

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
June 29, 2023

For more information
Bill Penczak, bpenczak@mjlm.com

McConnell Jones and Thomas & Gibbs Join Forces
Fast Growing CPA Firm Expands its Footprint to the Southeast Region

HOUSTON, TEXAS - McConnell & Jones LLP (“McConnell Jones”), a Houston-based CPA firm, today announced its merger with Thomas & Gibbs CPAs, PLLC (“Thomas & Gibbs”), a Durham, North Carolina CPA firm based in the heart of the North Carolina Research Triangle. Ken Gibbs and Shawana Hudson Spann will join McConnell Jones as partners, maintaining their North Carolina office operations to better serve clients of both firms in the Southeast region.

“We are pleased to join forces with Ken and Shawana, as they bring decades of experience to the firm. During the past year we have gotten to know them personally and professionally, and I am confident that this merger will provide boundless opportunity for their people, and greater resources for their clients,” said McConnell Jones Managing Partner, Wayne McConnell. “In 2022, CNBC ranked North Carolina as America's top state for business, and we are excited for the new opportunities our expanded footprint will bring to the North Carolina market and the Southeast region”, McConnell added. McConnell Jones already has offices in Houston, Dallas, and Austin, Texas, and Washington, DC, and the North Carolina addition is part of a long-term strategic expansion plan, connecting the firm’s current presence in the Southwest and Mid-Atlantic regions of the country.

Thomas & Gibbs currently has a broad array of service offerings, including an advanced Client Accounting Services business line, as well as extensive nonprofit and government audit experience. “Our services are an ideal complement to the McConnell Jones’ Audit, Tax and Consulting Departments,” said Ken Gibbs. McConnell Jones provides audit, tax, and advisory/consulting services to publicly-traded and privately-held companies, as well as state, local, and federal clients across the country. Additionally, McConnell Jones is in the top one (1) percent of public accounting firms in the United States providing benefit plan audit services. The firm’s advisory and consulting services include risk advisory/internal audit, information technology, business process improvement, implementation assistance, and enterprise accounting services.

Shawana Spann will assume the leadership role for the firm’s nonprofit sector. She has served for several years in leadership positions with the North Carolina Association of CPAs, including Treasurer, and Chair of the Board of Directors. Ken Gibbs, who earned both CPA and JD designations, will continue as tax partner utilizing his decades of experience in business and personal income tax preparation, IRS representation and tax planning to continue the growth of the combined firm’s tax practice.

“The resources we will now be able to offer in the market will be significant because of this merger” said Spann. “The training, mentoring, and ability to work with national clients will be a significant boost to the careers of our people,” she added.

“Most of all, we see the combined firm as a platform to extend our mission, vision and the core values of Creativity, Inclusion, Transparency and Accountability, and we are excited to access the rich talent pool of candidates from prestigious institutions in the higher education community in the Research Triangle, which will enhance recruiting opportunities for the combined firms,” said McConnell. “During the lead-up of Thomas & Gibbs joining the firm, we spent a lot of quality time with Ken and Shawana and are confident our personal, firm goals, and objectives are aligned, which is of paramount importance to the firm,” said McConnell.

McConnell Jones was named one of the fastest-growing CPA firms in the country in the past two years, and is now the second largest African American owned firm in the country. Managing Partner Wayne McConnell, was named one of the top 10 managing partners in the US by *Accounting Today* magazine, and the firm strives each day to live out its values.

About McConnell Jones

McConnell Jones is the second largest African American owned CPA firm in the country, supplying assurance, tax, and management consulting services to a range of clients from publicly traded and privately held companies; foundations; nonprofits; and local, state, and federal governmental agencies. We were named one of the fastest growing CPA firms in the country last year, and our founder and managing partner was named as one of the country's top 10 managing partners by Accounting Today. We are proud of the diversity of the firm's partner group, and the fact that 67 percent of our employees are from ethnically diverse backgrounds, many of whom are first generation Americans or first in their families to graduate from college.

###