



Robert Saunders
PARTNER

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Bob Saunders is a tax and business lawyer with extensive experience in the nonprofit sector. He counsels primarily tax-exempt organizations, both charitable and non-charitable, on a multitude of federal and state tax controversy matters, estate planning, and tax-exempt financing.

ADVISING EXEMPT AND TRADE ORGANIZATIONS

Bob helps all types of exempt organizations, including charities, religious organizations, educational organizations, trade associations, social welfare organizations and social clubs, in matters ranging from formation and operation to merger and dissolution. He serves as general counsel for exempt organizations and advises on tax and governance issues including intermediate sanctions, unrelated business income, and the use of for-profit subsidiaries and single member limited liability companies. He is also a skilled advisor regarding regulatory compliance regarding charitable solicitation laws and regulatory review of assets transfers by nonprofit organizations. He represents senior retirement living nonprofits, including those involved with assisted living, skilled nursing and continuing community retirement centers.

Bob also represents exempt organizations in federal and state tax audits, and has significant experience as bond counsel, underwriter's counsel, company counsel and authority counsel in tax-exempt financings. Recently he was certified as a nonprofit board governance consultant by Board Source.

Recent representative clients include:

- North Carolina Rural Center
- Pisgah Health Foundation

- The Recycling Partnership
- CEO Roundtable on Cancer
- miraclefeet
- Chapel Hill Carrboro Chamber of Commerce

"Another day, another chance to excel."

ON-POINT ADVISOR TO PRIVATE FOUNDATIONS

Bob has an active estate planning practice with an emphasis on charitable giving with private foundations and donor advised funds. He has experience with the formation, merger, and dissolution of private foundations, and is experienced in the reclassification of private foundations as public charities. He has also advised and participated in seminars sponsored by various community foundations.

SOCIAL ENTERPRISES

Bob advises companies that are seeking to operate as social enterprises in the Fourth Sector on a variety of governance and tax-related issues. He has participated in activities involving such organizations as the North Carolina Fourth Sector Cluster Initiative and has attended the national conferences for the Business Alliance for Local Living Economies ("BALLE"). Bob has advised a wide variety of nonprofits involved in this area, from community development financial institutions to farmers markets on entity formation and tax-exempt status issues.

Recent representative Fourth Sector clients include:

- CommunityWorx
- Partnership for a Sustainable Community
- The North Carolina Business Law Council
- Greensboro Farmers Market

DEEP TAX CONTROVERSY EXPERIENCE

Bob represents the Firm's clients on national, state and local tax controversy issues. Having previously worked at the IRS Office of Chief Counsel, Bob has an in-depth understanding of tax disputes and how to best serve clients' needs throughout the complex legal process. He is the co-author for the North Carolina Chapter of the ABA Property Tax Handbook and the ABA Sales and Use Tax Handbook.

SERVICES

Corporate & Business

Education

Entity Formation

Not-for-Profits

Tax

Technology

Trusts & Estates

Climate Resilience

CREDENTIALS

Honors & Recognitions

Selected by his peers for inclusion in *The Best Lawyers in America*© in Litigation and Controversy-Tax, Non-Profit/Charities Law and Tax Law (2007-2024); Recognized as “Lawyer of the Year” in Greensboro for Non-Profit/Charities Law (2014, 2020, 2024) and Litigation and Controversy-Tax (2013, 2015, 2017, 2019, 2022)

Recognized by *North Carolina Super Lawyers* in Business/Corporate Law (2019-2020)

Education

University of Virginia School of Law, J.D., 1987; Editor-in-Chief, *Virginia Tax Review*, 1986-87; Recipient, Daniel Caplin Tax Award

University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill, B.A., 1982

Certifications

Certified as a nonprofit board governance consultant by Board Source

Admissions

North Carolina

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

U.S. Tax Court

PROFESSIONAL & CIVIC

Member, Board of Visitors, University of North Carolina (2019-present)

Chair, Partnership for a Sustainable Community, Chapel Hill-Carrboro Chamber of Commerce

Chair, Board of Directors, Carol Woods Retirement Community

Adjunct Lecturer of Nonprofit Law, University of North Carolina at Greensboro (2006-present)

Chair, Partnership for a Sustainable Community 2016

Chair, Chapel Hill-Carrboro Chamber of Commerce 2015

Chair, Nonprofit Organizations Committee of the North Carolina Business Law Council, North Carolina Bar Association (2011-present)

Member, Carrboro Economic Sustainability Commission (2010-2019)

Member, Carrboro Arts Commission (2009-2010)

Leadership North Carolina Class XVI (2008-2009)

United Arts Council Representative - The Sternberger Commission (2003-present)

Board Secretary, Greensboro Public Library Foundation (2002-present)

Member, North Carolina Rules Review Commission (2001-2007)

Frequent lecturer on nonprofit matters

NEWSROOM

News

74 Brooks Pierce Attorneys Recognized in *The Best Lawyers in America*® 2024 Guide
08.17.2023

Brooks Pierce Attorneys Recognized in *The Best Lawyers in America*® 2023 Guide
08.18.2022

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

Brooks Pierce Helps Facilitate New Lending Program to Support Small Businesses
11.03.2020

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

Speaking Engagements

Bob Saunders Presents at Western NC SCORE Chapter Seminar
03.10.2022

Bob Saunders Presents Webinar to First Citizens Bank
03.09.2022

Brooks Pierce Partner Presents CLE Program for North Carolina Bar Association
01.19.2022

Brooks Pierce Partner Participates in North Carolina Bar Association Panel Discussion
11.05.2021

Bob Saunders Presents at NC Realtors Association Annual Convention
10.19.2021

Publications

Federal and State Protections for Nonprofits Navigating the COVID-19 Pandemic
COVID-19 Response Resource Center: Timely Counsel for your Business, 04.27.2020

Faith-Based Organization Eligibility for SBA Loans Under CARES Act
COVID-19 Response Resource Center: Timely Counsel for your Business, 04.26.2020

Guide to Golden LEAF Rapid Recovery Loan Program
COVID-19 Response Resource Center: Timely Counsel for your Business, 03.26.2020