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01 A Message from the Firm

Fifty years ago, on May 26, 1973, Banks, Finley, White & Co. was born.

A mere 20 years after what became known as the Civil Rights Movement, a minority-owned firm in the financial arena was envisioned and started operations in the deep southern states of these United States of America. An odd time and an odd place to forge a beginning, most would say. We at Banks, Finley, White & Co. believe that any time is the right time and any place is the right place to begin any well planned venture and journey if the commitment is right. We started our journey with a motto that stated, simply... "A Commitment to Excellence..." That was our cornerstone, our foundation for our venture and journey. That was the time and this was the place...

Now, we are proud to stand today and celebrate with you, our clients, family, staff, and friends, who have supported us all the way, these five decades, these 50 years and for that, we are extremely grateful. To you all, we say, it has been your confidence in us and our dedication and commitment to excellence in the performance of professional service to you and service to our communities that has brought us to this historic day. We thank you from the bottom of our hearts and we share this with you...

This is a milestone in the life of our Firm and also a time to reflect on where we started, where we have been, and now, where we must go from here. We are proud to have this time to review the accomplishments of the past, gather strength from them and rededicate ourselves to the single goal that has been the cornerstone and pillar of our practice...

"A COMMITMENT TO EXCELLENCE..." NOW, WE CONTINUE THE JOURNEY WITH THE FLAME THAT WILL KEEP BURNING BRIGHT.

We encourage you to continue to go with us beyond this historic moment of 50 years to future horizons...

Banks, Finley White & Co.



02 Our History

On May 26, 1973, around 1:30 PM, Frank J. Banks, Mack Finley, and James C. White met at a small restaurant on North 3rd Street in Memphis, Tennessee, across from the Sterick Building. There they signed the partnership agreement and Banks Finley White & Co. Certified Public Accountants was born.

From that great day, they fanned out in the south establishing offices in Memphis, Tennessee; Birmingham, Alabama; Jackson, Mississippi and Atlanta, Georgia. Banks, Finley, White & Co. (BFW&Co) acquired a small practice in Atlanta and briefly changed the name to Banks, Finley, Thomas & White, Certified Public Accountants, including George Thomas' name in the firm name. In 1978, upon the departure of Thomas from the firm, the Policy Board of the firm settled on the permanent name of Banks, Finley, White & Co. and made it perpetual. James C. White, a 25-year-old Certified Public Accountant, was elected by the partners to serve as its Managing Partner. He served in this capacity until October 2016, for over 43 years. James C. White, Jr. was elected to succeed him as Managing Partner.

BFW&Co. faced many challenges from the outset that many startup businesses face. One was the education of potential clients that a Black-owned CPA firm was available to them and that their services were as good or better than the white-owned CPA firms that they were using.

This would prove to be the greatest challenge to the Firm. Making the move to establish a multi-office, multi state firm was a stroke of genius since the availability of potential clients was scarce. The fact that the offices would be able to mine the potential clients in multiple places helped to create a large client base from which the firm built itself to over 100 employees, early in its existence.

From the outset, the partners decided that there had to be a basic core value that it could build on that would assure its success, given the education of both, its potential clients, and the larger community, that it possessed the expertise and background to operate an accounting firm. The Firm chose as its core value and coined the motto "A Commitment to Excellence" from that value, which exemplified a commitment to quality performance in its work product, a commitment to excellent client service, a commitment of providing the proper training and resources to its staff, and a commitment to the public that its work could be relied upon to be impartial and performed with the highest integrity.

