Dear Brother and Sister Alumni,

I cannot express how grateful I am to have served as your dean. Your commitment and support for the School we love has meant everything to me, our faculty, our staff, and especially our students.

The past four years have been challenging ones for legal education, but Wake Forest School of Law has weathered these hardships and come out stronger on the other side. We remained true to ourselves and our values, and that is something that our students find so important when they are looking for legal education. Perhaps that is why applications are up 26 percent — more than twice the national average — and why we rose in the U.S. News & World Report national rankings for the fourth year in a row. We’ve tied our highest-ever ranking, and our Legal Writing program is ranked No. 5 in the country.

Our JD graduates are finding a more robust market which boosts the numbers of strong candidates who are seeking a legal education. After more than two decades, we have a diverse group of Master of Laws (LLM) alumni who have advanced their careers by combining their international legal training with the rigorous Wake Forest curriculum. We have now graduated two classes from our wholly online Master of Studies in Law (MSL) degree program, which expands legal education for working professionals who need to understand the law but not practice it.

In the pages of this issue, you’ll learn more about our School’s rich 125-year history, bridging two campuses and at least three buildings while holding true to the Pro Humanitate motto we hold so dear. While you’re flipping through this issue, please think about your own experience here. We invite members and friends of the law school to share stories, memories, and photos with us because after all, #OurHistoryIsYou. Select submissions will be shared on @WFULawSchool’s Facebook and Instagram. We’d love to hear from you.

One student experience many of you have had is participating in oral advocacy, whether through trial or appellate versions. We’re so proud of our recent track record in bringing consecutive national wins home for the School of Law. Your skills and talents are burnishing our reputation with every round in every event. Look further in this issue for a roundup of our excellence in competition.

Giving our students practical experience through externships and clinics has long been a hallmark of our School. In these pages you’ll find a more in-depth look at the 20 years Professor Mark Rabil has been fighting for the innocence of John Robert Hayes, and how more than 20 of our students have worked on the case since the Innocence and Justice Clinic was established 10 years ago.

You’ll also find a message from our incoming dean, Jane Aiken. We are so pleased to welcome her to Wake Forest.

While I am stepping down as dean, I am not walking away from Wake Forest. After a sabbatical, I will rejoin my faculty colleagues and continue working with the best minds on campus, belonging to our students, faculty, and staff.

With deep affection,

[Signature]

Dean Emeritus and Professor of Law
125 YEARS OF WAKE FOREST LAW

OUR SUZANNE: THE TENURE OF DEAN REYNOLDS (JD '77)

TRIAL BY COMEBACK: COMPETITIVE SPIRITS THRIVE

TWO DECADES IN THE PURSUIT OF JUSTICE

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Mark your calendars for October 18-20, 2019, as we celebrate #WFULaw alumni and the whole Wake Forest Law family! It will be a wonderful opportunity to meet our new dean, Jane Aiken, and to connect with other alumni, and former professors. We'll have fun, food, friends, football, and much more, but it won't be the same without you!

All law alumni are invited back for the weekend, and there will be special gatherings for reunion classes with years ending in 4 or 9.
Dear Wake Forest Family,

I want to start with thanks. I’ve had such a warm reception from faculty, staff, and students during my visits to campus. I’m looking forward to knowing you better as I begin my new role as dean of Wake Forest Law. When I was considering the possibility of becoming the dean, I did my homework. I looked at the numbers, I talked to the faculty, staff, and students, and I spent a great deal of time with other deans, the provost and the president of the University. Every new piece of information confirmed that this law school is remarkable. As I told the faculty, the only thing wrong with Wake Forest Law is that people don’t seem to know just how great it is. I look forward to getting that message out.

Over the last several years, when many wondered about the value of legal education, some schools struggled. Wake Forest Law remained strong, rising in the rankings, attracting talented students, and placing graduates in excellent jobs. We owe many thanks to our outgoing dean, Suzanne Reynolds (JD ’77), and her staff and faculty colleagues for helping Wake Forest Law flourish and advance its standing.

This country is facing many challenges, and well-trained lawyers can be invaluable as problem-solvers. Our goal is to continue producing innovative and effective lawyers. Having the keys to the courthouse can be a critical piece of making change happen in a time of flux. We must also ensure that lawyers understand and shape the legal underpinnings in a wide array of disciplines. Lawyers must have the necessary skills to think hard about policy, social problems, and the environment. They must understand their communities and know how to build coalitions. The commitment to building community, developing ethical professionals, and living essential values sets Wake Forest apart. That’s why Wake Forest is truly a gem among law schools.

This solid footing gives me confidence as I begin my time as dean. I plan to listen to the faculty and staff about how they’ve created this brilliant bastion and fostered an environment to teach lawyers how to be good stewards of our system and advise clients with a sense of focus, values, and integrity. I also want to listen to our alumni about their hopes and expectations for the law school. I look forward to meeting many of you at events around the country, or you can contact me at aiken@wfu.edu.

With warm regards,

[Signature]

Dean, Wake Forest School of Law
The idea of Wake Forest University School of Law took root slowly over two decades in the late 19th century, reminiscent of the time needed for a Southern Magnolia tree to establish a firm root system and display its fragrant blossoms. One of the oldest tree species in the world, magnolias can take a decade after planting to reach full bloom, and peak seed production takes more than 20 years.

Just as magnolia seeds from the Old Campus in Wake Forest, N.C., were nurtured and planted on Winston-Salem’s Reynolda Campus in 1956, we carry our traditions and history with us at the School of Law.

As you explore the highlights of our quasquincentennial celebration, you’ll discover an enduring theme that has continued to distinguish Wake Forest and its School of Law since its inception in 1894. A passion for a value- and experience-driven legal education is an idea that has prospered over the past 125 years. This profound purpose continues to emphasize community and service and the belief that these combined values are the foundation for developing future advocates of the rule of law.

No matter which chapter of our story you choose to explore, you’ll find a narrative that is uniquely human and enriched by a mission to develop successful citizen lawyers — because after all, #OurHistoryIsYou.
The idea of establishing a law school at Wake Forest College was contemplated as early as 1872, but it would take several years for interest and planning to take place. Under the leadership of college President Charles E. Taylor, Wake Forest’s Board of Trustees ordered the establishment of the School of Law and subsequently appointed a committee to oversee its development. It was soon announced that the School of Law would open in September 1893.

Needham Y. Gulley, an attorney and newspaperman from Franklinton, N.C., was one of the newly appointed members of the Board of Trustees. He would eventually become Wake Forest’s first law professor and, later, the law school’s first dean.

