

## Biographies of Speakers



Eddie Speas  
Partner, Poyner Spruill

Edwin M. Speas joined Poyner Spruill in 2003 after 32 years in the Office of the Attorney General of North Carolina where he served as Chief Deputy Attorney General and led those sections of the Attorney General's Office responsible for representing public officials in complex and controversial litigation, for representing North Carolina's public school system, and for representing the University of North Carolina. In 2008, Mr. Speas was appointed General Counsel for Governor Bev Perdue. He returned to Poyner Spruill in 2011.

The focus of Mr. Speas' work over the years has been the application of legal principles in a courtroom setting to disputes concerning legislative and congressional redistricting, educational policies and practices, tax policy, and employment practices.

He is a Fellow of the American College of Trial Lawyers and received the first Distinguished Service Award from the Education Section of the North Carolina Bar Association.



Melanie Dubis  
Partner, Parker Poe

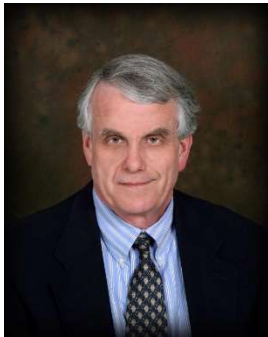
Melanie Dubis is lead counsel for the plaintiffs in the *Leandro* case. Melanie handles complex patent, securities, and other business disputes at the trial and appellate level for corporate and individual clients in the pharmaceutical, manufacturing, insurance, financial services, and technology industries.

She has experience in North Carolina state and federal courts, the U.S. Courts of Appeals for the Fourth and Federal Circuits, and in arbitration proceedings.

Melanie has represented generic pharmaceutical manufacturers in patent litigation under the Hatch-Waxman Act, served as national defense counsel in class action lawsuits involving insurance regulations pending in multiple federal jurisdictions, and defended clients in false advertising and unfair

competition claims filed by the Federal Trade Commission (FTC). She also represents corporations and their boards of directors in derivative actions.

She appreciates that her clients benefit from doing business in a thriving business region with a high quality of life, and she plays an active role in keeping the Raleigh-Durham area at the top of the “best of” lists through service on numerous boards and committees.



Larry Armstrong  
Attorney, Armstrong Law

Larry Armstrong is an attorney with Armstrong Law. He was born in Rocky Mount and attended the Halifax County Public Schools. He graduated Phi Beta Kappa from UNC Chapel Hill in 1972 and the UNC Law School in 1975. He has practiced law in Enfield since 1975, first in a small firm and as a sole practitioner since 2006. He has been general counsel for Halifax Electric Membership Cooperation for 38 years and has represented the Halifax County Public Schools for almost 30 years. His practice today is focused on real estate, business clients, and decedents' estates. As the attorney for the Halifax County Public Schools, he began working on what was to eventually become the *Leandro* case in the fall of 1993.