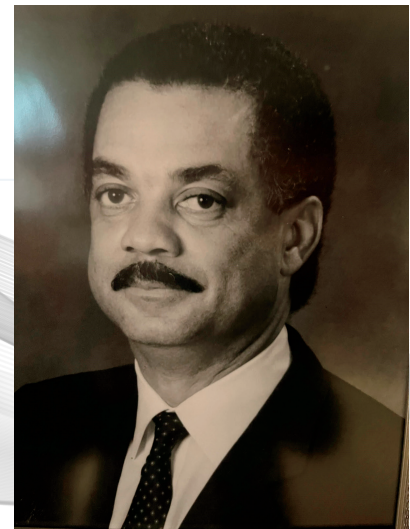
That motto is still there, unchanged these 50 years, and is now emboldened by the Flame that means it will continue to light many new flames as it has in the past.



Frank J. Banks



Mack Finley



James C. White, Sr.

BFW&Co.'s past accomplishments include the lives it has touched giving opportunity to the many persons it has trained, the new CPAs it has made, and their accomplishments as good accountants serving in financial positions throughout countless communities across the nation.



The founders celebrate 25 years.

BFW&Co. is proud to have served its clients and the public over these five decades where it has served under six U.S. Presidents: Richard Nixon (1973), Ronald Reagan (1983), Bill Clinton (1993), George W. Bush (2003), Barack Obama (2013), and now Joe Biden (2023). The journey has been long and a wonderful experience. The President with the most influence on its practice was Ronald Reagan. In 1984, because of the change in the availability of work from the federal government, BFW&Co. went from being a favored contractor to not being able to get contracts. As a result, BFW&Co. changed the direction of its practice from a reliance on federal contracts to a more community client-based emphasis where the practice offices were located and into the industries that it had chosen or that had chosen it.

Along the way, BFW&Co. made sure that it stayed on the cutting edge of technology and the latest workplace aids available for its staff. It adhered to the continuing professional education requirements and peer review mandates by the professional standard setters, the American Institute of Certified Public Accountants (AICPA) the Government Accounting Office (GAO), the Public Company Accounting Oversight Board (PCAOB) and any other regulatory boards that have jurisdiction over any industry-specific work that it performed.

Partners at BFW&Co. have served their communities, both professionally and socially. They've served on the State Boards of Accountancy in Alabama, Georgia, and Tennessee, chairing those Boards at various times. They also served various committees of the AICPA involving technical issues. The community service activities of its Commitment to Excellence are too numerous to count. BFW&Co. is proud of the community service that its partners and staff have engaged in over the past 50 years.

03 Our Commitment to Quality

For over 50 years, we've provided quality professional auditing, accounting, management consulting and taxation services to a successful and diverse client base throughout the U.S. and its territories.

As a professional certified public accounting firm that has been on the cutting edge of protecting the public's trust, BFW&Co. is guided by its motto "A Commitment to Excellence..." Our firm logo symbolizes that commitment, expanding out to all markets, while maintaining our core value at the center of the logo, excellent service to our clients and the public. Today the flame lit 50 years ago burns bright, leading us under the same tradition that brought us to a half century of outstanding technical performance.

BFW&Co. is a nationally recognized, regionally located CPA firm. It is one of the largest minority-owned firms in the United States and among the top 25% of all CPA firms in America.

