

William "Lee" Thuston

Former Chairman

Birmingham, AL
(205) 458-5143
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“Our goal is to foster forever relationships. We build trust and make a commitment to our clients because results matter. And it all begins with our people.”

Lee is the former Chairman and Managing Partner of Burr & Forman. He practices in the Corporate/Tax practice group where he focuses on economic development, business, and succession planning, and tax law.

A driving force behind Alabama’s economic development, Lee has played a large role in some of the State’s major manufacturing deals which include serving as Alabama Counsel during the site selection and negotiation processes for Mercedes-Benz U.S. International, Inc.; Mi-Tech Steel, Inc.; Kronospan; IPSCO Steel and ThyssenKrupp when these companies chose to locate their facilities in Alabama. Lee and his partner Warren C. Matthews assisted Kia Motors with the site selection and incentives negotiation for its automobile manufacturing plan in West Point, GA. His experience in the automotive industry also involves assisting Honda Manufacturing of Alabama with the implementation of its incentives package with the State for the development of its plant in Lincoln, AL, as well as assisting Hyundai Motor Manufacturing Alabama, LLC with the implementation of its incentive package with the State for the development of its plant in Montgomery, AL. He represented Honda in the establishment of its transmission manufacturing facility in Tallapoosa, GA in 2004. Additionally, Lee was instrumental in boosting the State’s profile in the aerospace industry by working with public and private entities to create a desirable environment – legally, tax-wise, economically, and socially – to attract Airbus to build a manufacturing facility in Mobile, AL.

PARALEGAL/ASSISTANT

Legal Practice Assistant

Michele Acton
(205) 458-5156
macton@burr.com

CAPABILITIES

Automotive

Succession Planning

Corporate Law

Manufacturing

Economic Development

Tax Law

Trusts & Estates Planning

Mergers & Acquisitions

EDUCATION

LL.M., Taxation, New York University
School of Law

J.D., Samford University Cumberland
School of Law

B.A., University of Virginia

LICENSED IN

Alabama

Tennessee

William "Lee" Thuston

Lee wanted to become a lawyer after discovering his passion for serving clients. With a long-storied career of representing clients across the Southeast, Lee still finds the variety of each case, and the opportunity to be a trusted business advisor for his long-term manufacturing, automotive, and transportation clients, rewarding. With a focus on the firm's overall approach, Lee puts much of his effort into leading by example and bringing out the best in others. Considering himself a fixer, he continually strives to solve impossible problems and to show his clients how well the law can work for them through his efforts.

When away from work, Lee enjoys spending time with his five grandchildren, hunting, and fishing.

Lee earned his LL.M. in Taxation from New York University, his J.D. from the Cumberland School of Law at Samford University and his B.A. from University of Virginia.

Honors & Recognition

- Named, *Chambers USA*, "Eminent Practitioner" in Corporate/Commercial (2018-2023)
- Named, *Chambers USA*, Leading Practitioner in Corporate/Commercial (2003-2018)
- *Birmingham Business Journal*, "CEO of the Year," Large Company Category (2015)
- Listed in *The Best Lawyers in America*®, Corporate Law since 2006, Economic Development Law since 2011, Mergers and Acquisitions Law since 2022
 - Listed in *The Best Lawyers in America*®, "Lawyer of the Year," Economic Development Law, Birmingham, Alabama (2015, 2021), Corporate Law, Birmingham, Alabama (2023)
- 2010 Distinguishes Alumnus Award from Cumberland School of Law, Samford University
- Lifetime Achievement Award, Alabama Wildlife Federation Conservation (2015)
- *Mid-South Super Lawyers*, Business/Corporate (2016-2018)
- *Alabama Super Lawyers*, Business/Corporate (2008-2015)
- *Birmingham Business Journal*, "Most Influential Executives," Named to the list for his role in some of Alabama's largest economic development success stories (2014)

News

- Burr Recognized as One of the Top Economic Development Firms in the Southern Region
Firm News, *Southern Business and Development*, 01.31.2024
- Best Lawyers® 2024 Honors 242 Burr Attorneys, Including 17 "Lawyers of the Year"
Firm News, 08.17.2023
- 61 Burr & Forman Attorneys Ranked in 2023 Chambers USA
Firm News, 06.01.2023
- 63 Burr & Forman Attorneys Ranked in 2022 Chambers USA
Firm News, 06.03.2022
- Lee Thuston Featured in the *Daily Report* on How Burr & Forman Prepared for Succession Planning
Firm News, 07.13.2018

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Speaking Engagements

- Speaker: Birmingham Business Journal: Inside the C-Suite with Jason Hoff
Speaking Engagement, Birmingham, AL, 04.24.2018

Articles

- Burr Alert: State of the Automotive Industry in the U.S. Conference Followup
Articles / Publications, 11.01.2017
- Co-author, with partners Louis Anders and Lee Thuston, "Alabama Limited Liability Company Forms and Practice Manual."
Articles / Publications, 12.01.1995

Civic Activities

- Board of Directors and past Board President, O'Neal Comprehensive Cancer Center,
- Board of Directors and past Board President, Alabama Wildlife Federation
- Board of Directors and past Board President, Girls Incorporated of Central Alabama
- National Board Member, Girls Incorporated (2002-2006)
- Leadership Alabama Class of XIX

Professional Activities

- American Bar Association
- Alabama State Bar
- Tennessee Bar Association
- Birmingham Bar Association, President - 2005
- Alabama Automotive Manufacturers Association, Board of Directors
- Birmingham Business Alliance, Executive Committee
- Economic Development Partnership of Alabama, Corporate Secretary
- Fellow of the College of Law Practice Management
- Fellows of the American Bar Foundation
- Fellows of the Alabama Law Foundation
- Fellows of the Birmingham Bar Foundation