When the fall semester began in 1893, Needham Gulley was present “pen in hand,” but no student asked for registration. It is believed that the Panic of 1893 — a serious economic depression in the U.S. — along with the unknown difficulty of the new course of study deterred prospective students.

Though Gulley felt “a trifling shade of discouragement,” he announced that he would nevertheless lecture at Wake Forest once a week for students who were interested in the law. Because his weekly lectures were well attended, the Board of Trustees authorized college faculty to establish a course of study in law and elected Gulley professor of law.

In the summer of 1894, Professor Gulley offered his first law course. Although two students initially enrolled, one left after a short time, leaving Gulley with his lone student, Stephen McIntyre. A visitor to campus that summer reported seeing them gather for lectures under a campus tree.

When the semester began in the fall of 1894, the School of Law had 12 students enrolled. Gulley, who taught law, government, and political economy, drove his horse-drawn buggy to Wake Forest College three times a week until 1895 — a trip that took considerably more than an hour each way.

Gulley was named the first dean of Wake Forest School of Law in 1905. He applied legal theory to real-life scenarios, a teaching philosophy that was innovative for the time, and required his students to participate in Moot Court. By 1931, approximately half of all North Carolina attorneys had been taught by Dean Gulley. He taught at Wake Forest Law for 44 years, having retired as dean in 1935 and as professor in 1938.

Above: Needham Yancey Gulley in the classroom. Photo courtesy of wakeforestmuseum.org Right: Law class 1903.
By 1915, there was sufficient pressure to admit women to the School of Law. Although the Board of Trustees voted not to admit women, the wives of two Wake Forest law students insisted on attending classes during the summer session that same year. Dean Gulley would advocate for the admittance of women the following year, but it would take more than a decade for his wishes to come to fruition.

On June 1, 1927, the Board of Trustees approved the enrollment of women in the Wake Forest College School of Law. In 1928, Ella Margaret Gordon, who had already passed the bar examination, became the first woman to receive her Bachelor of Laws (LLB) from Wake Forest, making her the youngest woman attorney in the U.S. at the time.

Though women would largely remain a minority at Wake Forest Law throughout much of the 19th century, many renowned female lawyers would follow Gordon’s footsteps. Rhoda Billings (LLB ’66), the first woman to graduate at the top of the class, is one such figure. She was one of three women attending Wake Forest Law during the 1965-1966 academic year. Notably, her yearbook photo was placed directly below the introduction, “Third Year Men Prepare for Bar Exams,” in Wake Forest University’s 1966 edition of “The Howler.”

Billings left Wake Forest for a career in the state’s courtrooms. Before serving as North Carolina’s second female Chief Justice of the N.C. Supreme Court in 1986, she was an associate justice of the state’s supreme court as well as a state district court judge. She returned to Wake Forest in the fall of 1972 as the School of Law’s first female faculty member where she served Wake Forest for more than 30 years.

Many female leaders have graduated from Wake Forest Law, including one who would go on to become the first female dean. After serving the school as interim dean for the 2014-2015 academic year, Suzanne Reynolds (JD ’77) was named dean in 2015.
During World War II, law students were in especially high demand for military and other war-related service. Thus, enrollment in law schools throughout the country dropped for the fall of 1942. As a result, Duke University and Wake Forest College established a combined program — the "War-time Joint Program" — in 1943.

Under the leadership of Dean Carroll W. Weathers, an alumnus of Wake Forest College and its School of Law, the law school moved to Winston-Salem with the undergraduate college in 1956. In September 1954, the construction of the new law building was contracted for $550,000. The Law Building, now known today as Carswell Hall, opened for the 1956 summer session and was formally dedicated in 1957.

"The law building, which is a handsome four-story structure, contains many attractive and useful features including air-conditioning," said the “Wake Forest Bulletin” in a description of the new building. “In addition to classroom and seminar room facilities, administrative and faculty conference offices, library, student lounge and faculty conference room, the building contains a combination moot court-assembly room which will seat 250 people and is adapted for multiple purposes…”

In 1972, the “Law Building” was renovated with an additional wing and named Carswell Hall in honor of the late Guy T. Carswell (LLB ’22), a prominent Charlotte attorney and first president of the Wake Forest College Lawyer Alumni Association.
In April 1961, the Wake Forest Board of Trustees authorized the medical school, law school, and graduate school to admit qualified applicants without regard to race. In 1964, Frank D. Cherry (JD ’67) became the first accepted black applicant to Wake Forest School of Law. He would also become the law school’s first black graduate in 1967.

Terry Hart Lee (JD ’74) would later become the first female black applicant to enter Wake Forest Law School. She founded and served as president of Wake Forest Law’s Black American Law Students Association (BALSA), which, among its goals, aimed to recruit minority students, including black, Native Americans, Mexican, Latino, and Asian, as well as women of all races.

In 1979, the law school continued its commitment to substantially increase the number of black law students by launching a visitation day for minority students. These efforts were a part of the shared recruitment program led by BALSA and the admissions office. BALSA is known today as the Black Law Student Association (BLSA) and it continues to thrive at Wake Forest, with many of its members being highly active in the law school’s student government, student recruitment, and career services.

As a local organization for law students affiliated with regional and national BLSA organizations, members collectively promote the needs of the black community while sharing a commitment to identifying and improving the challenges unique to black law students. Wake Forest continues to celebrate black law students with an annual BLSA Scholarship Banquet.

In 2007, Wake Forest was empowered by the leadership of Blake Morant, who was named the first black dean of the School of Law. In addition to expanding clinical offerings, Dean Morant expanded and emphasized alumni engagement beyond the borders of North Carolina, continued to diversify the law school’s faculty, and oversaw the planning of the renovations of the Worrell Professional Center. He served until 2014.
1967

In 1967, Wake Forest Law graduates received juris doctorate (JD) degrees for the first time in school history. Previous classes received the Bachelor of Laws (LLB) degree. According to Wake Forest’s yearbook, “The Howler,” the change was meant to better position graduates in the job market. This change was also inspired by the idea that the JD would allow alumni to earn higher salaries than legal professionals holding an LLB.

1993

In 1993, construction of the Worrell Professional Center for Law and Management was completed for $26.5 million. It was the first academic building in the nation to house both law and graduate business schools under one roof. The school of business eventually moved to Farrell Hall, which officially opened its doors in November 2013.

1979-89

John D. Scarlett was named dean of Wake Forest School of Law in 1979, ushering in the “Scarlett Era.” He oversaw the design and implementation of the 440 Plan, which reduced the 1L class to 160 students with four sections of 40 students. He increased the number of scholarships and the recruitment of minority students, further emphasized business law in the curriculum, and added more technology to the law school experience.