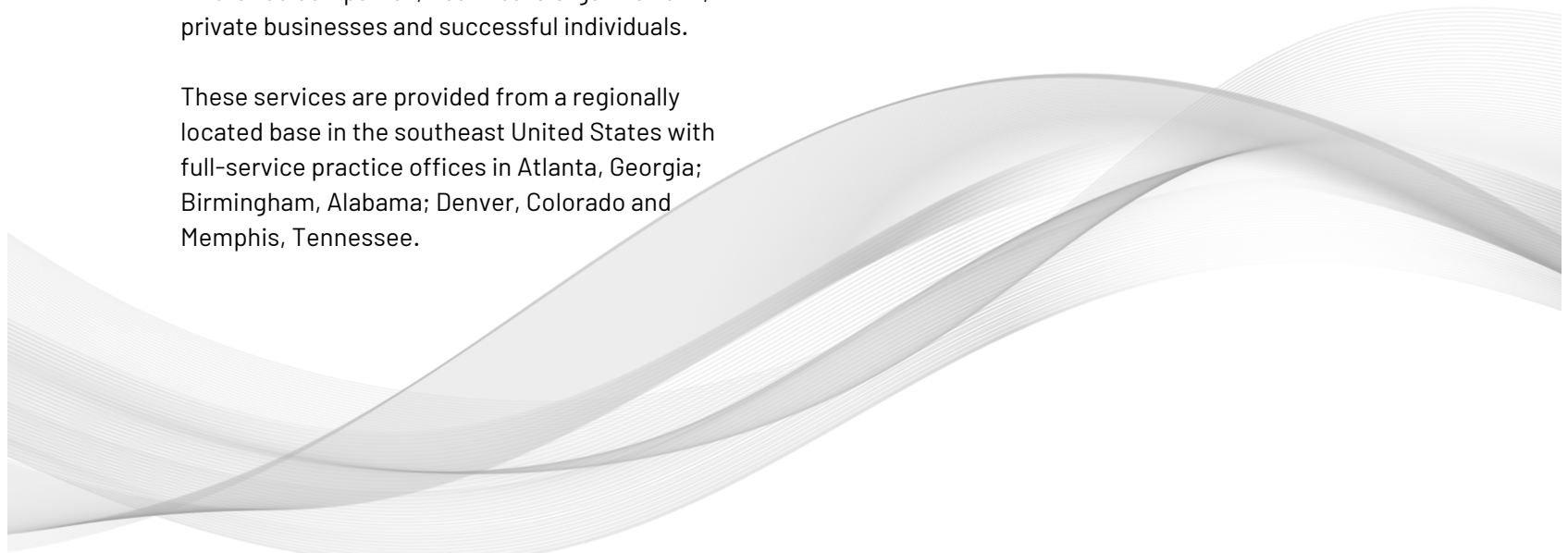
We provide an array of professional services to Fortune 500 companies, not-for-profit organizations, colleges and universities, governmental entities, financial institutions, insurance companies, healthcare organizations, private businesses and successful individuals.

These services are provided from a regionally located base in the southeast United States with full-service practice offices in Atlanta, Georgia; Birmingham, Alabama; Denver, Colorado and Memphis, Tennessee.

Evidence of BFW&Co.'s commitment to excellent service is demonstrated by its embracing the toughest standards promulgated in the world for CPAs in the name of the Public Company Accounting Oversight Board (PCAOB).

BFW&Co. became a Registered Accounting Firm with the PCAOB and subject to its Quality Control System and audit work to its rigid standards and periodic inspections. It is also a member of the Center for Audit Quality (CAQ) which also requires peer reviews of its practice. BFW&Co. has received the highest possible award on all of its inspections and peer reviews.

Further, in specialized sectors of its practice, BFW&Co. augments its professional expertise brought to our clients' engagements through membership in the American Institute of Certified Public Accountants (AICPA), Government Audit Quality Center (GAQC) and the Employee Benefit Plan Audit Quality Center (EBPAQC). These valuable resources keep us on the cutting edge of industry changes and allow us to stay in tune to the needs of its clients and the expectations of the public.



04 Our Leadership and Values

Banks, Finley, White & Co. is led by a highly experienced group of professionals who take very seriously their duties and responsibilities to the Firm, the public and our staff. They recognize that for any organization to succeed, it is necessary for its leadership to set forth a solid plan that embodies the basic elements of its philosophy. The Firm has set quality performance as the cornerstone of its philosophy.

Furthermore, the core values of the Firm are:

- The Firm and its people will be independent of our clients to the extent required by relevant ethics.
- Its personnel will be professional, competent, objective and will exercise due professional care in the performance of services.
- The Firm will provide timely relevant services to our clients of the highest quality possible.





James C. White, Jr., CPA
Managing Partner

James C. White, Jr., CPA, serves as Managing Partner of Banks, Finley, White & Co. As Managing Partner, he leads the Firm's efforts in Quality Control and coordinates its steady growth in the markets where the Firm has practice offices.

