

RICHARD B. TAYLOR

Richard enjoyed a 45 year career as a CPA with HLB Gross Collins, P.C. He began his career at the firm in 1973 and served as a client services shareholder from 1984 until 2018. He served as International Practice leader from 1989 to 2018, and as the firm's liaison with a worldwide organization of accounting firms, HLB International. He served a broad range of industries including manufacturing, distribution, construction, service and technology companies. He specializes in providing business and tax consulting, financial planning and audit and assurance services to privately owned companies. He also has extensive experience with business acquisitions, business sales and many issues related to financing, planning and tax strategies for these transactions. He also served as head of recruiting from 1978 until 2018.

Richard is currently the president and owner of Avid Wealth Management Group, LLC, a registered investment advisory firm. He serves as an investment advisor, providing portfolio management, retirement, insurance and financial planning for wealthy individuals, estates, trusts and corporate retirement plans.

Richard is the Managing Member and owner of Hearthstone Development, LLC, a developer of subdivisions and home builder in Greenville, SC. He developed Charleston Walk, The Ravines at Spring Mill and The Ravines at Camellia Village subdivisions.

Richard is a graduate of the University of Georgia, receiving a Bachelor of Business Administration (BBA) with a major in accounting, in 1973. While at Georgia, he was a member of Beta Alpha Psi and Phi Kappa Phi scholastic honor societies. Richard is a cum laude graduate of Andrew College, where he earned his Associate in Science degree in 1971. While at Andrew, he was a member of Phi Theta Kappa scholastic honor society.

Richard is a Certified Public Accountant in Georgia, Florida, Pennsylvania, and Arkansas. He is also a member of the American Institute of Certified Public Accountants and the Georgia Society of CPAs.

Richard is a trustee of Andrew College and serves as head of the audit committee and serves on the investment and finance committees. He is a trustee for the Public School Employees Retirement System for the State of Georgia. He is a member of the Board of Advisors for the University of Georgia Athletic Association and BB&T Bank, Atlanta, NW. He was a former director of HLB Gross Collins, P.C., HLB USA, Inc., The University of Georgia Alumni Association and North Cobb Christian School. He was a director and treasurer of the French-American Chamber of Commerce from 1998 to 2018. Richard is a former President of Pinetree Country Club. He was a member of the Board of Advisors and member of the Economic Development committee of the Metro Atlanta Chamber of Commerce.

Richard began recruiting for the firm very shortly after joining the firm. He began recruiting on campus at KSU in 1981 and has been on campus recruiting every year since that time. He has been instrumental in hiring dozens of KSU graduates and believes that HLBGC was the first CPA firm to begin actively interviewing and recruiting on campus. He has always felt that the life blood of a firm is the people that are hired and the quality of the new hires is critical for success. He has been instrumental in hiring most of the people with HLBGC that are currently employed with the firm and has many alumni in prominent positions throughout the country. Richard was very serious about recruiting as he personally came to

campus each year and felt that the individuals hired are the future of the firm. He had one rule that he says he never violated and that rule was to always hire people that are smarter than you are.

He served on the advisory board for the School of Accounting from 1992 through 2018 and served as its chairman from 2015 through 2018. He served on the Strategic Planning Committee for several years and served on the search committee that recruited the current Head of the School of Accounting. He has been a key note speaker for the Masters hooding ceremony and also for the honors banquet in the past.

Throughout his career, Richard has been celebrated for his contributions to the field. He has been featured in numerous publications, including Who's Who in Finance and Business, Who's Who in America, Who's Who in the South and Southwest, and Who's Who in the World. In 2019, he received the Who's Who Lifetime Achievement Award.

As his primary charitable and civic activity, Richard has the largest Christmas Light display for a residence in the State of Georgia at his home in Kennesaw, GA. The display features over 500,000 lights and is visited by thousands of people each year. The display is named "Lights of Joy" and has been featured by Channel 2 Action News and will be a contestant on the ABC national TV series, "The Great Light Fight" in December, 2019.

Richard is married to Sherrie Lynn Lieber Taylor and they have one son Andrew Taylor.