

**KAREN M. KEMERAIT**  
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## **EDUCATION**

Wake Forest University School of Law. Juris Doctor, 1991.

Honors and Activities: Moot Court and Chair of the Honor Council.

Davidson College. Bachelor of Arts in English, with special emphasis on southern writer Eudora Welty, 1988.

Honors and Activities: Varsity track and cross country teams; captain of track and cross country teams, 1987 and 1988; most valuable cross country runner, 1988; student government president for sophomore class; and student government for junior and senior classes.

## **EMPLOYMENT**

Fox Rothschild LLP (formerly Smith Moore Leatherwood LLP that merged with Fox Rothschild).

Partner in the firm with practice in the areas of utilities (energy, renewable energy, telecommunications, natural gas, water and wastewater, and natural gas), zoning and land use, and administrative law.

Styers, Kemeraut & Mitchell, PLLC. Partner and founding member.

Blanchard, Miller, Lewis & Styers, LLC. Partner.

North Carolina Court of Appeals. Law clerk for Judge Elizabeth G. McCrodden of the North Carolina Court Appeals.

## **EXPERIENCE WITH REGULATED UTILITIES AND INDUSTRIES**

Energy. Represents renewable energy developers in a multitude of regulatory matters before the North Carolina Utilities Commission, including interconnection of renewable resources, avoided cost proceedings, integrated resource planning, competitive procurement of renewable energy, green source advantage, North Carolina and the Federal Energy Resource Commission queue reform, electric vehicle charging, and energy storage. Representative clients include:

- North Carolina Clean Energy Business Alliance
- Carolinas Clean Energy Association
- Strata Solar
- Cypress Creek Renewables
- Carolina Solar
- Pine Gate Renewables
- Birch Creek Renewables
- Birdseye Renewable Energy
- Silver Pine Energy
- Ecoplexus

Invenergy  
O2 Energy

Telecommunications. Represents AT&T Mobility, Verizon, and T-Mobile, along with telecommunications infrastructure companies, including American Tower Corp., TowerCo, CitySwitch, TowerCom, Branch Communications, and Tillman Infrastructure. Also represents incumbent local exchange carriers in applying for and receiving authority to provide interexchange (long distance) service, wireless service providers, and incumbent local exchange carriers in interconnection disputes.

Natural Gas. Serves as regulatory counsel for investor-owned local distribution natural gas company, Toccoa Natural Gas.

Water and Wastewater. Represents Old North State Water Company, LLC and other water and wastewater companies in obtaining certificates of public convenience and necessity, in rate cases, and in transfer proceedings. Also represents real estate developers to secure approvals for new water and wastewater systems to serve their communities.

## **COMMUNITY AND PROFESSIONAL ACTIVITIES**

Past Chair, Board of Adjustment for the City of Raleigh, the decision-making board for variances, special use permits, and interpretations of zoning regulations.

Past Treasurer and Board member for the NC League of Conservation Voters.

Past Vice Chair, WakeUP Wake County, a non-profit, non-partisan organization that focuses on challenges and opportunities created by growth in the Triangle area, and leads public engagement on issues involving transportation, land use, drinking water, and public schools.

Past Chair, Water Committee, WakeUP Wake County.

Council of the Zoning, Planning, and Land Use Law Section of the North Carolina Bar Association.

CLE Chair for the Council of the Zoning, Planning, and Land Use Section.

North Carolina Bar Association and Wake County Bar Association.

North Carolina Bar Association's Women in the Profession Committee.

Call4All, North Carolina Bar Association.

Board of Directors, Capital Area Cycling Club.

Board of Directors, Raleigh Area Masters Swim Team.

Former Wake County Guardian ad Litem.

## **RECENT PUBLICATIONS, PRESENTATIONS, AND AWARDS**

Named to “The Best Lawyers in America” list for Land Use & Zoning Law by Best Lawyers, 2019-2021

*The Cleantech and Carbon Policy for North Carolina*, North Carolina State Energy Conference, April, 2021.

*Clean Energy in the Southeast*, North Carolina Sustainable Energy Association Conference, February 2, 2021.

*Role of the Utilities Commission for Solar in North Carolina*, Duke University Nicholas School of the Environment, February 3, 2021.

*G&Ts’, Co-Op’, and Munis’ Renewable Energy Strategies and Plans*, Southeast Renewable Energy Conference, November 18, 2020.

*Utility IRPs Set the Renewables Procurement Opportunity and Appetite for Regulatory Reform*, Southeast Renewable Energy Conference, November 17, 2020.

*Utility-Scale Solar*, North Carolina Sustainable Energy Association Conference, February 4, 2020.

*Role of the Utilities Commission for Solar in North Carolina*, Duke University Nicholas School of the Environment, January 29, 2020.

*The Shape of Market Reform in the Carolinas*, North Carolina Clean Energy Business Alliance Conference, November 4, 2019.

*North Carolina—Updates on HB589 Procurements, Coming Energy Legislation, and the Governor’s Clean Energy Plan*, Southeast Renewable Energy Conference, October 28, 2019.

*Challenging or Appealing an Administrative Zoning Decision*, National Business Institute, September 10, 2019.

*Around the World (of Renewables) in 60 Minutes: Hot Topics on a Hot Topic*, July 11, 2019.

*Improving Interconnection for Solar + Storage*, Solar Power Southeast Conference, May 29, 2019.

*Environmental Policy and Regulation*, National Humanities Conference, April 5, 2019.

*Transition from PURPA to RFP Process for Utility-Scale Solar*, North Carolina Sustainable Energy Association Conference, February 1, 2019.

*A Comprehensive Look at Land Use Law*, National Business Institute, September 1, 2018.

*Energy Policy Update on NC House Bill 589*, State Energy Conference of North Carolina, April 18, 2018.

*Age of Solar Energy Development in North Carolina: Sunrise? or Sunset?*, State Energy Conference of North Carolina, May 1, 2018.

*Land Use Law: Current Issues in Subdivision, Annexation, and Zoning*, National Business Institute, February 28, 2018.

*Planning Board Academy: Overview of Planning in North Carolina*, Town of Wake Forest, North Carolina, February 12, 2018.

*Interconnection and the Competitive Procurement of Renewable Energy in House Bill 589*, North Carolina Sustainable Energy Association Conference, February 6, 2018.

*Smart Phones, Here, There, Everywhere*, 2012 North Carolina Planning Conference.

*Land Use Implications of the Annexation Reform Act of 2011 for Municipal Water and Sewer Extensions into Annexed Areas*, 2012.

*Annexation Reform Act of 2011: Implications for Municipal Water and Sewer Services*, 2011.

*Revenue Requirements and Rate Design for Private, Regulated Water and Wastewater Systems*, 2011

## **OTHER ACTIVITIES**

Karen is a competitive runner, cyclist, and former triathlete. Karen has competed in several Boston Marathons, and has competed in century cycling races, including the Assault on Mt. Mitchell, a 103-mile cycling race from Spartanburg, South Carolina to the summit of Mt. Mitchell.

Karen has three sons, and thoroughly enjoys attending their school activities and sports activities.