

John A. Morrice

Partner

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There isn't a one-size-fits-all approach that works for privately held companies. Each one is as unique as the family, or professionals, that started it. My focus first is to hear all the opportunities and concerns and understand the relationship dynamics. Regardless of size, industry, reach and goals, I bring the right blend of experience dealing with technical, business and legal issues and genuine caring for the people who've built each successful enterprise.

John Morrice is a go-to counselor and advisor to privately held and family-owned companies. For more than 35 years, he has worked with business owners, entrepreneurs and executives of manufacturing, distribution and construction clients. In addition, John helps physician and medical practices, as well as law, accounting, architectural and engineering firms in their business and tax planning, growth strategies, growing pains and exit options. Client revenues range from hundreds of millions to start ups. Clients hire John because he's seen "it" and dealt with it before: employment and labor, financial management, mergers, acquisitions, joint ventures, employee benefits, wealth transfer and generational planning. Succession planning is at the center of John's work – the transfer of assets from one generation or a key owner to the next. His sensitive, practical and caring approach, combined with his thoughtfulness about fees, inspires confidence and trust. John uses the expertise of his partners with respect to estate planning and litigation. While John's clients are primarily



Practices

Business Succession Planning
Business Transactions
Employment Practices and Benefits
Professional Services
Mergers and Acquisitions
Nonprofit Entities and Tax-Exempt Organizations

Industries

Distribution
Healthcare
Manufacturing
Real Estate, Hospitality and Construction
Retail

Bar Admissions

North Carolina

Education

Wake Forest University School of Law
(JD, *cum laude*, 1983)
Wake Forest University (BA, 1980)
• History

Associations

Professional

• Southeast Benefits Education Network

headquartered in North Carolina, their customers and markets are around the world. John and his team provide turnkey representation for clients distributing products throughout North America, as well as offshore manufacturing relationships in China and other countries in the Asia-Pacific Region. He also represents foreign manufacturers from Canada, Central and South America, Germany, Japan and England in their distribution of products throughout the Southeast U.S. His manufacturing clients are enterprises in the textile, plastics, machinery and material fabrication industries. John served as co-managing partner of Johnston, Allison & Hord from 1997 to 2005 and is past chair of the firm's Corporate Group.

Representative Experience

- Completed shareholder redemptions in corporate succession/transfer of company ownership to next generation of leadership for a company whose gross annual revenue is in excess of \$250 million; handled similar transactions for companies in the construction and textile industries.
- Handled strategic governance issues, completed medical practice acquisitions and worked to form affiliated facilities to serve as ambulatory surgery centers complying with Fraud and Abuse Rules and Stark regulations with respect to physician ownership.
- Coordinated personal tax planning for shareholders and corporate tax planning via relocating substantial real estate and manufacturing assets to maximize tax elections for benefit of shareholders. Transactions completed within the distribution, construction and manufacturing industries.
- Restated and refinanced \$60 million credit facility and completed restructuring company and shareholder ownership to complete Subchapter S election.
- Completed the merger of six entities (plus various entities owning real estate) across Georgia, North Carolina and South Carolina. Reorganization also includes complete

- **Meritas Law Firms Worldwide**, Board of Directors Member (2003-2006)
- **American Bar Association**
- **North Carolina Bar Association**
- **Mecklenburg County Bar**
- **North Carolina Health Lawyers Association**

Community

- **Hospice & Palliative Care Charlotte Region**, Board of Directors Member (2017-present)
- **Levine Museum of the New South**, Board of Directors Member (2006-2012)
- **Teen Health Connection**, Board of Directors Member and Board President (1999-2003)
- **Mecklenburg Bar Foundation**, Board of Directors Member (1998-2000)
- Myers Park Baptist Church, Member

Community

COVID-19 Resource Center

restatement of credit facilities in the amount of approximately \$75 million.

- Represented client in the sale of selected assets used in connection with its clinical laboratory services business, specifically related to its cervical cancer screening. Representation included negotiation of the all transactional documents including purchase agreement and noncompetition agreements.

Honors

- ***The Best Lawyers in America***© - Non-Profit/Charities Law (2018-2021)
- ***The Best Lawyers in America***© - Health Care Law (2013-2021)
- **Chambers USA**, Recognized Attorney - Corporate/M&A (2014-2020)
- ***Super Lawyers***® North Carolina - Mergers & Acquisitions (2011-2020)
- ***The Best Lawyers in America***© - Employee Benefits (ERISA) Law (2013)
- ***Business North Carolina "Legal Elite"*** - Business Law (2007, 2012, 2014, 2015)
- **Martindale-Hubbell** AV® Preeminent™ Peer Review Rated