

# Probate, Estate Planning & Trust Section Seminar

## SPEAKER BIOGRAPHIES

*by order of presentation*

### **Andrew Merline**

*Merline and Meacham*

*Greenville, SC*

*(Course Planner)*

Andy's practice is focused on the areas of: Mergers and Acquisitions, Business and Transactional Law, Succession Planning, Estate Planning and Estate Administration, Taxation, LLCs, Partnerships, Family Limited Partnerships and Corporations and Asset Protection Planning. Andy and his wife, Erin, are members of Buncombe Street United Methodist Church in Greenville. He is also an active member at the Caine Halter Branch of the YMCA in Greenville. Outside of the office, Andy enjoys playing tennis, fishing, classic cars and craft beer.

### **Phillip Martin**

*Merline and Meacham*

*Greenville, SC*

Mr. Martin is a shareholder at Merline & Meacham, P.A. He specializes in the areas of estate planning, probate and trust administration and the representation of privately owned businesses. He received his Bachelor of Arts in Asian Studies from Furman University, his Juris Doctor from the University of South Carolina School of Law, and his Master of Laws in Taxation from the University of Florida Levin College of Law.

**Jordan Goewey**  
*Thomas, Fisher and Edwards Law Firm*  
*Greenville, SC*

Jordan Goewey is a Shareholder at Thomas, Fisher & Edwards, P.A., and works out of the firm's Greenville and Spartanburg offices. He has been recognized as a Certified Specialist in Estate Planning and Probate law by the South Carolina Supreme Court, and his practice areas include estate planning, probate and trust administration, business advising, and mergers and acquisitions, all with a focus on taxation. He is licensed in South Carolina, North Carolina, and Tennessee, giving him the ability to assist a wide range of clients across the southeast.

Jordan contributes to the South Carolina legal community by way of membership in the Greenville Estate Planning Council, the Greenville Estate Planning Study Group, and the Greenville Bar Association. He has also given multiple presentations for CLE and specialization credit and been published in the May 2024 volume of *SC Lawyer*. He has been honored by *Greenville Business Magazine*© in Legal Elite of the Upstate each year since 2022 (most recently in five categories: Corporate Law – Mergers & Acquisitions (top vote recipient), Corporate Law – Business Organizations, Tax and Estate Planning, Estate & Trust – Planning, and Estate and Trust - Litigation) and as Best & Brightest – 35 and Under (2025).

Jordan is a proud graduate of Wofford College (B.A., Accounting and Finance, 2016) and the University of Alabama School of Law (J.D. and LL.M in Taxation (*cum laude*), 2019). He remains an active member of the Wofford community with his involvement in the Wofford Alumni Club of Greenville. He is also the Treasurer of the Greenville & Spartanburg, South Carolina chapter of The University of Alabama's National Alumni Association.

## **David Thompson**

*Thomas, Fisher and Edwards Law Firm  
Greenville, SC*

David is a Shareholder at Thomas, Fisher & Edwards, P.A. David has been recognized as a Certified Specialist in Estate Planning and Probate law by the South Carolina Supreme Court and his practice focuses primarily on taxation, complex estate planning, probate and trust law, and business formation and planning. Licensed in four states, David advises clients throughout South Carolina, North Carolina, Tennessee, and Texas. David works out of his firm's Greenville and Spartanburg offices.

David contributes to the legal community by participating in the Greenville Estate Planning Council (as member and director), the Greenville Estate Planning Study Group, and the Greenville County Bar Association. David was recently elected as a member of the South Carolina Bar Tax Council and was recognized in 2023 on the Best and Brightest 35 and Under list created by *Greenville Business Magazine*®. In addition, David has been recognized in various categories in (i) *The Best Lawyers in America*® 2025 for work in: Business Organizations (including LLCs and Partnerships), Tax Law, and Trusts and Estates, and (ii) Legal Elite of the Upstate by *Greenville Business Magazine*® for 2022, 2023, 2024, and 2025 (most recently in the following categories: Estate and Trust – Planning; Tax and Estate Planning (Top Vote Recipient); Corporate Law – Business Organizations; and Corporate Law – Mergers & Acquisitions).