In October 2015, James re-joined Banks, Finley, White & Co., in our Birmingham office, and was admitted to the Partnership of the Firm. He began his career in 1997 in the Atlanta office of the Firm. In 1999, James continued his career at Ernst & Young LLP in Atlanta, Georgia, until 2015.

James holds a Bachelor's degree in Accounting from the University of Maryland, College Park. He has coordinated audits for several multi-national, publicly-traded corporations in various industry sectors. James has extensive experience in providing services to publicly-traded companies, including Securities and Exchange Commission (SEC) reporting requirements, compliance with the Sarbanes-Oxley Act and other Public Company Accounting Oversight Board (PCAOB) standards and related rules.

Additionally, he has managed accounting and reporting for public equity and debt offerings, business combinations and dispositions, advised internal audit departments on plans and strategies to enhance corporate governance, and has extensive experience in SEC filings and related accounting services. He has considerable experience in audits of state and local governments, not-for-profit organizations, including school districts, colleges and universities.

James holds CPA certificates in nine states. He was elected Chair-Elect of the Alabama Society of Certified Public Accountants (ASCPA) for 2023-2024 and has served on its Board of Directors for several years.



Jeffrey White, Sr., CPA
Chairman of Policy Board

Jeffrey White, Sr., CPA, is Chairman of the Policy Board and a Partner in the Birmingham office. Jeffrey has more than 44 years of experience in public accounting with Banks, Finley, White & Co. He began his career in the Birmingham office and in 1984 was admitted to the Firm as a Partner.

Jeffrey's professional experience has focused extensively on all areas of client services in the industry sections, with specific emphasis in the areas of public and private higher education, not-for-profit organizations, governmental entities, healthcare, employee benefit plans, construction, public utilities and financial. Most of his experience is concentrated with the Firm's larger governmental and nonprofit clients, and colleges and universities, performing audit, attestation, and advisory services.

With our governmental clients, he has extensive experience providing public finance services including development of credit enhancement policies and procedures, verification services and arbitrage calculation services. His experience also includes conducting performance audits, including economy and efficiency reviews and prospective analysis of government operations.

Jeffrey is responsible for coordination of the Firm's annual monitoring and inspection program to ensure that its professional services meet quality control standards. Jeffrey serves as team captain for peer review services the Firm provides to other CPA firms around the U.S. under both peer review programs administered by the various state administering entities and the National Peer Review Committee.



Jim C. White, Sr., CPA
Chairman Emeritus

James (Jim) C. White, Sr., CPA serves as Chairman Emeritus of Banks, Finley, White & Co. He began his career with the international accounting firm Arthur Young & Company in Boston, Massachusetts in 1970. In 1973, he co-founded Banks, Finley, White & Co., Certified Public Accountants. Jim holds CPA Certificates in five states.

Jim has extensive experience in providing services in all of the Firm's practice areas and industries. He specialized early in his career in management consulting, providing services to the public and private sectors in the areas of accounting and internal control system design and implementation; operational reviews and analyses; feasibility studies; job costing system design and reviews. He is particularly experienced in the governmental sector, and colleges and universities.

Because of his extensive expertise in the public sector with governmental services, Jim was appointed to serve in the Cabinets of two Alabama governors. In 1983, he was appointed the first black Commissioner of Revenue of the State of Alabama by Governor George C. Wallace and served until 1987. In 1993, he was appointed as the only black Finance Director in the history of the State of Alabama by Governor Jim Folsom. Jim was appointed to the Alabama State Board of Public Accountancy in 1985 and served for 14 years including three terms as its Chairman. In 2002, he was awarded the coveted Life Member status of the Alabama Society of Certified Public Accountants. He has served on the board of directors of some publicly traded companies.



