



Doug Benson
General Counsel & Senior Vice President



Doug Benson is General Counsel and Senior Vice President at Foundation For The Carolinas, the fifth-largest community foundation in the United States.

Doug manages its legal and investment teams and plays a lead role in the Foundation’s philanthropic advancement work. He also oversees governance and compliance for the Foundation and its affiliates, including 14 supporting organizations.

Doug works closely with donors and their professional advisors to implement sophisticated lifetime and testamentary giving techniques to accomplish the donors’ philanthropic and tax objectives. He also coordinates the planning, negotiation and acceptance of complex gifts, including gifts of closely held business interests, real estate and other non-cash assets. Since joining the Foundation, he has played a key role in facilitating charitable gifts of non-cash assets in excess of \$300 million.

Prior to joining FFTC in 2012, Doug practiced as an estate planning attorney for 12 years with Moore & Van Allen PLLC in Charlotte and with Sutherland Asbill & Brennan LLP (now Eversheds Sutherland) in Washington, D.C. His practice areas included estate planning and administration, tax planning, and charitable planning.

Doug holds a B.A. in Economics from the University of Rochester and a J.D. from Duke University School of Law. He is a member of the American Bar Association and the North Carolina Bar Association, as well as the Duke University Estate Planning Council, Queens University Estate Planners Day Steering Committee (Chair 2019/2020) and the Charlotte Estate Planning Council. Doug is a frequent speaker on a broad range of charitable and estate planning topics, including charitable gifts of closely held business interests, planned giving, board governance and tax-exempt entities. Doug lives in Charlotte with his wife Tara and their two daughters.