

HATCHER · STUBBS

ATTORNEYS AT LAW

BRADLEY R. COPPEDGE

PARTNER

Brad Coppedge was born and raised in Columbus, Georgia. He received his B.B.A. in Accounting from Mercer University in 1993, his J.D. degree from Mercer University School of Law in 1996, and his LL.M. (Masters of Law) in Taxation from the University of Miami School of Law in 1997. Upon receiving his LL.M. degree, Brad returned home to practice with Hatcher Stubbs, becoming a partner in the Firm in 2002. He has been a member of the Georgia Bar since 1996 and the Alabama Bar since 1998, is admitted to practice before the United States Tax Court and is a member of the Columbus Bar Association.

Brad's practice is devoted to business, tax and personal planning, particularly in the areas of entity selection/formation, estate planning and probate, and tax controversies. Brad provides estate and tax planning advice for individuals, including the preparation of wills, trusts, family partnerships and various charitable planning techniques. Brad also works with clients in the creation of Special Needs trusts (SNTs), both for self-settled and third party donor created trusts, in Medicaid planning, and planning for beneficiaries with disabilities. Brad also represents existing small and family-owned businesses, new start-up businesses, and a number of physician groups. He advises these clients on the best form of entity from a tax, liability, and operational standpoint, entity formation, and continued representation on matters such as employment agreements, buy-sell agreements, contracts, leases, retirement plans and other matters related to the operation of a business. Brad also regularly represents both entity and individual clients in controversies with the IRS and the State Department of Revenue.

Brad has written numerous articles in local, state and national publications and often speaks locally and regionally at events sponsored by private and public groups, on the topics of estate planning and choice of entity. Brad has been recognized by Georgia Super Lawyers, Rising Stars each year since 2005.

Areas of Practice

- Wills & Estate Planning
- Trusts (including "special needs trusts")
- Entity Selection & Formation (Incorporation)
- Corporate Law
- Tax & Tax Controversy - Federal & State
- Qualified Retirement Plans
- Probate, Estate Administration & Guardianships

For more information, contact:

Bradley R. Coppedge

Direct dial: 706.243.6216

Direct fax: 706.243.5216

brc@hatcherstubbs.com

Assistant:

Elisa Savage

Direct dial: 706.243.6248

savage@hatcherstubbs.com

**Hatcher, Stubbs, Land,
Hollis & Rothschild, LLP**

The Corporate Center

Suite 500

233 Twelfth Street

Columbus, Georgia 31901

Phone: 706.324.0201

Fax: 706.322.7747

Mailing Address

Post Office Box 2707

Columbus, Georgia 31902

www.hatcherstubbs.com

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A T T O R N E Y S A T L A W

Education

- B.B.A., Accounting, Mercer University, 1993
- J.D., Mercer University (Walter F. George School of Law), 1996
- LL.M., Taxation, University of Miami School of Law, 1997

Admitted to Practice

- Georgia, 1996
- Alabama, 1998
- United States Tax Court, 2004

Memberships, Affiliations and Activities

- State Bar of Georgia – Fiduciary Law and Taxation Law Sections
- Alabama State Bar
- Columbus Bar Association
- Better Business Bureau of Columbus, Georgia (Legal Counsel)
- St. Paul United Methodist Church, Member
- Uptown Columbus, Inc. (Board of Directors)
- Information Technology Innovation Center (Advisory Board)
- Muscogee County Autism Support Group, Inc. (Board of Directors)

Honors and Awards

- Georgia Super Lawyers, Rising Stars, 2005-2009

Publications and Lectures

- “Home Sweet Home: How the ‘97 Tax Act Affects the Sale of a Principal Residence,” Georgia ICLE program (1998)
- *Georgia Bar Journal*, “LLP or LLLP? Creating Limited Liability For a General Partnership,” by Bradley R. Coppedge and W. Fray McCormick (August, 1998)
- *Georgia Bar Journal*, “Choice of Entity in Estate Planning” (December, 2000)
- *Estate Tax Planning Advisor*, “Choice of Entity Impacts Estate Planning,” by Bradley R. Coppedge & Morton A. Harris, Aspen Publishers (January, 2003; Volume 2, Issue 1)
- *Probate & Property Magazine*, “LLC Operating Agreements: Drafting Tips and Traps for the Unwary” (January/February, 2005)
- ALI-ABA Program Materials, Representing Professional and Closely Held Businesses: Qualified Plans, Welfare Benefits, and Tax Planning, Scottsdale, AZ (February 17-19, 2005), “LLC Operating Agreements: Drafting Tips and Traps for the Unwary,” originally published in *Probate & Property Magazine* (January/February, 2005)
- *GP Solo Magazine*, “LLC Operating Agreements: Drafting Tips and Traps for the Unwary,” Best Articles (September, 2005; Volume 22, No. 6)
- Asset Protection in Georgia, Lorman Education Series, Albany, Georgia, “S Corporations, Limited Partnerships and Limited Liability Companies” (December 14, 2005)

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A T T O R N E Y S A T L A W

- 51st Annual Estate Planning Institute, Athens, Georgia, 2006, “Choice of Entity in Estate and Business Planning”
- *The Practical Lawyer*, “Circular 230: Why, What, When and How?” (February, 2006; Volume 52, Number 1)
- 2007 Real Property Law Institute, Destin, Florida, “Choice of Entity,” May 4-5, 2007
- *Probate & Property Magazine*, “Transfers to Trust and Use of UTMA Custodial Accounts,” (May/June, 2009)

Books

- “Estate Planning & Probate Overview for the Georgia & Alabama Non-Lawyer: Just the Basics Please!” copyright 2009, Bradley R. Coppedge