David draws on a strong educational foundation in his legal practice. After earning a BS in Accounting (*cum laude*) and a Master of Accountancy from Case Western Reserve University (where he also played four years of collegiate basketball), he continued his education by obtaining his law degree from Southern Methodist University Dedman School of Law in Dallas, Texas. David's education culminated in 2021, when David earned his LLM in Taxation from the University of Alabama, graduating *magna cum laude*.

Finally, David is involved in several community organizations, including serving on the Upstate Board for Junior Achievement of Greater South Carolina, serving on the Board of Directors for the Community Foundation of Greenville, and as a Director for the Joyful Blessings Foundation. David and his family are members of Buncombe Street Methodist Church. In his free time, David enjoys spending time with his family, playing golf, and visiting local breweries. David and his wife have two daughters and three golden retrievers.

**Michelle King**  
*Merline and Meacham*  
*Greenville, SC*

Michelle King focuses her practice on complex estate planning and business strategy, offering comprehensive counsel to individuals and business owners. In addition to her legal practice, Michelle is dedicated to mentoring the next generation of legal professionals through programs at the University of South Carolina, USC Law, and the South Carolina Bar. Michelle is a graduate of Georgetown University Law Center (LL.M. in Taxation with a Certificate in Estate Planning) and the University of South Carolina School of Law. An active member of the South Carolina Bar and North Carolina Bar, Michelle's professional involvement includes leadership roles with the South Carolina Bar's Tax Law Section Council and the Probate, Estate Planning, and Trust Section's Legislative Subcommittee. In commitment to continued involvement with USC Law, Michelle currently serves on the planning committee for the law school's Estate Planning Conference. She is also active in the Greenville Estate Planning Council, the Greenville County Bar Association, the University of South Carolina Young Alumni Association, and the South Carolina Bar's Young Lawyers Division. Michelle has been recognized in *Best Lawyers: Ones to Watch® in America*. She has also been named a *Greenville Business Magazine* Legal Elite Award recipient since 2022 and is an SC Women in Business Award recipient.

**J. Aaron Nelson, Jr.**  
*Nelson Law Firm*  
*Bluffton, SC*

Aaron graduated from The Citadel in 2008 with a bachelor's degree in Business Management: Accounting. He then attended law school at the Charleston School of Law and received a Master of Laws in Taxation from the University of Florida in 2012.

After graduating from the University of Florida, Aaron worked at Deloitte Tax, LLP in Atlanta before moving to Greenville, South Carolina to work for the firm of Merline & Meacham, P.A. At Merline & Meacham, Aaron primarily practiced in the areas of estate planning, probate administration, general business law (including corporate and LLC formation), before moving to Bluffton to start his own practice in 2016.

Aaron is a member of the South Carolina Bar Association and the Hilton Head Island Bar Association and serves as a Council Member of the South Carolina Bar Estate Planning and Probate Law Section. In addition, Aaron served as a Council Member of the South Carolina Bar Tax Section from 2016-2024, and as President from July 2022-July 2023.

Aaron has contributed to multiple legal publications, including the *South Carolina Lawyer*, where his articles on trust decanting, retirement planning, and tax-related issues have helped educate other professionals. He has also presented on topics such as decanting, deferred compensation, and trust modification at various legal conferences, including the South Carolina Bar Convention, the Probate Bench and Bar, and the South Carolina Trial Lawyers Association.

In his personal life, Aaron is the proud father of two children, Annie and Tripp. Outside of his professional commitments, he enjoys spending time with his family and is an avid outdoor enthusiast. Aaron enjoys fishing, boating, and exploring the May River. A passionate supporter of college football, he is particularly devoted to the Clemson Tigers.