His decade of leadership oversaw the launch of the London program, JD/MBA degree program, the Constitutional Law Lecture Series, and the Continuing Legal Education (CLE) program. Scarlett was also responsible for adding new faculty, integrating the latest technology to legal study, increasing financial aid, and expanding clinical programming. Under his leadership, Wake Forest School of Law became a law school without boundaries, attracting students from all over the country.
Establishments

'65  “Wake Forest Law Review”

'71  The alumni magazine “The Jurist”

'73  International Law Society

'74  Women in Law & Environmental Law Society

'80  Judicial Clerkship Program launches under the direction of Professor Don Castleman

'82  Wake Forest Law offers JD/MBA joint degree

'90  Wake Forest Law hosts its first annual Family Day

'98  The law school is on the internet with the launch of Wake Forest Law’s website

'02  Public Interest Law Organization (PILO) hosts its first annual auction

'14  Criminal Justice Program launches under the direction of Professor Kami Chavis

'15  Health Law & Policy Program launches under the direction of Professor Mark Hall

'15  Business Law Program launches under the direction of Professor Omari Simmons

*The law school looks to the future by establishing the Computerized Legal Research and Instruction Center (CLRIC) which was among the four largest in U.S. law schools with 32 PCs and five laser printers,* ca. 1992.
Integrating oral advocacy experience into the curriculum has been a long-held tradition at Wake Forest Law, one that has transformed dramatically since the first required moot court offering in 1894. The development of the Moot Court Board in 1971 and the Student Trial Bar in 1978 further enhanced Wake Forest’s appellate and trial advocacy curriculum by increasing the number of competitive opportunities for students. These additions created numerous moot court and trial advocacy teams that continue to represent the law school at regional and national tournaments each year.

1971 The newly established Moot Court Board sends its first team to the regional National Moot Court Competition. This new organization also launched an intramural moot court competition, known today as the George Walker Moot Court Competition.

1978 For the first time in history, the Moot Court Team captures a first place victory at the Judge Braxton R. Craven Memorial Competition. Team members included Laura Crumpler (JD ’79), Patricia Holland (JD ’79), and Richard Laws (BS ’76, JD ’79). It was soon followed by another first place victory at the 7th Annual Marshall-Wythe Invitational Moot Court Competition. Dorian Gunter (BA ’75, JD ’79), Ann Heffelfinger Barnhill (BS ’76, JD ’79), and Kay Johns Donahue (JD ’79) made up this team.

1979 The newly established Student Trial Bar organization sends its first team to the regional Texas Young Lawyers Association (TYLA) National Trial Competition. Mary Root (JD ’81), John Ross (JD ’79), David Tamer (BA ’77, JD ’79), and Tom Ferrell (BA ’75, JD ’79) were the inaugural team members.

1980 The Tax Law Team, William Mills III (JD ’80) and Martin Garcia (JD ’81), win the Mugel Federal Tax Law Competition in 1980.

1981 Two annual intramural competitions, the Cynthia J. Zeliff Trial Competition and the Edwin M. Stanley Moot Court Competition, launch.

1981 Wake Forest sends its first Black American Law Student Association (BALSA) team to the Frederick Douglass Moot Court Competition in 1981. Team members included Lawrence Davidson III (JD ’82) and Bargery Williams (JD ’82). Wake Forest would win this regional tournament for the first time in 1984.

1983 For the third time in history, the Wake Forest National Trial Team advances to the championship rounds of the TYLA National Trial Competition.
1986 Wake Forest Law claims its first national championship title at the National Moot Court Competition. The team members included Scott C. Lovejoy (JD '87), Karen S. Williams (JD '87), and Donna S. Sisson Richter (JD '87).

1988 Video capture technology is integrated into Wake Forest courtrooms and, by extension, appellate and trial advocacy practice.

1989 National Trial Team claims a second-place finish at the 1st Annual Tournament of Champions (TOC). Wake Forest Law is ranked among the top 12 schools for trial advocacy. Len Cohen (JD '90) and Rod Pettey (JD '90) serve as the advocates of the winning team, with support from teammates Nils Gerber (BA '87, JD '90), David Hall (JD '90), Denise Hartsfield (JD '91), and Lee Nelson (BA '85, JD '91).

1992 National Trial Team ranks among the top eight teams in the country.

1995 The litigation curriculum, composed of a variety of courses, including legal research and writing, appellate advocacy, civil procedure, evidence, alternative dispute resolution, pre-trial practice, and trial practice, is supported by a variety of extracurricular opportunities such as interscholastic trial competitions, moot court competitions, and the Chief Justice Joseph Branch Inn of Courts. The curriculum is enhanced with the integration of the Clinical Program, known today as the Litigation Externship clinic.

2001 American College of Trial Lawyers awards Wake Forest Law the Emil Gumpert Award for its excellence in teaching trial advocacy. The money awarded to the School of Law was used to equip the practice courtrooms with the latest digital technology.

2017 Wake Forest claims two national championships: National Moot Court Competition and the AAJ National Trial Competition. Matthew Cloutier (JD ’17), Mia Falzarano (JD ’17), Blake E. Stafford (JD ’17), and Coach John Korzen (JD ’91) made up the National Moot Court team and Drew Culler (JD ’17), Mia Falzarano (JD ’17), Cheslie Kryst (JD ’17), Ethan White (JD ’17), and Coach Matthew Breeding (JD ’06) made up the AAJ National Trial team.

2018 Wake Forest Law once again claims two national championships. Wake Forest holds an unprecedented first and second place finish at the TYLA National Trial Competition. Ranked among the top teams in the country, Wake Forest was invited to compete in the National Board of Trial Advocacy (NBTA) Tournament of Champions (TOC), where the team earned a first place finish—the first in school history.

The 2018 TYLA National Trial Competition first place team included Tracea Rice (JD ’19), Darius Lamonte (JD ’19), Jonathan Salmons (JD ’18), Le’Ron Byrd (JD ’19), as well as Coaches Mark Boynton (JD ’97) and Aindrea Pledger (JD ’10). The second place team included Zach McCamey (JD ’18), Virginia Stanton (JD ’19), Joe Karam (JD ’18), and Nick Bedo (JD ’18).

The 2018 NBTA TOC team included Ashley DiMuzio (JD ’19), Mark Parent (JD ’19), Tracea Rice (JD ’19), Virginia Stanton (JD ’19), and Coach Mark Boynton (JD ’97).

Librarian Sally Irvin displays the interactive video, 1988.

Tracea Rice (JD ’19)
“I don’t learn anything but legal theory!” has been a popular outcry in law schools for years,” said an article by Rebecca Ferguson (JD ’75) in the 1974 spring edition of “The Jurist.” “But thanks to the interest and hard work of Associate Professor George K. Walker, Wake Forest Law students no longer say that. Under his guidance, the law school has recently established an appellate argument program.”

