



## Sarah Wesley Wheaton

Associate

Murchison, Taylor & Gibson PLLC 16  
North 5th Avenue Wilmington, NC  
28401

T: (910) 218-7243

F: (910) 763-6561

E: [swwheaton@murchisontaylor.com](mailto:swwheaton@murchisontaylor.com)

## Education

J.D., Wake Forest School of Law, 2017

B.A., University of North Carolina at Chapel  
Hill, 2012

## Bar & Court Admissions

Member, North Carolina State Bar, 2017

**Areas of Practice:** Business Law & Taxation - Litigation - Mergers & Acquisitions  
- Wills, Trusts, Estate Planning and Estate Administration

Sarah Wesley focuses her practice in corporate law, specifically in the areas intellectual property including trademarks, copyright, and licensing; mergers and acquisitions; taxation; estate and trust planning, and related litigation.

Sarah Wesley's trademark and copyright practice experience focus on guiding clients on the type of intellectual property they need to obtain and protect in order to best serve their business needs, including:

- Performing preliminary and full clearance searches of proposed trademarks and assistance in finding a trademark that can obtain clearance;
- Obtaining both state and federal trademarks and copyright protections;
- Responding to trademark trial and appeal board;
- Assistance in trademark enforcement, such as cease and desist letters and opposition proceedings and trademark licensing agreements

Sarah Wesley's business law practice experience includes advising clients on:

- Maintaining, transferring, or acquiring intellectual property rights before formation and during mergers and acquisitions;
- Entity selection and formation; organizational issues;
- Negotiation and preparation of a variety of contractual arrangements, including operating and shareholders agreements, license agreements, and SaaS agreements.

Sarah Wesley's estate planning and administration practice includes advising individuals and families on:

- Estate and business succession planning;
- Estate planning and administration to plan for and avoid conflict;
- The administration of decedents' estates

Sarah Wesley's litigation practice primarily focuses on estate related litigation, her style of conflict resolution is reconciliation based; however, she is trained in litigation and willing to use that as tool reach resolution, her litigation experience includes:

- Will and trust interpretation disputes, including ;
- Judicial modification, reformation, and/or termination of trusts;
- Fiduciary disputes and resolutions;
- Beneficiary disputes over bank accounts with right of survivorship

## Professional Experience

Previous to law school, she worked at a pharmaceutical testing company, an independent film distribution company, a reality television company, and created several mobile applications. She also served as a judicial extern in the Eastern District of North Carolina Bankruptcy Court with Judge Humrickhouse.

During her time at Wake Forest Law School, she was an extern at the McAuthor Law Firm, an IP law firm in Los Angeles; participated in the Elder Law Clinic, which provides estate planning to low-income individuals; and participated in many pro bono projects including serving as educational surrogate for students with disabilities, teen court, and Phi Alpha Delta. She was a summer associate at Troutman Sanders in Charlotte and at Patrick, Harper, & Dixon in Hickory.

## Community Activities & Affiliations

Cape Fear Community College Foundation: Board of Directors

Estate Planning Council

Foundation of Hope

North Carolina Bar Association: Intellectual Property Section, Estate Planning Section, and Young Lawyers Division member

New Hanover County Bar Association: member

## Honors & Awards

Wake Forest Trial Bar Competition –Sweet Sixteen

Wake Forest Journal of Business and Intellectual Property Law

UNC- Dean's List (2011-2012)

Academy of Motion Picture Arts and Science – Scholarship Recipient (2012)

## Article, Publications, Speeches

Interview with Zak Williams