Jametta K. White, Esq.
General Counsel & Chief Compliance Officer

Jametta K. White, Esq., serves as General Counsel and Chief Compliance Officer for Banks, Finley, White & Co. She is responsible for managing both state and federal compliance issues related to the Firm as well as the development of policies and procedures.

Prior to joining the Firm in 2005, she began her career in the Labor and Employment litigation department at an internationally recognized law firm in Atlanta, Georgia. Jametta received her Juris Doctorate from the Loyola University New Orleans School of Law in 2004. She graduated from Clemson University with a Bachelor of Science degree in Marketing in 2001.

She is a member of the State Bar of Georgia, the Colorado State Bar Association, and the Arizona State Bar.

She is Certified in Diversity & Inclusion (Cornell University), a Sports Agent, and a Certified Contract Advisor with the National Football League Players Association, a Certified Sports Life Coach, and a Certified Athlete Development Professional (Wharton School of Business).

She currently serves on the Board of Directors for the Clemson University Alumni Association, and the Advocacy and Engagement Board for the Wilbur O. and Ann Powers College of Business at Clemson University. She is a past President of the Clemson University Black Alumni Council.



Christopher Hearn, CPA
Resident Partner - Memphis, TN

Christopher Hearn is the Resident Partner-In-Charge of the Memphis, Tennessee office of Banks, Finley, White & Co., Certified Public Accountants. Christopher has over 17 years of experience in public accounting working in various roles at Ernst & Young LLP and KPMG LLP. Christopher has extensive experience in working with large multi-national organizations to improve the quality of their financial reporting through organizational restructuring, reviewing and implementing new technology and improving and implementing operational controls within the finance and tax departments.

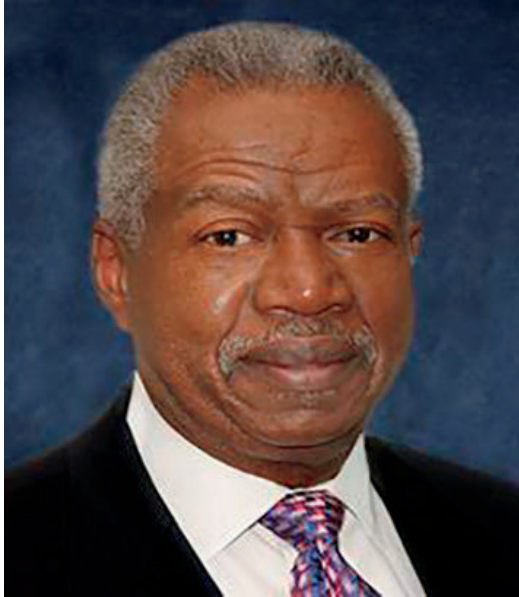
Christopher also has extensive experience in tax planning and tax return preparation for closely held partnerships and corporations.

In addition to traditional audit and tax experience, Christopher brings a deep understanding of:

- Leading practices that help clients optimize their use of technology within the finance operations.
- Enablement of processes that enhance efficiency and mitigate risk.
- Project management to ensure successful and timely services to clients.

Christopher has served on boards of various non-profits and quasi government agencies. Christopher currently serves as a board member for Big Brothers and Big Sisters of the Midsouth.

Christopher received his bachelor's degree in Accountancy from Mississippi Valley State University and a Master of Science in Taxation from Southern Illinois University.



Lucius Ashby, CPA
Resident Partner - Denver, CO

Lucius A. Ashby is the Resident Partner-In-Charge of the Denver, Colorado office of Banks, Finley, White & Co., Certified Public Accountants. Lucius has over 48 years of experience in public accounting working in various roles at Arthur Andersen & Co., and Jackson Ashby Goldstine, PC, Certified Public Accountants. Lucius has extensive experience in consulting services in the areas of management and financial planning to small businesses and government entities and preparation of comprehensive business plans.

Lucius also has extensive experience in opinion audits in industries such as government, construction, retail, not-for-profit organizations and institutions, hospitals, pension plans, municipalities and universities and colleges.

