuing legal education seminars and panel participant on topics including ethics, professional responsibility, appellate practice, workers' compensation, women in the judiciary and the legal profession.

## HONORS

2020 H. Brent McKnight  
Renaissance Lawyer Award,  
N.C. Bar Association

2017 NC Pro Bono Honor Society

2016 Appellate Judge of the  
Year, N.C. Advocates for Justice

2015 J. Robert Elster Award for  
Professional Excellence (First  
female recipient; presented by N.C.  
Association of Defense Attorneys)

2013 Woman of Justice Award  
GFWC of North Carolina Woman  
of Achievement, 2009

Listed in *The Best Lawyers in  
America*®, Workers' Compensation  
Section, 1995-2006

*North Carolina Super  
Lawyers*® Recognition 2006  
(Top 50 Women Lawyers)

2002 Recipient of Defense  
Research Institute's Fred H.  
Sievert Outstanding Defense  
Bar Leader Award

DRI Exceptional Performance  
Citation, 2002

NCAWA Woman of Wisdom  
Award, 2007, 2006

Life Member, National  
Registry of Who's Who

Algernon Sydney Sullivan  
Award, 1973

Phi Beta Kappa, 1972

USC Woman of the Year, 1972  
Carolina Scholar, 1969-1973

## PROFESSIONAL AND CIVIC INVOLVEMENT

- Temporary Wake County Administrative Law Judge, 2019
- Board Member, Women's Forum of North Carolina, 2019
- ACLU-NC
  - » *Legal Committee member, 2017-present*
  - » *Member of Executive Board, 2019-present*
  - » *Legal Committee Chair, 2019-present*
- Adjunct Faculty, National Institute of Trial Advocacy (NITA) 2019-present
  - » *Motion Skills Training Program*
- UNC Craven Competition semi-final round 2019, Judge
- N.C. Equal Access to Justice Commission 2017-present
  - » *Pro Bono Resource Center Advisory Board 2018-present*
- Member, Family Court Advisory Committee August 2013-2016
- North Carolina Association of Defense Attorneys, 1993-2005
  - » *Director 1993-1996*
  - » *Secretary 1997-1999*
  - » *Executive Vice-President 1999-2000*
  - » *President-Elect 2000-2001*
  - » *President 2001-2002*
- Chair, North Carolina Defense Fund, 2002-2005
- Chair, North Carolina State Bar Workers' Compensation Specialization Committee, 2003-2005
  - » *Committee member, 2000-2003*
- North Carolina State Liaison, Defense Research Institute, Workers' Compensation Section, 1998-2005
- Wake County Bar Association
- North Carolina Bar Association
- North Carolina Association of Women Attorneys
  - » *(Chair, Judicial Division 2010-2012)*
- Wake Women Attorneys
- Board of Directors, Purr Partners Rescue