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Raymond (Ray) E. Owens, Jr. is a partner at Higgins & Owens, PLLC in Charlotte. In 1978 he started his law practice with Walker Palmer and Miller, P.A., and for the next thirty one years he practiced with Kennedy, Covington, Lobbell and Hickman and its successor, K&L Gates, LLP. His civil practice has ranged from complex business litigation to First Amendment and defamation matters. Owens has published and spoken at a number of CLE events on a wide range of topics, including technology in discovery and how to handle difficult lawyers. Among other professional and community activities, Owens is a past chair of IOLTA and a former Board member of Legal Aid of North Carolina. Although he continues to practice as a trial lawyer, he has mediated and served as an arbitrator in over 1200 civil cases in his career and is one of the original panel members of Intercede, a dispute resolution panel based in Charlotte. He received a B.A degree summa cum laude from UNC-CH in 1975 and a J.D. from UNC-CH in 1978.