In addition to management consulting and opinion audit experience, Lucius brings a deep understanding of:

- Feasibility studies that enable businesses to identify problem areas and determine all the alternatives that would make the area economically viable.
- Management information services. Directing the design and implementation of manual and EDP based financial information and control systems for small and medium size clients.
- Operations reviews, to provide businesses with tools to accomplish their projections and correct present deficiencies.

Lucius has served on boards of various non-profits and quasi-government agencies.

Lucius received his bachelor's degree in Accountancy from the University of Colorado at Denver and graduated from Harvard University's Owner/President Small Management Program.



Albert Butler, CPA
Partner

Albert Butler, CPA, is a Partner in the Atlanta, Georgia office of Banks, Finley, White & Co., Certified Public Accountants. Albert is an experienced leader with over 20 years of experience in public accounting and international experience working within global organizations. He has an established record of collaborating across various functions to deliver strategic results.

He began his career at Ernst & Young and most recently served as Senior Vice President, Enterprise Risk Management for Primerica, Inc., one of the nation's largest and leading Financial Services Companies, where he led the Risk Management function.

He has served on boards of various non-profits and quasi-government agencies. He also serves his community as a youth sports coach.

Albert received his bachelor's degree in Accountancy from Southern University in Baton Rouge, Louisiana.



Wandalyn Wright, CPA
Partner

Wandalyn Wright, CPA is a Partner in the Birmingham office, and has more than 26 years of experience in public accounting. She began her career as an intern in the Birmingham office while attending college. She joined the firm permanently in 1997.

During her tenure with Banks, Finley, White & Co., Wandalyn has gained extensive experience in audits of governmental entities, not-for-profit organizations and employee benefit plans. She also has experience in tax and management consulting on for-profit organizations, major and minor local governmental units, and on a number of non-profit organizations, including audits under Government Auditing Standards (GAS).

Wandalyn received a Bachelor of Arts Degree in Business Administration with an Accounting concentration from Talladega College with further study at the University of Alabama in Birmingham, and is a member of the Alabama Society of CPA's and the American Institute of Certified Public Accountants.

Wandalyn has worked with the firm's Professional Development Committee and has served as presenter for the firm's continuing education development seminars.



Ebony O'Brien, CPA
Partner

Ebony O'Brien, CPA serves as a Partner at the Birmingham, Alabama office of Banks, Finley, White & Co. She joined the firm in August 2015 as a Staff Auditor and quickly promoted to her current position in 2023. Ebony has extensive experience providing tax, accounting and consulting services to small and medium-sized business entities. She has considerable experience serving as auditor in charge on large governmental entities in Alabama Georgia and Texas, as well as regulated broker-dealer entities. Her other broad experience includes audits of not-for-profit entities, performance audits and other special engagements of large governmental clients.

Prior to beginning her career in public accounting, Ebony had six years of industry experience in the operation and management of non-profit and non-public organizations serving in human resources and finance roles. Drawing from her HR background, she has served as a presenter/trainer the firm's annual training on industry and IT-related topics and is a member of the HR Recruiting Team.

Ebony obtained a Bachelor of Finance and Accounting from Jacksonville State University and earned her Master of Business in Finance from Strayer University. She is a CPA licensed in Alabama and Tennessee. She was recognized as one of the Top 25 Best and Brightest CPAs in Alabama, as presented by Business Alabama and the Alabama Society of CPAs (ASCPA) and is a member of the American Institute of CPAs and ASCPA.

