

**Practice Areas:**

Trusts and Estates Planning

Fiduciary Dispute Resolution &amp; Litigation

Employee Benefits &amp; Executive Compensation

**Education:**J.D., Wake Forest University,  
2001M.B.A., East Carolina  
University, 1996B.S., University of North  
Carolina at Wilmington,  
1992**Bar and Court Admissions:**

North Carolina State Bar

Virginia State Bar

U.S. District Courts: Eastern  
and Western Districts of  
Virginia and the Western  
District of North CarolinaU.S. Bankruptcy Court, Eastern  
District of Virginia and the  
Western District of North  
Carolina

U.S. Tax Court

U.S. Supreme Court

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Jim Hickmon assists clients with wealth transfer, estate planning, trust, tax, and probate law issues. He also works with clients to resolve trust and estate related disputes, including representing beneficiaries and fiduciaries in litigated matters. He is a member of the American Bar Association's Committees on Estate Planning and Employee Benefits and is Vice Chair of the ABA's Probate & Real Property Section's Uniform Acts Committee for Trusts and Estates. He is a Council member of the North Carolina Bar Association's Section on Estate Planning and Fiduciary Law and sits on the Section's Legislative and Fiduciary Litigation Committees. In addition to his bar activities, Jim is also a contributing author to the *North Carolina Estate Administration Manual* published by the North Carolina Bar Association Foundation, and regularly contributes articles to the Bar Association's estate planning professional journal, *The Will & The Way*. Jim has also authored a number of professional articles published in the Bureau of National Affairs' *Tax Management & Compensation Planning Journal*.

The North Carolina State Bar has certified Jim as a **Board Certified Specialist in Estate Planning and Probate Law**. In addition to his extensive trusts and estates experience, Jim brings many years of business experience to his practice. Prior to attending law school, he worked as a trust officer for two national banking corporations. He also earned the designation of Certified Financial Planner® (CFP®) from the Certified Financial Planner Board of Standards.

Jim holds an undergraduate degree in finance from the University of North Carolina, Wilmington, an MBA from East Carolina University and his law degree from the Wake Forest University School of Law. Jim has recently returned to Wake Forest as an adjunct professor at the Wake Forest School of Law where he teaches Wealth Transfer and Fiduciary Income Taxation.

Jim has involved himself in a number of charitable and community service organizations at the local, state, and national levels. Currently Jim is a member of the Humane Society of Charlotte's Development Committee where he assists the Society with its planned giving efforts. He has consistently been selected by his fellow members of the Bar as a member of *Business North Carolina* magazine's *Legal Elite* in the field of Tax and Estate Planning Law and was selected as a 2016 through 2018 *SuperLawyer* in the field of Fiduciary Litigation. He is a member of the Charlotte chapter of the Financial Planning Association and the Charlotte Estate Planning Council. Jim is rated AV Preeminent by Martindale-Hubbell as judged by his fellow lawyers.



### Professional and Civic Involvement:

- North Carolina State Bar
  - N.C. State Bar Board Certified Specialist in Estate Planning & Probate Law
- North Carolina Bar Association
  - Legislative Committee (2007-Present)
  - Ethics Committee (2010-2014)
  - Fiduciary Litigation Committee, (2013-Present – Chair 2013 - 2016)
  - Council Member (2016 – Present)
- North Carolina Board of Law Examiners –
  - Uniform Bar Exam Committee – Estate Planning and Probate Law
- Wake Forest University School of Law – Adjunct Professor - Tax
- Financial Planning Association, Charlotte Chapter
- Charlotte Estate Planning Council
- Mecklenburg County Bar Association
- Virginia Bar Association
- Virginia State Bar
- Humane Society of Charlotte, Inc.
  - Development Committee (2013-Present)
  - Community Cat Task Force (2017-Present)
- American Bar Association
  - Committees on Employee Benefits and Estate Planning, Member
  - Committee of Uniform Laws for Trusts & Estates, Vice Chair
  - Tax, Labor & Employment, and Real Property & Probate Sections, Member

### Recently Reported Cases:

- *In the Matter of the Purported Will of Ruby Shaw Shepherd*, 761 S.E.2d 221, 2014 N.C. App. LEXIS 815; 2014 WL 3821178 (2014).
- *Williams v. Williams*, 746 S.E.2d 319, 2013 N.C. App. LEXIS 832 (2013).
- *Wortman, et al v. Hutaff, et al*, 12 NCBC 9 (2012).