

Tax Law Section

SPEAKER BIOGRAPHIES

by order of presentation

Jason P. Luther

*S.C. Department of Revenue
Columbia, SC*

Jason P. Luther joined the South Carolina Department of Revenue in 2017 as General Counsel for litigation, where he provides senior leadership and direction for all litigation impacting the Department and develops and implements Department policy on tax, regulatory, and administrative law issues.

Jason is a proud alumnus of Covenant College (Lookout Mountain, GA), where he received a Bachelor of Arts in history and served as President of the student body. After helping found and manage a roofing and construction company in south Florida, Jason returned home to Columbia to attend law school at the University of South Carolina. While in law school, he was a member of the Moot Court Bar national team and was elected as Editor in Chief of the *South Carolina Law Review*.

He began his legal career as a litigator with Nelson Mullins Riley & Scarborough, LLP. After a judicial clerkship with the Honorable Dennis W. Shedd of the United States Court of Appeals for the Fourth Circuit, Jason joined the Columbia law firm of Murphy & Grantland, P.A. where his practice focused on a variety of civil litigation and appellate matters in state and federal courts. He was recognized as a South Carolina Super Lawyers® Rising Star in 2014, 2016, and 2017.

In addition to being an active member of the state and local bar and numerous professional associations and organizations, Jason is also a Blackstone Legal Fellow and a past chairman of the Covenant College Young Alumni Board. He is a graduate of Leadership Columbia, and currently serves on the Board of Directors for Junior Achievement of Greater South Carolina and is a deacon at First Presbyterian Church in Columbia. He is married and has three sons.

Eric P. Doerring

*Burr Forman McNair, LLP
Columbia, SC*

Erik is the leader of McNair Law Firm's firm-wide tax practice. With over 30 years of experience, Erik advises McNair's individual, corporate, and international clients on federal, state, and local tax issues. He is a business lawyer, with the skills of a tax litigator. Prior to

joining McNair, Erik was an attorney with the IRS Office of Chief Counsel and the U.S. Department of Justice, Tax Division.

Erik has been listed in *The Best Lawyers in America*, *South Carolina Super Lawyers*, *Legal Elite of the Midlands*, and has received an *AV Preeminent Peer Review Rating* by Martindale-Hubbell. He is the General Editor and an author for Lexis/Nexis *South Carolina Tax Insights* and is the Editor and an author for the tax-specific blog, www.sctaxlawyers.com. Erik was recently named as a *Top Tax Author* by JD Supra.

Erik is a frequent speaker to bar, CPA, accounting, trade and other professional groups and organizations.

Blake N. Melton

*Synovus Family Office
Columbus, GA*

Blake Melton is a Sr. Wealth Strategist with Synovus Family Asset Management in Columbus, GA. He joined Synovus Family Asset Management in 2007. Blake earned his BA in Economics from the University of Colorado at Boulder, his law degree from the University of Georgia School of Law (cum laude), and his LL.M. in Taxation from the University of Alabama School of Law (summa cum laude). He is also CERTIFIED FINANCIAL PLANNER™ professional. Blake is Chairperson of the Fiduciary Law Section of the State Bar of Georgia and serves on the Trust Code Revision and Legislative Committees. He led the Sections efforts responding to power of attorney legislation in the 2017 legislative session and drafting a corrections bill that passed in 2018 session. Blake also serves on the Multi-Disciplinary Teaming Committee of the National Association of Estate Planners & Councils. In 2018, he was named to Family Wealth Report's shortlist for recognition as the Best Leading Individual. He is a frequent speaker at professional and educational programs.

Blake is active in his community. Currently he serves on the boards of Trees Columbus and Bicycle Columbus. He is also the Treasurer of the Chattahoochee Valley Area chapter of the Southern Off-Road Bicycle Association. Since 2015, Blake has led the charge to construct a 25-mile, \$1,500,000 multi-use trail system within the Columbus city limits, which is on track to be completed by 2021.

Blake met his wife Jensen while both were attending the University of Georgia School of Law. They have two daughters. Blake enjoys mountain biking, reading, and spending time with his family.

Prof. Clinton G. Wallace
University of South Carolina School of Law
Columbia, SC

Clint Wallace teaches tax law and tax policy at the USC School of Law. His research focuses on tax policy, tax rulemaking, and tax legislation. He has written on various tax policy topics, including tax administration and the design of tax expenditures.

Before joining the faculty at the University of South Carolina in 2017, he taught tax procedure, corporate tax, and tax policy at New York University School of Law as an Acting Assistant Professor of Tax Law, and he worked as an associate at the law firm Caplin & Drysdale. In practice, he provided advice on various aspects of federal income taxation to individuals, businesses and exempt organizations, with a focus on U.S. international tax issues. Previously he served as speechwriter to a U.S. Senator and to the governor of the State of Michigan and worked on various federal and state political campaigns. He received a LLM in taxation and a JD from New York University School of Law, and an AB from Princeton University's Woodrow Wilson School of Public and International Affairs.

W. Verne McGough, Jr.
Rogers Townsend & Thomas, PC
Columbia, SC

Course Planner

Mr. McGough handles estate planning, trust and probate matters, represents individuals and businesses in tax controversy and tax collection matters, and assists professionals and small businesses in tax efficient corporate planning and transactions.

Mr. McGough has been certified by the South Carolina Supreme Court Commission on C.L.E. and Legal Specialization as a specialist in Taxation Law and Estate Planning and Probate Law. He earned an LL.M. in Taxation from Boston University, International Master of Business Administration and Juris Doctor degrees from the University of South Carolina and completed undergraduate study at Appalachian State University.