



Howard L. Williams

PARTNER

Greensboro

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Howard Williams has over 40 years of experience representing privately held companies and their shareholders. His diverse practice includes representation in connection with tax planning and litigation, general corporate work, employee benefits and executive compensation, and aviation matters.

TAX

Howard has extensive experience representing businesses in tax disputes or controversies in district courts, the United States Tax Court, and before the Internal Revenue Service and North Carolina Department of Revenue. He also advises clients on corporate tax planning and tax strategies.

Before joining Brooks Pierce, Howard worked for the Office of Chief Counsel for the United States Treasury, Washington, D.C. as a tax specialist and litigator. He currently serves as a representative to the Southeastern Liaison Committee to the Internal Revenue Service.

"I especially enjoy helping a client solve a very difficult problem or threatening situation."

EXECUTIVE COMPENSATION AND EMPLOYEE BENEFITS

Howard provides counsel on management incentive plans, employee stock ownership plans, deferred compensation, and corporate finance for closely held companies.

CORPORATE

Howard provides general corporate counsel on issues related to mergers and acquisitions, joint ventures, contract negotiation and document preparation, and tax-related transactions.

TRANSPORTATION & AVIATION

Howard represents various businesses and organizations in the transportation and aviation industries on a wide range of issues. His experience includes representing North Carolina's largest privately held trucking company, representing numerous airlines, and helping to fund and finance one of the nation's fastest growing aviation maintenance facilities.

EXPERIENCE

Client Success

Eastern Band of Cherokee Indians

SERVICES

Corporate & Business

Employee Benefits

Health Care

Labor & Employment

Manufacturing

Not-for-Profits

Tax

Transportation

Financial Services and Banking

Insurance & Professional Services

CREDENTIALS

Honors & Recognitions

Selected by his peers for inclusion in *The Best Lawyers in America*® in Tax Law and Tax Litigation & Controversy (2003-2022)

Recognized in *North Carolina Super Lawyers* (Thomson Reuters) in Business/Corporate Law (2007-2017)

Recognized in *Super Lawyers Business Edition* for Business/Corporate Law (2015)

Recognized by his peers for inclusion in *Business North Carolina's "Legal Elite"* in Business Law and Tax/Estate Planning (2008)

Education

Wake Forest University School of Law, J.D., 1972, *cum laude*; Member, Board of Editors, *Wake Forest Law Review*, 1971-72

George Washington University, L.L.M., 1975, with highest honors **North Carolina State University**, B.S., 1969, with high honors

Admissions

North Carolina

U.S. Court of Appeals for the 4th and 8th Circuits

U.S. District Court for the Western, Middle, and Eastern Districts of North Carolina

PROFESSIONAL & CIVIC

Member At-Large, North Carolina Agricultural Finance Authority

Member, Southeastern Region Liaison Committee, Internal Revenue Service

Member, Board of Visitors, Wake Forest University School of Law

Member and Past President (2011-2012), Board of Directors, North Carolina 4-H Endowment

Former Member, Executive Board, Community Foundation for Greater Greensboro

Member, North Carolina Bar Association

Member, American Bar Association

Member, Greensboro Bar Association

Member and Past President (2012-2013), Greensboro Kiwanis Club

ABOUT ME

The core of Brooks Pierce hasn't changed much since I joined the firm in 1976. We've grown a lot, but in many ways we still practice the old fashioned way, providing client-focused service that produces successful outcomes for the businesses, organizations and individuals we represent. We don't focus on specific practice groups, but rather work together utilizing everybody's interests that span across a diverse group of practice areas. That's how Brooks Pierce was built, and that's how the firm remains today.

I represent diverse clients on a wide range of issues, which makes each day interesting and challenging. I enjoy getting to know my clients and building personal relationships with them—their problems become my problems, and I work closely with them to find creative solutions.

Outside of my practice, I enjoy serving on the board for the North Carolina 4-H Endowment, an interest that came about from my time growing up on a dairy farm (I still own the farm today). I also enjoy playing golf and spending time outdoors.

NEWSROOM

News

72 Brooks Pierce Attorneys Recognized in *The Best Lawyers in America*® 2022 Guide
The Best Lawyers in America®, 08.19.2021

73 Brooks Pierce Attorneys Recognized in *The Best Lawyers in America*® 2021 Guide
The Best Lawyers in America®, 08.20.2020

Brooks Pierce Attorneys Win Purchase for the Eastern Band of Cherokee Indians
05.04.2020

55 Brooks Pierce Attorneys Recognized in *The Best Lawyers in America*® 2020 Guide
The Best Lawyers in America®, 08.15.2019

Brooks Pierce Partner Appointed to Agricultural Finance Authority
05.24.2019

Publications

North Carolina Undertakes Tax Law Changes - Will There Be More?
06.30.2013

Employer Duties in Providing Employee Benefits
07.29.2010

Extension of COBRA Subsidy Rules Requires Quick Action by Employers

01.06.2010