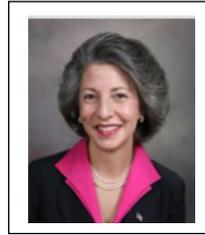


# Erna A.P. Womble



## Winston-Salem

Erna has more than 23 years of legal experience in all phases of products liability defense and life, health and disability insurance/ERISA issues. Her work has included:

- Learning the intricacies of her clients' business and industry to enable her to provide advice and counsel at all levels of corporate decision making, well beyond the issues raised by litigation. She has guided clients in handling such critical and sensitive issues as product recalls, timely interactions with regulatory agencies, management turnover, and has participated in interviewing national candidates and in recruitment of key executives and other client personnel.
- Providing professional guidance to organizations and individuals in all facets of written and verbal communications, including preparing senior executives for public presentations and hearings, working with employees and personnel unfamiliar with adversary proceedings for public speaking, trial or deposition testimony, and drafting press releases involving complex issues - - to help empower men and women of all backgrounds and differing levels of sophistication succeed in developing and presenting their best work.
- Serving, for a solid decade, as National Coordinating Counsel for one of the world's largest school bus manufacturers, overseeing all litigation and insurance, working with the National Highway Traffic Administration (NHTSA) and National Transportation Safety Board (NTSB) and counseling senior management on a full spectrum of challenges including employer/employee matters, strategic decision making, and other issues ancillary to law practice which intersect with the successful management of a business entity.
- Representing Life, Health and Disability insurers in ERISA and other litigation, primarily in federal courts and state courts throughout North Carolina.
- Defending claims against individuals and various manufacturers of general products such as automobiles, silicone breast implants, and other consumer products, including class actions and federal multi-district litigation.
- Honored by industry and her peers for her longtime service to the national Products Liability Advisory Council (PLAC), which awarded her its Distinguished Service Award in 2007. Erna Womble is only the 14<sup>th</sup> recipient of the award since the Products Liability Advisory Council was founded twenty-six years ago in 1983.
- Actively serving in leadership roles with the Life, Health and Disability/ERISA committee of the Defense Research Institute (DRI); DRI Seminar paper and presentation: "Disabling Rambo: Dealing with Unsavory Litigation Tactics and Resulting Ethical Issues," Washington, D.C.; April 2004. DRI Seminar paper and presentation: "National Case Law Update on Disability/ERISA Insurance Law", Washington, D.C.; April, 2002. Program Chair: DRI 2002 Seminar: Life, Health, Disability and ERISA issues; Washington, D.C.; April, 2002. DRI Publication: "'Legal' and 'Factual' Disability in the Defense of Disability Insurance Claims", Life and Health News, Spring 1998.

- Recognition by her peers as one of the country's leading lawyers by Best Lawyers in America, 2006-2010; by North Carolina Super Lawyers magazine, 2006-2009; the national Corporate Counsel edition of Super Lawyers in 2008 and 2009, and holds an AV rating by Martindale-Hubbell since 1998.

Erna serves her community in responsible positions, including:

- Centenary United Methodist Church, Staff Parish Relations Committee (2002-present) (Vice- Chair, 2009; upcoming Chair, 2010); Member of Church Council Leadership Committee
- Arts Council of Winston-Salem/Forsyth County, Co-Chair of Annual Campaign in 2008 with William F. "Bill" Womble, Jr.
- North Carolina Shakespeare Festival Board of Trustees, (2007 – present)
- Women's Council – Forsyth Medical Center Foundation Philanthropy Committee (2008)
- Rotary Club of Winston-Salem (1998 – 2009); Board of Directors (2005; 2006; 2007) Paul Harris Fellow (1998)
- YMCA Camp Hanes; Board of Directors (1992-1999); Chairman, Board of Managers – (1996 and 1997)
- Work Family Resources Center; Board of Directors (1997-2001)
- United Way Women's Leadership Council (2008 - present)
- Professional Women's Forum (2007 - present)