The Appellate Advocacy Seminar, which would lay the foundation for today’s Appellate Advocacy Clinic, was Wake Forest Law’s first experiential learning program. Law students could now draft briefs and pleadings on appeal for 4th Circuit cases with a supervising attorney. Professor Walker felt that the experiential component would be an enormous advantage for graduating law students. To him, a skill, in addition to substantive legal knowledge, was being learned, and this skill could be put to immediate use upon graduation.

Seven years later, Wake Forest would offer an additional program that enabled third-year law students to work on cases in North Carolina with the supervision of a practicing attorney. The Legal Clinic, which launched in 1981 under the direction of Professor Ken Zick and Inga Kear, supported the vision of then-Dean John Scarlett, who was a fierce advocate for making Wake Forest a leader in clinical education.

The program expanded dramatically throughout much of the 1980s, with students having the opportunity to place in one of five civil law sections, including general practice, Legal Aid Society, commercial practice, corporate general counsel, and federal practice in the U.S. Attorney’s office.

Wake Forest Law continued to add clinical and experiential programs over the next several decades.

1981 Legal Clinic program launches, eventually becoming the Clinic Program in 1995. Under the vision and direction of Professor Carol Anderson, the program expanded and was renamed the Litigation Externship clinic in 2006.

1983 Appellate Advocacy Seminar expands to become Appellate Advocacy Clinic.

1991 Elder Law Clinic launches under the direction of Kate Mewhinney.

2008 Innocence & Justice Clinic launches with supervising attorney and director Mark Rabil.

2009 Community Law & Business Clinic launches under the direction of Steve Virgil.

2010 Child Advocacy Clinic launches under the direction of Iris Sunshine (JD ’89).

2014 Professor Steve Virgil’s Cross-disciplinary Professional Development course becomes the Micro-Trade Development Clinic.

2014 Veterans Legal Clinic launches under the direction of Professor Steve Virgil.

2019 - Wake Forest Law announces the launch of the Environmental Law Clinic.

In addition to clinical offerings, Wake Forest’s historical emphasis on service and community transformed into the Pro Bono Project in 2009, allowing the School of Law to formalize pro bono work as an integral component of the law school experience. Since the Pro Bono Project’s establishment, Wake Forest Law students have served various members of the community, including veterans, children and teenagers, cancer patients, and immigrants.
Incorporating comparative law and international law has been a part of the curriculum for over 40 years. Study abroad programs in London and Venice marked the beginning of Wake Forest Law’s global offerings, which expanded in 1996 when the School of Law launched a new master’s degree for foreign-trained attorneys — known today as the Master of Laws (LLM) degree program. In 2018, the LLM began offering several degree specializations, including business law, criminal law, intellectual property law, and technology law, as well as the ability to craft a specialization when courses offered align with a preferred specialty. Wake Forest LLM alumni hail from Afghanistan, Australia, China, Colombia, France, Germany, Kosovo, Nigeria, Peru, and more than 40 other countries throughout the world.

In addition to adding a summer program in Vienna, Wake Forest integrated the Doctor of Juridical Science (SJD), Two-Year JD, Visiting International Researcher (VIR), and Legal English Program into its internationally focused academic programs and degree offerings.

In 2016, Wake Forest School of Law launched its first-ever fully online master’s degree program — the Master of Studies in Law (MSL) — which aims to empower working professionals with legal knowledge relevant to the problems of the modern workplace. Originally launched in 2012 as a resident program, the online MSL has attracted students from all over the country who want to study Business Law & Compliance, Health Law & Policy, or Human Resources.

Along with the MSL, Wake Forest Law has also launched several graduate certificates, beginning with the Workplace Legal Fundamentals graduate certificate in 2016.

2013 The School of Law launches the MSL program as a one-year residential graduate degree program.

2015 Our part-time, limited-residency MSL degree program begins.

2016 The MSL program becomes a part-time, fully online degree program with concentrations in Health Law & Policy as well as Human Resources. Wake Forest Law also launches its first graduate certificate program through the MSL program.

2017 A concentration in Business Law and Compliance is added to the MSL degree and certificate program. The MSL also begins offering a first-of-its-kind telemedicine course as well as an optional residential weekend experience.

2018 The Emerging Leaders Program in Law (ELP-Law), a first-in-the-nation partnership with Wake Forest School of Medicine’s Physician Assistant (PA) Program, is established. The Wake Forest School of Medicine Doctor of Nursing Program also integrates MSL health law courses into its curriculum.
Many U.S. Supreme Court Justices have visited Wake Forest Law, beginning with Justice Sandra Day O’Connor in 1993, who was the keynote speaker at the Worrell Professional Center dedication. Wake Forest also awarded her an honorary doctor of laws that same year. Justice O’Connor returned to Wake Forest in 2006 as a distinguished guest speaker of the “Conversation With” series.

In 1994, then-Chief Justice William Rehnquist visited Wake Forest as part of the law school’s centennial celebration, which was based on the year-long theme, “Celebrating a Century of Legal Education (1894-1994).” Justice Rehnquist was the main speaker at the University’s Opening Convocation in October of that year.

In 2005, Wake Forest began its enduring relationship with then-Associate Justice Ruth Bader Ginsburg, who was another distinguished guest of the “Conversation With” series. In 2008, Justice Ginsburg and her husband, Martin Ginsburg, joined Wake Forest in Venice as guest lecturers of law. She joined Wake Forest for its Venice and Vienna study abroad programs again in 2012. That same year, she joined the Wake Forest Journal of Law & Policy via live video feed as the keynote speaker for the spring symposium, “Gender and the Legal Profession: The Rise of Female Lawyers.”

Justice John G. Roberts also visited Wake Forest in 2005. Prior to his nomination that year, Justice Roberts had confirmed his availability to judge the Stanley Moot Court Competition. Despite being confirmed to the U.S. Supreme Court a few weeks prior, Justice Roberts attended the intramural competition.
In 2012, Justice Clarence Thomas was interviewed by Marc Rigsby (JD ’12) as part of the “Conversation With” series. In addition to meeting with students, faculty, and alumni, Justice Thomas also visited a class and lectured on professional responsibility.

