N. Lucille "Lucy" Siler

Partner | Chair, Trusts and Estates Practice Group

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Each family is different, because it is composed of the individuals within that family. As an estate planner I, like many others, am well versed in the various strategies available. What I most enjoy is getting to know my clients and their goals, to understand the dynamics within their families, and then to utilize those strategies best suited to achieving that client's desired result.

Lucy Siler handles sophisticated **estate planning and administration** for wealthy individuals and families, many of whom have built or inherited a closely-held company. Frequently referred by their lawyers, financial advisors, accountants or by another of Lucy's clients, she has the experience and skill to adeptly surmise the situation and develop a going-forward strategy and plan that will reduce tax liabilities, address practical issues such as control and cash flow, and minimize family conflicts, while achieving the client's desired legacy. With a primary focus on estate administration, Lucy has extensive experience guiding families and executors not only through the legal and tax issues that arise upon the death of an individual, but also the sometimes strained family dynamics that exist at an emotionally charged time. Lucy works closely with entrepreneurial clients who have horizon concerns, such as a generational shift in the ownership of a family business. For example, Lucy helps them identify and plan for a successor inside or outside the family to keep the business running or determine whether a sale to an outsider will bring the greatest value. In addition, advising coming-

Practices

Trusts & Estates
Estate Administration
Business Succession Planning
Taxation
Asset Protection Planning
Charitable Planning & Exempt Organizations
Nonprofit Entities & Tax-Exempt Organizations

Bar Admissions

Board Certified Specialist in Estate Planning and Probate Law, North Carolina Board of Legal Specialization
North Carolina

Education

University of North Carolina School of Law (JD, ,)
Davidson College (BS, ,)
North Carolina School of Science and Mathematics (, ,)

Associations

Professional

- **American College of Trust and Estate Counsel** (ACTEC), Fellow
  - Fiduciary Administration Committee
- North Carolina State Bar Board of Legal Specialization

of-age children of clients on wealth preservation, **asset protection**, and their parents' spirit of philanthropy and charitable giving are all important components of the value Lucy brings to these families. To Lucy, estate planning and administration aren't just numbers on a piece of paper – they protect and propel families into a secure future. Working with children who have lost a parent, a suddenly-single individual whose spouse has died or divorced, or a son or daughter who had to be untangled from poor investments made by their parents, Lucy has the compassion to understand their circumstances – and the clarity to know what solutions will resolve the problems as efficiently as possible. Chairing Johnston Allison & Hord's Trusts and Estates practice, one of the largest and most prominent in North Carolina, for over a decade until 2024, as well as previously serving on the firm's Executive Committee, Lucy is committed to successful business management and succession planning inside the firm as well as outside as she works with her clients' families and companies.

Representative Experience

- Assist family business owners with creation and implementation of plans for transferring the business to children or key employees, including drafting wills, trusts, buy-sell agreements, and shareholder agreements.
- Planning to minimize the impact of estate, gift, generation-skipping, and income taxes for high net worth families, including preparation of wills and trusts, gift planning, tax planning for qualified retirement accounts, and the use of family limited partnerships and limited liability companies.
- Representation of executors and administrators regarding administration of estates, including probate of wills before the clerk of court, fulfilling administrative duties, preparation of federal and state estate tax returns, representation in audit matters before the Internal Revenue Service, and disposition of assets.
- Represented employers in design, creation, and amendment of employee benefit plans, and in negotiations with the IRS

  - Chair, Estate Planning and Probate Law (2025)
  - Vice Chair, Estate Planning and Probate Law (2024)
  - Committee, Estate Planning and Probate Law (2019-2025)
- North Carolina Bar Association
  - Council Member, Estate Planning and Fiduciary Law Section (2020-2024)
  - Chair and Co-Chair, Communications Committee, Estate Planning and Fiduciary Law Section (2016-2020)
- **North Carolina State Bar Authorized Practice Committee**, Advisory Member (2006-2011)
- **North Carolina State Bar Ethics Committee**, Advisory Member (2005)
- **Mecklenburg County Bar Young Lawyers Division**, Board Member (2000-2003)
- **Charlotte Estate Planning Council**
- **Mecklenburg County Bar**
- **North Carolina Bar Association**
- **American Bar Association**

Community

- **Foundation For The Carolinas**, Cabinet of Professional Advisors (2011-2014)
- **Hospice and Palliative Care Charlotte Region**, Board Member (2008-2011)
- **Foundation For The Carolinas**, Impact Fund Steering Committee (2003-2004), Impact Fund Member (2001)

Community

About Our Firm
Recognition

and Department of Labor with respect to errors in administration of 401(k) and other employee benefit plans.

Publications

- Author, *Drafting Tax Allocation Provisions*, The Will & The Way (June 2019)
- Author, *Employment-Related Compensation and Benefits,* NCBA Estate Administration Manual, 9th ed. (2018), Supplemental 8th ed. (2016), 8th ed. (2014), Supplemental 7th ed. (2012).
- Author, *Administration of Retirement Benefits after Participant's Death*, The Will & The Way (June 2013)
- Co-Author, *U.S. Supreme Court Case Supports Constitutionality of Perpetuities Repeal*, The Will & The Way (May 2011)

Speaking Engagements

- Speaker, *Federal and State Recent Developments*, 44th Annual NCBA Estate Planning and Fiduciary Law Program (July 2023)
- Speaker, *Consideration of Basis Issues in Estate Planning*, 40th Annual NCBA Estate Planning and Fiduciary Law Program (July 2019)
- Speaker, *The Marital Deduction*, NCBA Estate Planning and Probate Law Survey Course (September 2017)
- Speaker, *Retirement Benefits: Estate Planning and Probate Issues*, NCBA Estate Planning and Probate Law Survey Course (September 2015)
- Speaker, *IRAs and Retirement Plans in Estates and Trusts*, Basic Taxation of Estates and Trusts NCBA Tax Section CLE (October 2014)

Honors

- ***Super Lawyers®*** North Carolina – Estate Planning and Probate (2022-2025)
- ***The Best Lawyers in America***© – Trusts and Estates Law (2014-2025), Tax Law (2024, 2025)
- **Martindale-Hubbell**, AV® Preeminent™ Peer Review Rated
- ***Business North Carolina* “Legal Elite”** – Tax & Estate Planning (2022, 2025)