

Deanne Morton

Lifelong Learner and Tax Law Innovator

Deanne Morton was born in the Midwest and spent her early childhood in Wisconsin and Oregon. Her family relocated to North Carolina just before she started fourth grade when her father, a pulp and paper salesman, accepted a job in the cotton linter pulp industry in Lumberton, N.C. Spending time around paper mills and traveling to customers around the world with her father, she developed an early fascination with how businesses worked — an interest that would go on to shape her career.

When it came time for college, Deanne attended UNC-CH and majored in Global Affairs, with a minor in French. Her years at UNC-CH broadened her horizons, including a formative study-abroad experience in France and an honors thesis in international environmental regulation. After college she worked briefly as an Immigration Paralegal in Chapel Hill while she planned her next step. Encouraged by a professor who recognized her analytical gifts, she sat for the LSAT and was admitted to the UNC School of Law.

Law school laid the foundation for a career built on rigor and curiosity. After law school she accepted a corporate transactional associate role with King & Spalding in Atlanta. She took on demanding, high-stakes work during the merger-and-acquisition (M&A) boom of 1999–2002. She managed extensive documentation and worked to understand entire businesses, often working in close collaboration with tax lawyers. The experience drew her steadily towards a decision to pursue an LL.M. in Taxation.

Deanne joined LexisNexis in San Francisco as a Tax Editor while taking classes towards her LL.M. and was part of the initial team to develop the online research platform Lexis® Tax. She went on to spend over a decade with LexisNexis as an Attorney Writer and Tax Editor, where she combined editorial precision with substantive tax knowledge to build and maintain tax research tools and applications.

Deanne joined Andersen's U.S. National Tax Office about 10 years ago and assumed a role in Tax Controversy. She became a managing director two years ago. Known within the firm for her wide-ranging expertise, her combination of writing/research skills and tax knowledge has allowed her to add value well beyond compliance. Across every stage of her career, Deanne's passion for learning and her sharp critical-thinking skills have been the constant thread.