In 2016, Justice Ginsburg once again joined Wake Forest Law for its Venice study abroad program, but this time she and Professor Dick Schneider participated in a mock hearing for Shylock, the Jewish moneylender from Shakespeare’s controversial comedy, “The Merchant of Venice.” In 2017, Justice Ginsburg presided over the judges’ panel for another mock trial for Shylock — this time at the U.S. Library of Congress. The panel included then-Dean Suzanne Reynolds (JD ’77), Professor Dick Schneider, former U.S. Ambassador to the OECD and congresswoman Connie Morella, and Micaela del Monte from the European Parliament. Michael Klotz (JD ’15) of Jones Day of New York advocated on behalf of Shylock.
We never know how high we are
Emily Dickinson

We never know how high we are
Till we are called to rise;
And then, if we are true to plan,
Our statures touch the skies—

The Heroism we recite
Would be a daily thing,
Did not ourselves the Cubits warp
For fear to be a King—
As the U.S. economy began to stabilize after the 2008 financial crisis, a storm was just beginning to brew in legal education.

College graduates who sought refuge in professional degree programs at the onset of the recession were now graduating and beginning their careers in a job market where opportunities remained limited.

The combined struggle of stalled hiring and high student loan debt was hitting law students particularly hard. Law schools all over the country were subsequently dealing with immeasurable uncertainty: Enrollment was declining precipitously, faculty members were facing layoffs, and budget offices began questioning the financial model supporting legal education.

The year was 2014, and Wake Forest President Nathan O. Hatch named Suzanne Reynolds (JD ’77) interim dean of the School of Law. While the University pursued a national search for a permanent replacement, Reynolds, who spent four years as executive associate dean for academic affairs, inherited the task of managing the traditions and spirit of Wake Forest all while navigating the existential crisis facing legal education.

Her interim leadership would turn out to be transformative in more ways than one. While budgets and enrollment remained stable, the dramatic renovations to the Worrell Professional Center that same year came to symbolize a turning point for the law school.

With the search for a permanent replacement near a close, it had become evident to President Hatch that the perfect candidate for dean was already holding the position — which distinguished Reynolds as the first-ever female dean of Wake Forest School of Law.

“Widely respected for her scholarship, teaching, and public service, Suzanne Reynolds has long held a deep and unwavering commitment to her students, serving as a wonderful mentor and model of excellence in the legal field,” says President Hatch. “She was the best choice for dean of Wake Forest School of Law.”

Reynolds officially began her deanship on July 1, 2015.

Her experience as an alumna, a law professor, and now a former interim dean provided Reynolds a unique starting point from which she could begin answering questions that arose from the rubble of the recession — what is the value of a legal education today? Who was Wake Forest going to become in this time of uncertainty? And better yet, who did we need to become?

For the next four years, Reynolds would dedicate her deanship to answering these questions with tangible goals and solutions — all of which would remain true to the roots and values of a Wake Forest education.
Widely respected for her scholarship, teaching, and public service, Suzanne Reynolds has long held a deep and unwavering commitment to her students, serving as a wonderful mentor and model of excellence in the legal field. She was the best choice for dean of Wake Forest School of Law.

— Wake Forest University President Nathan Hatch
Shine a brighter light on who we are

For Reynolds, illuminating the character, history, and principles of Wake Forest meant nurturing the core traditions of the School of Law. Preparing students for the practice of law, appreciating what it means to be a citizen lawyer, and developing the best advocates were all major traditions Reynolds aimed to preserve and enhance during her tenure as dean.

By 2014, the law school had already begun adapting its curriculum to align with the needs of students who would begin their careers in a post-recession world. Students applied theory and doctrine to practice in an array of elective simulations, clinics, and externships, but Reynolds felt that Wake Forest could give new meaning to “experiential learning” by expanding offerings in a way that matched the latest demands of the legal profession.

The law school successfully launched new clinics — the Veterans Legal Clinic and the Micro-Trade Development Clinic — during her five years of leadership. Students can now help eligible veterans with post-traumatic stress disorder (PTSD) upgrade their military discharges, allowing each client to receive the benefits they deserve for their service. Small business owners in Nicaragua are also served by Wake Forest students through the Micro-Trade Clinic, which aims to help clients reach U.S. markets.

These early additions offered a glimmer of what was to come.
Developing new externship opportunities proved to be a major emphasis for Reynolds. She helped revitalize the law school’s first externship program in Washington D.C., and began adding new placements — first in Charlotte and then in Geneva, Switzerland. By harnessing the law school’s distance learning technology, Reynolds was also able to launch a program where students could “create their own” externship anywhere in the world. The hiring of a new director of field placements in 2018 ensured oversight and, by extension, quality for all Wake Forest externships and their virtual classroom component.

Experiencing the law at work — how it feels and its impact — no longer merely supplemented the curriculum. By the end of Reynolds’ deanship, obtaining academic credit from professional experiences became a prominent characteristic of Wake Forest’s legal education, one that allows Wake Forest Law students to experience the profession globally more than ever before.

With the market demanding more corporate and transactional lawyers, Reynolds knew that the School of Law also had to enhance its curriculum in the traditional classroom. For that effort, she found the perfect partner in Executive Associate Dean for Academic Affairs Jonathan Cardi.

“Suzanne and I shared a curricular vision,” says Cardi. “We wanted to develop a curriculum that more closely tracked current and near-future development in legal practice. We added more than 25 new classes to the curriculum and expanded our legal writing and research program, which is now ranked No. 5 in the country.”

In addition to launching the Business Law Program during her first year as dean, Reynolds helped launch the first annual Transactional Law Competition in 2016. As one of the most popular competitions in the school, the event continues to provide a challenging, interactive experience that allows competitors to prepare for externships, internships, and careers in business law.

“The Transactional Law Competition is a fun, competitive way to gain practical experience in skills that transactional lawyers are likely to use, including drafting and negotiating,” says Ben Wescott (JD ’18). “The competition also gave us an opportunity to connect with practicing attorneys in the area and get their insights into the real-life practice of law.”
Reynolds also worked with a loyal alumnus, the Honorable Namon Leo Daughtry (BA ’62, JD ’65), to bring the state’s fourth Business Court to the Worrell Professional Center in 2017, allowing students to witness appellate and business court proceedings between or as part of their own classes, a boon for aspiring business lawyers.

With a desire and vision to create opportunities for specialties within a small school, Reynolds facilitated other academic and degree programs, including the Criminal Justice Program, Health Law & Policy Program, and the JD/MA Dual Degree in Sustainability.

Her efforts to enhance student preparation for modern legal practice did not distract Reynolds from emphasizing an appreciation for what it means to be a citizen lawyer.

Throughout the “Reynolds Years,” the Pro Bono Project blossomed, with numerous Wake Forest students regularly earning recognition as one of the top 20 national “Law Students of the Year” by the National Jurist magazine — in large part, for their dedication to pro bono work.

New programs such as the expungement clinic and the “Know Your Rights” program became a yearly feature. The number of pro bono hours logged by Wake Forest students dramatically increased during her deanship. During the 2018-2019 school year, students contributed 10,229 pro bono hours to the community, 4,000 more hours than just two years before.

