

**ROBERT L. CHILDREE** is a director for Grant Thornton, Global Public Sector, and has responsibility within the state and local practice.

Prior to that, Mr. Childree was state comptroller of the state of Alabama for 22 years. He has a combined total of 35 years experience in financial management and accounting systems for state governments. During his term as comptroller, Mr. Childree directed the development and implementation of the state of Alabama's financial resource management system, a fully integrated financial system which encompassed the procurement function, payroll and personnel functions, departmental budgeting and accounting systems and the state's central accounting system. In conjunction with this project, the comptroller wrote new fiscal and accounting policy which complied with generally accepted accounting principles for governments. As part of this initiative, Mr. Childree directed the development of the extensive training required for the state's fiscal staff. As a result of the successful development and implementation of the state's new financial resource management system, the state of Alabama issued its first CAFR and has subsequently received 17 consecutive unqualified audit opinions. Additionally, the state of Alabama has obtained the GFOA Certificate of Achievement for Excellence in Financial Reporting for the last nine fiscal years.

Mr. Childree is a past president of the National Association of State Auditors, Comptrollers and Treasurers and the National Association of State Comptrollers. He received the prestigious Excellence in Leadership Award from the Association of Government Accountants in February of 2006 and the 2008 AGA National President's Award recognizing outstanding chairmanship of AGA's Financial Management Standards Board.

He has a bachelor of science degree in commerce and business administration accounting from the university of Alabama, Tuscaloosa.