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James Wade Celebrates 50 Years at Robinson+Cole

Litigation partner recounts trials, changes, and friendships at Robinson+Cole over the decades

HARTFORD, CT (July 26, 2016) – James A. Wade was recently recognized for achieving a 50-year milestone at the Hartford office of Robinson+Cole. Jim joined the firm on March 6, 1966, and has never stopped practicing since then.

For more than twenty years, Jim served as outside counsel to the Connecticut Democratic Party, and he has represented three Connecticut governors in litigation. He was responsible for drafting the procedural and substantive rules of the party and represented them before the United States Supreme Court in connection with a reapportionment case. Jim has represented numerous Connecticut public officials in litigation involving constitutional election and voting issues.

In the last several years, Jim has tried, on behalf of major corporations and their employees, complex criminal and civil cases involving antitrust, securities fraud, government contracting fraud, mail fraud, and public corruption. He has also represented numerous Fortune 500 companies on various compliance issues, including grand jury investigation compliance, securities regulation, banking issues, and environmental concerns, as well as in numerous contractual and business disputes.

Jim's style and approach as a litigator was captured in *Robinson & Cole: A History* (1995): "Before Wade came to the firm, he had served as a lawyer in the Navy under the Judge Advocate General. Trial experience in courts-martial gave him a head start. As an associate in the sixties, he began to develop a reputation as a skilled litigator.... Ever since Wade has been embroiled in a number of unusual criminal and political cases. His philosophy is that the more trial work the firm engages in, whether criminal or civil, and the greater its reputation for toughness, the better its chances for negotiating favorable out-of-court settlements." In a 1993 feature article on Jim, the *Connecticut Law Tribune* noted that "Wade has made his name trying cases. He is a rare bird for these parts: a big firm lawyer...who gets down and dirty in the criminal defense trenches." The piece also stated that "Wade reached this eminence with a mixture of toughness, charm and a refusal to quit, according to lawyers familiar with his work."

In reflecting on his years with Robinson+Cole, Jim credits partner Lucius Robinson for fostering "pride in the excellence of the firm's services and a feeling of loyalty to the organization," both of which he says are the "glue" that

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still holds the firm together today. Jim has mentored countless attorneys at the firm, instilling in them that same pride of excellence and loyalty.

Jim is listed in [*The Best Lawyers in America*](#)® in the areas of Bet-the-Company Litigation, Commercial Litigation, Litigation – Antitrust, Litigation – Banking and Finance, Litigation – Construction, Litigation – Intellectual Property, Litigation – Regulatory Enforcement (SEC, Telecom, Energy), Litigation and Controversy – Tax, Personal Injury Litigation – Defendants, Personal Injury Litigation – Plaintiffs, and White Collar Criminal Defense (Copyright 2014 by Woodward/White, Inc., Aiken, SC).

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