Developing successful advocates in the courtroom completed Reynolds’ original vision of showcasing Wake Forest Law and its traditions.

“

We built on the foundation Professor Carol Anderson created as the architect of the trial advocacy program at Wake Forest Law. Matt Breeding (JD ’06) and I, as the two trial team coaches, were able to create an environment that fostered more cooperation, growth, and success.

— Mark Boynton (JD ’97)
Early in her deanship, Reynolds helped restructure the way Wake Forest’s trial advocacy teams operated. Afterwards, the law school’s AAJ and National Trial teams partnered more efficiently. The result? The three national championships that contributed to the “quadfecta” of titles Wake Forest claimed between 2017 and 2018.

“We built on the foundation Professor Carol Anderson created as the architect of the trial advocacy program at Wake Forest Law,” says Mark Boynton (JD ’97). “Matt Breeding (JD ’06) and I, as the two trial team coaches, were able to create an environment that fostered more cooperation, growth, and success.”

The collaboration, combined with the law school’s historic commitment to moot court and trial advocacy, empowered Wake Forest Law to become the only law school in history to win the AAJ Student Trial Advocacy Competition (2017), the National Moot Court Competition (2017), the American College of Trial Lawyers National Trial Competition (2018), and the Tournament of Champions (TOC) (2018) in consecutive years.
Reynolds grew up with the understanding that pioneering change of any kind was a responsibility that fell on the shoulders of those who could organize, lead, or otherwise get things accomplished. She watched her father bring Little League Baseball to their small North Carolina town and coach their first teams, she watched him hire the first people of color in the front office of the dairy company he managed, and she saw the impact he made as the chair of the Davidson County Democratic Party.

As a young woman, she followed his example by leading her high school’s Teen Democrats to support desegregation.

“My father told me to take every opportunity to stand up and lead,” says Reynolds. “Sometimes before I speak publicly, I still think, ‘Am I really going to do this?’ That’s when I hear my father say, ‘Just do it.”’

Advocating for social change continued to be a notable theme in Reynolds’ own story. While her passions translated into a career focused on pro bono and clinical work, teaching, scholarship, various civic initiatives, and even a political campaign, Reynolds’ advocacy would take on a new form during her deanship.

Specifically, Reynolds believed that her new role provided an opportunity to put Wake Forest in the vanguard of teaching law to non-lawyers by taking it online. Thus, the Master of Studies in Law (MSL) program, which originally launched in 2012 for residential students, became the law school’s first fully online legal education program in 2016.

The MSL program became so much more than another degree program. It had become an extension of Reynolds’ commitment to leadership by empowering students with legal knowledge, so that each graduate could also “organize, lead, or otherwise get things accomplished” in their own careers and beyond.

With several track specialties and graduate certificates, the MSL program has attracted talented professionals who are racially, socioeconomically, and educationally diverse.
“Suzanne’s vision for bringing law to the world has allowed the School of Law to serve a dramatically richer and deeper student population,” says Assistant Dean of Instructional Technologies and Design Ellen Murphy (JD ’02). “This has provided each student with the tools and framework necessary to navigate the law in the workplace. Suzanne’s courage to be a pioneer for change and willingness to place Wake Forest at the forefront of legal education has changed the lives of countless students not only in our MSL, but throughout the Wake Forest community.”

Reynolds’ commitment to increasing access to legal education did not stop with the launch of the MSL program. In 2017, Wake Forest began accepting GRE test scores for admission with the intention of diversifying the law school’s student body in every respect, including educationally.

“As the college of Wake Forest University attracts more and more students with STEM backgrounds and interests,” said Reynolds in a 2017 announcement, “the law school should be prepared, we believe, for an increasingly educationally diverse student body, with students who want to pursue a law degree, perhaps in combination with another graduate degree.”

To fulfill the needs of these students, Reynolds knew she had to empower and expand the curriculum even further. In 2016, she appointed Simone Rose as Wake Forest’s first-ever associate dean for innovation and entrepreneurship, with the vision of connecting and expanding courses on intellectual property, business law, science, and regulation in all of Wake Forest’s degree and certificate programs.

“Early on, Suzanne recognized the need to empower law students who are equipped to lead and handle the technology revolution in medicine, business, law, and the arts. With her support, we developed strategic partnerships across the University, so that law students could engage in collaborative, dynamic, and entrepreneurial thinking. Students develop these new ways of thinking while evaluating the commercial viability of new technologies, preparing business deliverables for corporate clients, or using technology to improve access to justice.”

— Simone Rose
Between the efforts of Reynolds and Rose, Wake Forest continues to champion the development of the Innovation Hub Project, or the “I-Hub,” an experiential, multidisciplinary learning platform that allows students, faculty, and working professionals to utilize human-centered design-thinking principles for the development of various projects. This platform will also help develop policy structures that enhance innovation, technology, and entrepreneurship in projects that span disciplines, all with Wake Forest Law marked as a distinguished leader.

Reynolds also hired the law school’s first professor of practice in technology in 2017. Professor Raina Haque, a former artificial intelligence and fintech software engineer who is one of the first patent lawyers in the blockchain and distributed ledger technology space, helped add more STEM-related courses to the curriculum.

“The law school is located in the right place at the right time,” says Haque. “We can partner with developed law, innovation, and technology programs and centers and use their models as blueprints to build a program of study that is unique to Wake Forest and its Pro Humanitate values. We have tested the waters, and the opportunity and demand is here.”

Professor Haque brought Technology in the Modern Law Practice as well as Coded Governance: Blockchains, Smart Contracts, and Cryptoventures to the curriculum, allowing all students to connect the law with emerging and nuanced areas of technology.

“I designed our blockchain course to make it the most robust in the country,” says Haque, “especially in terms of covering the nuances of the technology, business-use cases, and developing regulation.”

Brent Plummer (JD ’19) shared the value of this new course: “Our blockchain course was challenging, intriguing, organized, thorough, logical, and more,” says Plummer. “The technical portion of the course challenged me by forcing me into unknown and unchartered territory, but doing so greatly improved my understanding of coding, blockchain, and distributed ledger technology.”

These additions created a domino effect. The Master of Laws (LLM) program added a variety of degree specializations, including Technology Law and Intellectual Property Law. For the first time in school history, students were studying the law while experiencing the basics of programming and coding languages.

Another first occurred in 2018, when students participated in a competition that combined artificial intelligence software with a real-life fact pattern. Wake Forest joined Duke Law and the University of North Carolina School of Law at the 2018 Seal Software Legal AI Showdown, where students built custom analytics with Seal Software to research topics related to data breaches, limitations of liability, and cyber protection.
“The law school is located in the right place at the right time. We can partner with developed law, innovation, and technology programs and centers and use their models as blueprints to build a program of study that is unique to Wake Forest and its Pro Humanitate values. We have tested the waters, and the opportunity and demand is here.”

