

Bob Saunders

Partner



CONTACT INFO

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OFFICE

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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 wide range of federal and state tax controversy matters, estate planning, and tax-exempt financing.

[@bobsaun](#) [in](#)

PRACTICE AREAS

Business and Corporate
› Entity Formation
› Tax
Trusts and Estates

INDUSTRIES

Education
Not-for-Profits
Technology
Trade Organizations

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

BAR & COURT ADMISSIONS

North Carolina
US District Court - North Carolina
Western District
Middle District
Eastern District
US Tax Court

MY PRACTICE

ADVISING EXEMPT ORGANIZATIONS

Bob helps all types of exempt organizations, including charities, 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.

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.

Recent representative clients include:

North Carolina Rural Center

Office of Mortgage Settlement Oversight

ATTORNEY TO TRADE ASSOCIATIONS

Bob counsels trade associations in a wide range of industries on tax matters related to formation, mergers and dissolution. He has served as general counsel to various chambers of commerce and industry trade groups.

Representative clients include:

Chapel Hill Carrboro Chamber of Commerce

The International Lead Zinc Research Organization

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 farmers markets on entity formation and tax-exempt status issues.

Recent representative Fourth Sector clients include:

PTA Thrift Shop, Inc.

Partnership for a Sustainable Community

The North Carolina Business Law Council

Greensboro Farmers Market

DEEP TAX CONTROVERSY EXPERIENCE

Bob represents his 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.

HONORS

Selected by his peers for inclusion in *The Best Lawyers in America*® in Litigation and Controversy-Tax, Non-Profit/Charities Law and Tax Law (2007-2018); Recognized as "Lawyer of the Year" in Greensboro for Non-Profit/Charities Law (2014) and Litigation and Controversy-Tax (2013, 2015, 2017)

COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT

Board Chair, [Chapel Hill-Carrboro Chamber of Commerce](#), 2015-present

Vice Chair, Board of Directors, [Chapel Hill-Carrboro Chamber of Commerce](#)

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

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

Member, [Carrboro Economic Sustainability Commission](#), 2010-present

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 at the [N.C. Festival of Legal Learning](#)

PUBLICATIONS & MEDIA

Co-author of Business Law Section Newsletter Article, North Carolina Benefit Corporation Act: A Summary of Senate Bill 99 (April 23, 2013)

"What is the Fourth Sector?" Presentation to Business Law Institute, North Carolina Bar Association, February 2012

"Legal Issues Facing Fourth Sector Entities," Presentation to North Carolina Fourth Sector Cluster Initiative, March 2011

Co-author of the North Carolina Chapter, ABA Property Tax Handbook, (2003-2015)

Co-author of the North Carolina Chapter, ABA Sales and Use Tax Handbook (2003-2015)

Four Brooks Pierce Attorneys to Present at the 2018 Festival of Legal Learning, January 3, 2018

Thirteen Brooks Pierce Attorneys to Present at the Festival of Legal Learning, January 12, 2017

Twenty Brooks Pierce Attorneys to Speak at the 2016 Festival of Legal Learning, February 2, 2016

Bob Saunders Named to Board of Directors for Carol Woods, January 28, 2016

Bob Saunders Elected Chair of Chapel Hill-Carrboro Chamber of Commerce Board of Directors, February 2, 2015

SPEAKING ENGAGEMENTS

Twenty-one Brooks Pierce Attorneys to Speak at the 2015 Festival of Legal Learning, February 10, 2015

Seven Brooks Pierce Attorneys on Faculty for UNC CLE Festival, February 12, 2012

Brooks Pierce Attorneys Present at UNC Festival of Legal Learning 2011, February 14, 2011

Brooks Pierce Attorneys Participate in 18th Annual Festival of Legal Learning, February 1, 2008