



Jennifer V. Ruiz

Partner

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PRACTICES

Workers' Compensation

EDUCATION

J.D., University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill, 2002

B.A., Peace College, 1999

A.A., Peace College, 1997

BAR & COURT ADMISSIONS

North Carolina State Bar

Jennifer has been in litigation practice for 14 years with a focus in the area of workers' compensation. She regularly defends employers, carriers, and self-insureds; and has considerable experience at all levels of litigation, including mediations, hearings, medical depositions, Full Commission hearings, workers' compensation lien hearings in Superior Court and the Court of Appeals. She has obtained favorable results for clients in a variety of workers' compensation matters including injury by accident, specific traumatic incident, catastrophic injury, medical causation/treatment, ongoing disability, and return to work issues and disputes.

Jennifer is managing partner of the firm's Raleigh office. She has served in leadership roles on many of Hedrick Gardner's committees, including the Women to Women Initiative, the Associate Development Committee, and the Diversity Committee. Associate development and mentoring have always been near and dear to Jennifer's heart. She always embraces the opportunity to teach and makes a point to acknowledge diversity in skill and perception.

In 2010, Jennifer was identified as one of Business Leader's Movers & Shakers in the local business community. Jennifer was also selected to the North Carolina Rising Stars list, published nationwide in Super Lawyers® Magazines from 2010-2012. Jennifer was selected by her peers for inclusion in The Best Lawyers in America© 2016 - 2019 in the field of Workers' Compensation Law - Employers.

In addition to her legal practice, Jennifer regularly presents continuing education seminars for her clients on topics such as occupational diseases, psychological injuries, case law updates,

injuries by accident, and Medicare concerns. She has also presented at legal seminars for fellow North Carolina attorneys on proper handling of workers' compensation claims from a defense attorney's perspective. In 2012, she presented at the North Carolina Association of Defense Attorneys' Annual Meeting on legislative developments in the workers' compensation arena. In 2012 and 2013, Jennifer was co-organizer and moderator for the North Carolina Bar Association's Workers' Compensation Section's annual two-day legal conference. She has also been asked to serve as a panel speaker at her alma mater for career mentors as well as at Campbell Law School to address mediating workers' compensation claims for the defense.

Despite a demanding career and a busy family life with two young children, Jennifer is always striving to make a positive impact in the community. She demonstrates social responsibility as a normal part of the way she lives and works. Jennifer stays busy with community activities that benefit a wide range of organizations and populations. You will find her contributing to every donation drive she can find – at her workplace, church or kids school. She has organized the 9/11 day of service for her neighborhood, participated in fundraisers for cancer research and the Respiratory Health Association, and is a dedicated volunteer at her church.

PROFESSIONAL & CIVIC INVOLVEMENT

- North Carolina State Bar
- Defense Research Institute
- North Carolina Association of Defense Attorneys