— Raina Haque

Above: At the Library of Congress, Professor Dick Schneider, Justice Ruth Bader Ginsburg, former U.S. Ambassador to the OECD and congresswoman Connie Morella, and Suzanne Reynolds participated in a mock hearing for Shylock, the Jewish money lender in Shakespeare’s “The Merchant of Venice.”
Ensuring a bright financial future was a major goal for Reynolds, who, throughout her time as dean, focused on creating new revenue streams that she believed would benefit the law school long after her leadership. In addition to launching the MSL degree and graduate certificate programs, Reynolds supported the development of new Continuing Legal Education (CLE) courses focused on ethics and technology, as well as executive education programming for lawyers and business professionals throughout North Carolina.

At the highest level, these courses and programs showcased the law school’s commitment to aligning legal education with the future practice of law. True to this idea, Wake Forest offered one of the first executive education programs in North Carolina that fulfilled the state bar’s new mandatory technology requirement. Held in Charlotte in 2019, the “Blockchain, Crypto, & the Law: Decoded and in Practice” program taught a range of professionals about rapidly developing technology and regulatory issues.

“We first ask ourselves, ‘Is there an unmet legal need that the law school can fill consistent with our mission?’,” says Reynolds about the new ventures. “If we answer that first question with a ‘yes,’ then we should do it, and do it well.”

While she was dedicated to leading and developing some of these courses and programs, she also devoted significant time and energy to alumni engagement and fundraising.

The “Reynolds Years” saw a strong increase in money raised for the law school in the Wake Will Lead campaign, both in new pledges and in cash giving. Under Dean Reynolds’ leadership, law alumni, parents, and friends helped “Make it a Million” for the Law Fund in both 2017 and 2018, the first years more than $1 million had ever been raised in a single year.

“Dean Reynolds has been a wonderful fundraising partner,” says Assistant Dean for Development Paul Wingate (BA ’92). “Her kindness and strong relationships with so many of our alumni have elevated both the law fund and overall law giving to new levels, which allows the law school to attract top students, recruit wonderful faculty, and provide a legal education for a changing legal market and volatile world.”
These fundraising achievements and milestones, paired with significant cultural shifts globally, proved that the questions Reynolds faced in 2014 had been answered.

The value of a legal education today has become evident in the rise of social justice movements throughout the world and the overwhelming increase in law school applications in 2018 and 2019. To Reynolds, the world has expressed a universal need for lawyers and the law to represent all of the people it is meant to protect. Better yet, the 25 percent rise in Wake Forest JD applications in 2018 — three times the national average — indicated that many future lawyers not only want to fulfill this need, but to do so with a Wake Forest education.

Reynolds proved through her vision and leadership that Wake Forest could navigate the adversity facing legal education by simply emphasizing the school’s own values and mission. Wake Forest Law didn’t need to become anything beyond itself — it just needed to continue to shape its offerings to the needs of its students, the legal profession, and the world.
A collegially competitive spirit thrives among Wake Forest Law students. You may hear it most loudly when it comes to oral advocacy.
When many people think of a lawyer, they envision a trial lawyer. They dream of the heroes and heroines of the court who have been made famous by literature and film and popular television. They imagine the way a trial lawyer moves the court through physical expression, and, in an almost theatrical way, stirs emotion and thought with both argument and ritual.

They also think of the courtroom and the way the judge is often elevated to preside over it, or the way it is engineered into subtle spaces that distinctly separate the judge from the jury and the jury from both plaintiff and the defendant. In this way, the courtroom becomes a symbolic space that requires the trial lawyer to tactfully navigate the science of the courtroom with a certain artistry, to compel an ambivalent, biased, or otherwise indifferent audience to accept or feel an idea despite the rigid etiquette of the courtroom.

Within this imagined space is the reality that trial advocacy students at Wake Forest Law are proving their mastery over this ceremony. In just two years, the Wake Forest American Association for Justice (AAJ) and National Trial teams have collectively contributed three championships to the law school’s “quadfecta” of back-to-back national titles between 2017 and 2018.

The first place finish at the 2017 AAJ National Trial Competition and the unprecedented first and second place finish at the 2018 Texas Young Lawyers Association (TYLA) National Trial Competition caused Wake Forest to soar in the rankings. As one of the top teams in the country, Wake Forest was invited to the 2018 National Board of Trial Advocacy (NBTA) Tournament of Champions (TOC), where they earned a first place finish — a first in school history.

But beyond the trophies and the personal achievements is the question of how we got here — how has Wake Forest continued to foster a competitive trial advocacy program for over 40 years?
It began with the launch of the Student Trial Bar in the fall of 1978. Inspired by the increasing need and desire for competitive litigation practice, the Student Trial Bar sent Wake Forest's first competitive team to the regional tournament of the 1979 TYLA National Trial Competition. Under the leadership of Professors Corbett, Billings, and Taylor, Wake Forest had already made three consecutive appearances at TYLA's national tournament by 1983. In just 10 years, Wake Forest had developed a top 12 trial advocacy program, a ranking that was validated with a second-place finish at the first-ever Tournament of Champions (TOC) in 1989.

As the trial advocacy team continued its rise in the rankings during the 1990s, so too did the recognition that Wake Forest was educating many of the country's finest trial lawyers.

"I have often heard sportscasters repeat the phrase that 'Miami of Ohio is the cradle of great football coaches,'" said former Dean Bob Walsh in a 1996 publication of "The Jurist," "In a similar vein, Wake Forest University School of Law could well be called 'the cradle of great trial lawyers.'"

With the continued expansion of the trial advocacy curriculum, an endeavor led by award-winning Professor and Trial Advocacy Program Director, Carol Anderson, Wake Forest established the foundation that made the success of today's trial teams possible.

Combining this history with an enduring emphasis on professionalism and integrity — with a true understanding and care for the human impact of trial advocacy and the law — is what makes a Wake Forest trial lawyer so distinctive, according to Mark Boynton (JD '97), coach of the 2018 championship-winning National Trial teams.

"Authenticity is bred here," says Boynton. "It's bred here because we are small and we are led by people with integrity and a high commitment to professionalism and authenticity. It permeates the curriculum. If you have a culture of caring and integrity, it attracts people who value those same things."

Wake Forest is proving why this matters in a courtroom — one individual award and championship at a time.

