



Cornelius W. Coghill, III

“Neil”

Profile

Neil Coghill has over thirty years experience assisting individuals and families in estate and tax planning and family wealth transfer planning and assisting individual and corporate fiduciaries in probate and trust administration. Neil also has extensive experience in charitable giving and exempt organizations, including the organization and operation of private charitable foundations and supporting organizations. Working as a team with a member of the Firm’s business litigation practice, Neil’s practice also includes representing banks and trust companies in trust and estate controversies and fiduciary litigation and in the modification and termination of irrevocable trusts.

Two hallmark’s of Neil’s professional reputation are his ability to explain complex estate planning and tax techniques to his clients in plain, understandable terms, and his ability to set forth his clients’ goals in clear, readable documents. Neil considers his trusts and estates practice “high touch” and “high tech.” The “high touch” part of his practice includes personal contact with clients learning about their family and financial information and understanding their estate planning goals. The “high tech” part of his practice involves the use of the Firm’s state of the art will and trust document system to produce quality documents in a timely manner at a reasonable cost.

In assisting his clients with tax planning for family wealth transfers, Neil employs the most advanced planning techniques and strategies. Work for clients that he has recently completed includes the use of GRATs, installment sales to intentionally defective grantor trusts, family limited partnerships and family limited liability companies, QPRTs, and CRUTs. Neil also has experience in life insurance planning and the use of ILITs, planning for distributions from retirement plans and IRAs, and the use of Dynasty Trusts for GST tax planning. Neil’s probate practice includes representing individual and corporate executors and trustees in estate tax audits and tax controversy matters.

Neil’s time away from his law practice includes reading, exercise, listening to jazz, and service in various roles at his Episcopal Church, of which he is currently serving as the Chancellor.

Professional Activities

Fellow, American College of Trust and Estate Counsel; Best Lawyers in America (2007-2010); North Carolina Bar Association (Development Committee (2006-2007); Endowment Committee (1998-2006); Task Force on Multidisciplinary Practice (1999-2001); Continuing Legal Education Committee (1987-1990); Estate Planning and Fiduciary Law Section (Chair [1992-1993], Vice Chair [1991-1992], Council [1989-1994]); Charlotte Estate Planning Council.

Areas of Practice

*Estate Planning/
Family Wealth Transfer
Planning/
Trusts and Estates/
Probate/
Trust Administration/
Charitable Giving/
Exempt Organizations*

Contact Information

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Admitted to bar, 1978, North Carolina.

Education

A.B., 1973, Davidson College, *cum laude*, Honors in English, Phi Beta Kappa; M.A., English, 1974, University of Virginia; J.D., 1978, University of North Carolina School of Law, Staff, *North Carolina Law Review*.

Prior Legal Experience

Poyner & Spruill, L.L.P., Charlotte, NC, 1989-95 (Chair, Trusts and Estates Section, 1992-1995); Berry, Hogewood, Edwards & Freeman, P.A., Charlotte, NC, 1978-87.

Prior Business Experience

Assistant Vice President and Trust Officer, NationsBank of North Carolina, N.A. (now Bank of America, N.A.), Charlotte, NC, 1987-89.

Speaking and Writing

Neil is a frequent speaker on estate planning topics and has written numerous articles and outlines on topics including grantor trusts (*Estate Planning*, February, 1996), family limited partnerships, IRA QTIP trusts, GST tax planning, and federal tax law developments, including IRS Circular 230.