

Ray S. Farris

Retired



After my original law firm merged into a series of other firms, I joined Johnston, Allison & Hord, P.A. as a Partner because I wanted to practice side by side with exceptional estate planning and estate administration lawyers in North Carolina. I have represented many generations of families, working through their opportunities and challenges to protect their legacies and wealth. While the issues which arise in this area of legal practice are challenging and rewarding – I am grateful for the trust our clients have in my colleagues and me, where they know I will always help them do the right thing. As I have often said, not all of my friends are my clients, but all of my clients are my friends.

A veteran **estate planning**, **estate administration** and **fiduciary litigation** attorney, Ray Farris has represented well-known North Carolina families who have hired him and stayed with him through a great many issues and opportunities they have had. He is experienced in estate tax issues, investment management, business succession planning, charitable giving, trust design and administration, and in many other issues that can affect families and the protection and transfer of wealth. Ray is gifted in dealing with family relationship dynamics, particularly children who may have emotional, drug, motivation and over-spending issues. In addition, he has demonstrated both compassion and good judgement for parents with children who are emotional. Ray has had to help his clients emotionally impaired fractures in their families with empathy and clarity. Ray sees a world of planning

Bar Admissions

North Carolina

Education

University of North Carolina School of Law (JD, , 1967)

University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill (BA, , 1962)

Associations

Professional

- **Mecklenburg County Bar**, Past President
- **Charlotte Estate Planning Council**, Past President
- **American Bar Association**
- **North Carolina Bar Association**
- North Carolina State Bar IOLTA, Trustee and Past Chariman (1989-1996)
- **American College of Trust and Estate Counsel** (ACTEC), Fellow

Community

- **Metropolitan YMCA**, Trustee and Past Director
- Council of the University of North Carolina Press, Member (2012-2016)
- Thomas W. Lambeth Lecture Committee on Public Policy, University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill, Chair (2006-2016)

and protection possibilities for families with growing estates who are developing wealth and civic responsibility started, as well as clients who have managed their estates for years.

Representative Experience

- Representation of individual and corporate fiduciaries in the administration of trusts and estates, including issues arising from alleged breaches of fiduciary duties, and interpretations of will and trust provisions.

- Board of Governors, University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill (July 1997-2009)
- Charlotte-Mecklenburg Community Foundation (now part of Foundation for the Carolinas), Trustee and Past Chairman (1994-2004)

Honors

- **Super Lawyers**® North Carolina – Estate Planning and Probate (2006-2022)
- **The Best Lawyers in America**© – Trust and Estates (2007-2022), Litigation – Trust and Estates (2007-2019, 2021, 2022)
- **The Best Lawyers in America**© Lawyer of the Year – Trusts and Estates (2017)
- **The Best Lawyers in America**© Lawyer of the Year – Litigation – Trusts and Estates (2018-2020)
- Mecklenburg Bar Foundation's Ayscue Professionalism Award Winner (2010)
- **Business North Carolina "Legal Elite"** – Tax and Estate Planning – Hall of Fame (2005)
- Francis J. Beatty Award Winner – Catholic Social Services (1994)
- **American Bar Foundation**, Fellow