

H. Morrison “Morry” Johnston

Retired



I have had the enormous benefit of knowing clients personally and professionally because the large majority of our clients have been with us for many years. Trusted relationships mature over time and we work hard to ensure that the transfer of trust occurs with every member of our team and within each new generation at the client organization. I have worked with five generations of one family. This is an extreme example, but it is the rule rather than the exception at Johnston Allison Hord.

Morry Johnston plays an important role in the corporate legal landscape in the greater Charlotte area and North Carolina. He has advised some of the most recognizable and influential family-owned companies and business leaders in their **mergers**, **acquisitions**, state and federal **tax planning**, business transformation, growth and succession strategies for several generations. Representing both buyers and sellers in numerous industries, Morry is a dealmaker – he ensures that his client is properly represented throughout any deal and during all life-events of the company. He determines what needs to be done and gets it done – expediting the closing for the maximum benefit of his client. Morry and his team avoid extraneous work and know how to quickly settle disputes that inevitably rise in multi-generational companies. As a senior advisor to other lawyers in the firm, Morry is the standard bearer for building efficient teams that effectively and genuinely serve firm clients. He insists that firm attorneys tour clients’ facilities and understand the inner

Bar Admissions

North Carolina

Court Admissions

North Carolina Supreme Court

U.S. Court of Appeals

U.S. Supreme Court

Education

University of North Carolina School of Law (JD, with Honors, 1962)

University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill (AB-LLB, , 1960)

Associations

Professional

- **American Bar Association**
- **North Carolina Bar Association**
- **Mecklenburg County Bar**

Community

- **UMAR Services, Inc.**, Past Chairman of the Board of Directors
- **Charlotte Country Club**, Past Member of the Board of Governors

Community

About Our Firm

Recognition

workings of their operations. In addition, considering the increasingly digital world, Morry advises younger lawyers to build relationships face-to-face, not simply through the more impersonal emails and texts. He says, "Find any excuse to personally get in front of a client."

Representative Experience

- An area in which I have enjoyed a great deal of success is assisting closely held family companies to transition management and ownership of the family company to the next generation. In one case there was a father with two sons and I worked closely with the father to devise an estate plan by which the younger son would have control of the company and the older son would be equally compensated by receiving non-voting stock in the company plus non-company assets. Following the father's death the older son initiated litigation in an effort to have the company sold. While the litigators fought the court battles I worked behind the scenes with my counterpart in the other law firm to resolve the conflict in keeping with the father's wishes.
- Represents numerous clients in substantial income tax and estate tax matters.
- Represents closely held companies in major asset purchases and sales.
- Represents major textile company in corporate matters.

Honors

- *Business North Carolina* "Legal Elite" – Business Law (2021)
- ***The Best Lawyers in America***© – Trusts & Estates (2024)
- Order of the Coif, University of North Carolina School of Law
- Attorney, Chief Counsel's Office, Internal Revenue Service (1962-1966)
- *North Carolina Law Review*, Board of Editors (1960-1961), Business Manager (1961-1962)