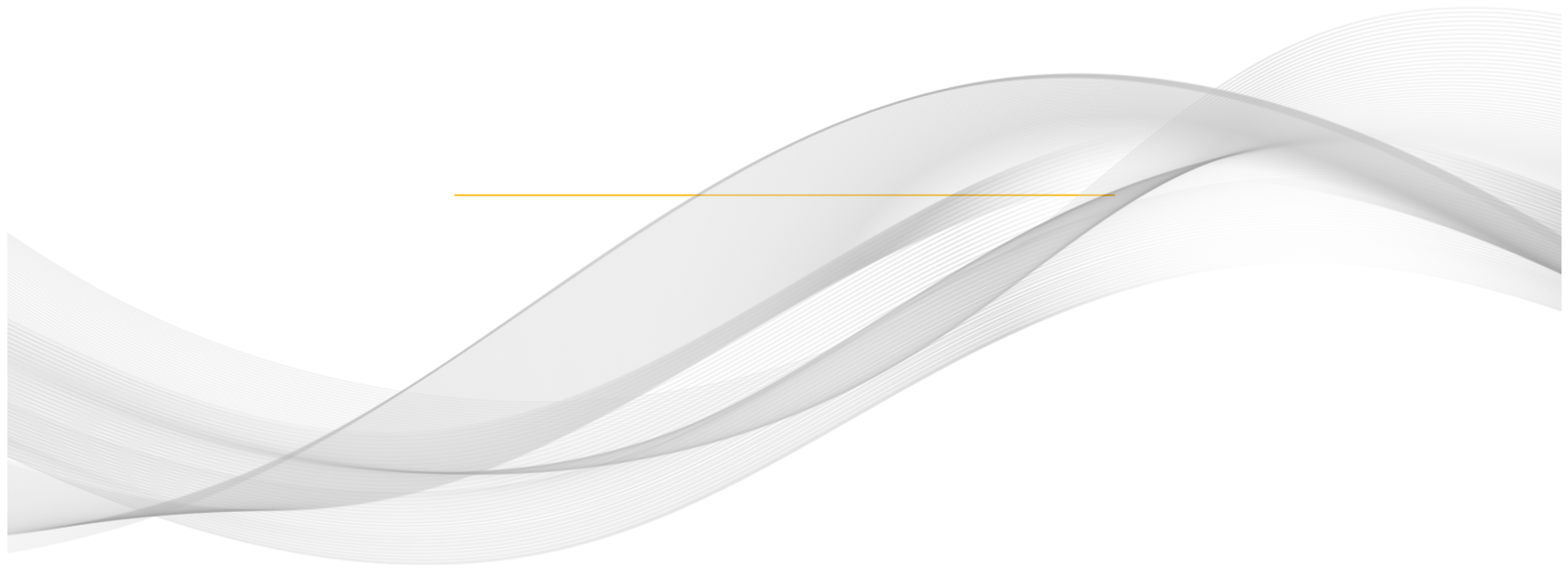
05 Our Services

Industries we serve:

- Colleges and Universities
- Financial Institutions
- Governmental Entities
- Health Care Organizations
- Insurance Companies
- Not-for-Profit Organizations
- Public Companies
- Private Companies
- Partnerships and LLCs
- Small Businesses

Services we provide:

- Audit and Assurance
- Management Consulting
- Business Advisory Services
- Business Valuations
- Cost Analyses and Studies
- Economy and Efficiency Studies
- Employee Benefit Plan Audits
- Forensic Accounting
- Litigation Support
- Taxation Services



06 Our Locations

Banks, Finley, White & Co. is now one of the leading, nationally recognized, and regionally located CPA firms in the nation, with offices regionally located in Atlanta, Georgia; Birmingham, Alabama; Memphis, Tennessee and Denver, Colorado.

BIRMINGHAM, AL

617 37th Street South
Birmingham, AL 35222
(205) 326-6660 Office
(205) 326-3840 Fax

MEMPHIS, TN

1450 Poplar Avenue
Memphis, TN 38104
(901) 274-6702 Office
(901) 274-6154 Fax



ATLANTA, GA

3504 East Main Street
College Park, GA 30337
(404) 763-1002 Office
(404) 763-1972 Fax

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1925 S. Niagara St., Suite 240
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(303) 825-4072 Office
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Continuing the Flame
of Excellence



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50th
Anniversary
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