## **ANNETTE MICHELLE (SHELLI) WILLIS**



SENIOR BANKING, FINANCE & CORPORATE GOVERNANCE ATTORNEY
TRUIST FINANCIAL CORPORATION



Annette Michelle (Shelli) Willis is a trusted legal advisor with extensive experience in the compliance, audit, regulatory, and legal frameworks of financial institutions and publicly-traded companies in highly regulated industries. She is recognized for collaborating with executive management teams, boards of directors, and business leaders to deliver creative legal and business solutions. She has engaged in multi-disciplinary areas of corporate counsel expertise, including corporate and board governance, SEC reporting, M&A, complex transactions, corporate social responsibility (CSR), environmental social and governance (ESG) matters, diversity and inclusion (D&I), and litigation management

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Since December 2019, Shelli has been Senior Vice President, Assistant Corporate Secretary, and Deputy General Counsel at Truist Financial Corporation (NYSE:TFC), and before that, held the same position at SunTrust Bank. Truist was formed from the \$66B merger of SunTrust Bank, Inc. and BB&T Corporation and today is the sixth largest U.S. bank holding company with revenues of \$11.6B and assets of \$463.7M. Shelli served as lead SunTrust attorney for the merger and facilitated the post-merger integration of the two public company boards (SunTrust, BB&T) to form the new Truist Board of Directors.

Since then, Shelli has continued in her role and serves as Team Lead for the Truist Enterprise and Securities Legal Team. She also serves as legal advisor to the company's CSR/ESG and Investor Relations programs and provides legal counsel to the Finance, M&A, IR, SEC and Regulatory Reporting, Corporate Real Estate and Workplace (CREW) functions. In her earlier SunTrust positions, she was Team Lead for the Wholesale Lending, Treasury and Payments, Employment, and Procurement Contracting legal teams and was a member of the SunTrust Steering Group for Corporate Social Responsibility and a past member of the SunTrust Women's Teammate Network and its Hispanic-Latino Teammate Network.

Earlier in her career, Shelli advanced through high-profile client engagements as a Partner (1997 – 2014) and Associate (1990 – 1996) at the law firm Troutman Sanders LLC, where she was head firm partner for the workout team for a national banking institution and a founding member of the firm's Women's Forum.

Shelli serves in adjunct professor or guest lecturer positions at a number of universities, including the Emory University School of Law, Georgia State University College of Business, and Oglethorpe University. As a community leader, she serves on the Advisory Board, HouseATL Affordable Housing Task Force, and Capital Markets Council for Urban Land Institute Atlanta. She is also a member of The Trust for Public Land's Georgia Advisory Council and chairs its Urban Parks Committee. She is a frequent speaker on topics such as real estate, finance, CSR/ESG, and diversity and inclusion, and has been recognized for her support of diversity and inclusion efforts by the National Diversity Counsel.

Shelli is a past chair of the Real Estate Section of the State Bar of Georgia and a current fellow in the American College of Real Estate Lawyers. She has been included in The Best Lawyers in America and recognized as one of America's Leading Lawyers for Real Estate Law by Chambers USA and as a Super Lawyer in Real Estate by Law & Politics and Atlanta Magazine, among numerous other distinctions she has earned.

Shelli earned her Juris Doctor from Emory University, where she graduated Order of the Coif and served as an editor for the Emory Law Journal. She graduated cum laude with a Bachelor of Arts in Comparative Literature and Political Science from Duke University. She recently completed a Goizueta Business School, Emory Executive Education, Advanced Leadership Program conducted in partnership with SunTrust. She and her family live in Atlanta, Georgia.