

# Ernie Lee, JD

Keynote Speaker | Educator | Consultant  
2016 Georgia Teacher of the Year



“Empowering New and Second-Career Teachers to Stay, Grow, and Lead.”



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Savannah, Georgia

## SIGNATURE TALKS

### 01 Classroom Confidence: Practical Strategies That Help Teachers Stay

New teachers do not need gimmicks; they need a framework that works on Monday morning. In this practical, energizing keynote, Ernie shares relationship-centered routines, simple management moves, and confidence-building habits that help teachers create calm, productive classrooms. Participants leave with ready-to-use strategies for establishing expectations, responding to behavior without losing connection, and building the kind of classroom culture that helps both students and teachers succeed.

### 02 Second-Career Teachers, First-Year Success

Second-career teachers bring valuable life experience, but many still need support turning that experience into daily classroom success. Drawing on his own journey from a 20-year legal career into education, Ernie shows how purpose, presence, and preparation can accelerate growth. This session helps new and transitioning teachers build credibility, connect with students quickly, and develop the resilience and mindset needed to stay in the profession, grow in confidence, and lead with authenticity.

### 03 Teaching Difficult Topics with Confidence, Civility, and Care

Today's educators are asked to teach challenging content while navigating strong emotions, community pressure, and student uncertainty. In this timely session, Ernie offers practical ways to create trust, teach complex topics responsibly, and maintain a classroom climate grounded in respect. Educators will learn how routines, relationships, and thoughtful facilitation can make difficult conversations safer, deeper, and more meaningful for students while strengthening both classroom culture and teacher confidence.



#### BIO

Ernie Lee is an award-winning educator, keynote speaker, and principal partner of Classroom Counsel LLC. A former attorney who transitioned into teaching to make a deeper community impact, he brings a BA in Psychology from Mercer University and a JD from Samford University's Cumberland School of Law. He was named the 2016 Georgia Teacher of the Year, served as President of the Georgia Council for the Social Studies, and serves on the Board of Visitors of Mercer University's Tift College of Education. His work equips educators to build confidence, strengthen relationships, and support long-term teacher growth and retention.



#### TESTIMONIALS & SOCIAL PROOF

“Ernie is fun to talk with and you will hear his energy and focus on kids, immediately.”

— Teaching Learning Leading K-12

- **Featured speaker:** University of South Carolina Constitutional Law Center
- **Presenter:** Georgia Southern University College of Education
- **Former President:** Georgia Council for the Social Studies
- **Member:** National Council of State Teachers of the Year



#### AUDIENCE FIT



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BOOK ERNIE FOR KEYNOTES, WORKSHOPS,  
AND EDUCATOR-RETENTION EVENTS.

*Ernie Lee*