"Human beings and juries in particular respond to authenticity," Boynton adds. "They respond to credibility and credibility comes from authenticity. When we're teaching young trial lawyers, we teach the science and art of the courtroom, but we also have to teach them to be authentic storytellers. You have to make your audience, your jurors, understand your story, but also make them feel something from your story, and, most importantly, make them want to take action."

The numerous highly decorated student trial advocates that continue to graduate from Wake Forest Law are proof that this approach is a successful one. Based on Wake Forest's belief regarding what a trial lawyer is — an authentic figure with a deep care and commitment to professionalism and integrity — it makes sense that Wake Forest trial advocates are so successful in the courtroom. With a legal education that is heavily focused on community and service, Wake Forest students are intentionally developed to carry these values into the competition and into their own careers long after they graduate.

To learn more about our record-setting back-to-back national titles, visit wfu.law/quadfecta.
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— Mark Boynton (JD ’97)
In 1998, “Saving Private Ryan,” “Armageddon,” “Titanic,” and “There’s Something About Mary” were among the five biggest films of the year, and “Harry Potter and the Sorcerer’s Stone” was published for the first time in the United States.

It was the same year attorney Mark Rabil began working on the John Robert Hayes case.
**The Case**

On the evening of July 25, 1993, Waddell Lynn Bitting and Stephen Joel Samuels died after they were shot on East 22nd Street in Winston-Salem, near an illegal drink house. Three months later, Winston-Salem police arrested John Robert Hayes for the murders. At trial, prosecutors said Hayes walked out of the drink house, went to the trunk of a blue car parked on the street, pulled out a gun, and started firing into the crowd from the curb. The narrative was based on eyewitness testimony.

A Forsyth County jury found Hayes guilty, and a judge sentenced him to two life sentences for second-degree murder. His automatic appeal was unsuccessful. Then Rabil got the call.

“His family reached out to me after his conviction,” said Rabil, now an associate clinical professor of law and director of the Wake Forest School of Law’s Innocence and Justice Clinic. “It was like a daylong trial with a lawyer who worked for 10 hours before the trial on a double homicide case.”

**The Evidence**

“At the time, I knew that discovery or reports were not turned over because they were not required to be turned over until the law was changed in 2004,” Rabil said. “I knew things had to be hidden. Without those reports, it was tough to track down witnesses.”

As a private practitioner, Rabil worked on Hayes’ case with an investigator. Although his association with the School of Law began in 1983 with the Litigation Clinic, Rabil’s work on the Hayes case kicked into higher gear with the founding of the school’s Innocence and Justice Clinic in 2009.

The clinic setting gives Wake Forest Law students the opportunity to explore the causes of wrongful convictions and gain hands-on experience while investigating claims of innocence with clients like John Hayes.

Rabil has long contended, in and out of court, that prosecutors did not turn over evidence as required by law until 2013. That is 19 years after Hayes was convicted. The evidence includes shell casings that contradict the State’s narrative, a third shooting victim whose description did not match Hayes, and at least eight witnesses who identified someone else as the shooter.

It’s the same year Rabil was named Director of the Innocence and Justice Clinic.

“After interning at the Forsyth County DA’s office, I figured I’d sign up for the Innocence and Justice Clinic to get a different perspective of the criminal justice system,” said Travis Talbot (JD ’11), now principal court attorney at the New York State Supreme Court. Talbot said he and Chris Jackson (JD ’11) partnered on the case. “There seemed to be glaring Brady and discovery issues as well as real ineffective assistance of counsel claims, which gave us a few angles to start our post-conviction relief research.”

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*Above: Photo courtesy of the North Carolina Coalition for Alternatives to the Death Penalty (nccadp.org).*

Because she is not a member of the Innocence and Justice Clinic, Macgregor said the seven hours she spent traveling to and from Richmond for the hearing gave her a better chance to get to know and appreciate Rabil’s tireless dedication to wrongful conviction clients. “He’s worked on countless innocence cases over the years, often shouldering all or most of the work on any given case himself,” MacGregor said. "He’s a hero with a tie.”

Some two dozen Wake Forest Law students have worked on the Hayes case through the Innocence and Justice Clinic. They combed through more than 100 pages of evidence turned over by the district attorney’s office between 2011 and 2012. When the DA’s office announced it would no longer engage in this informal discovery, the Clinic filed a motion to compel it.

In March 2013, Hayes’ team filed a Motion for Appropriate Relief (MAR) and another motion for discovery. Later that month, the prosecutor’s office handed over 1,000 pages of documents, 17 audio recordings, photographs, and a crime scene video to the team. Students Jay Kyler (JD ’13) and Kelly Lantz (JD ’13) — now Kelly Lantz Kyler — started their work on the case with the Clinic in the spring 2013 semester. The two continued into the following semester as fellows to present the argument at the MAR hearing in the North Carolina Superior Court in October 2014.

This hearing disputed the prosecution’s trial narrative, since the State held evidence in its files of other shooters, and eyewitness interviews conflicted with those presented at trial.

Raquel Macgregor (JD ’19) and Sarah Spangenberg (JD ’19) came to the Hayes case by way of the School’s Appellate Advocacy Clinic in fall 2018. They teamed up with Rabil and the Innocence and Justice Clinic to prepare the reply brief in the 4th Circuit U.S. Court of Appeals and conducted the oral argument at the 4th Circuit on Jan. 30, 2019, in Richmond, Virginia. It was the first time the two clinics partnered this way.

“There are few things more important than getting wrongly convicted people out of prison,” Macgregor said. “The most important experience I had was preparing for and arguing at the 4th Circuit.”

The focus of this brief was Hayes’ claim of actual innocence, drawing on the 1995 Schloeg v. Delo U.S. Supreme Court decision that helped broaden the ability to reopen a case on the basis of new evidence of innocence. Crucial evidence, such as the location of shell casings on the drink house front porch, could not support the trial narrative that Hayes had shot into a crowd while standing at the curb. Testimony that no such shell casings were found on the porch was presented at trial in 1994, but police reports from the day of the crime show that a witness found the casings on the porch. Additional discrepancies in eyewitness testimony regarding the shooter’s clothing, hairstyle, and gun description, was not presented at trial.

The argument focused on the reasonable doubt this evidence would have presented to the jury back in 1994, since no forensic evidence tied Hayes to the crime, no motive or confession was presented, and Hayes continues to maintain his innocence after 25 years in prison.

“It was the most nerve-racking thing I have ever done,” Macgregor said. “But I will have to do oral arguments in the future as a litigator, so this was great practice.”

Her practice will pay off when she begins in the litigation department at Moore & Van Allen in Charlotte in August 2019.

Nearly three months later, the three-judge panel issued a written opinion that Hayes had failed to meet that legal standard. “While we ultimately did not win, I know I put in everything I could, and I am proud of the work we did representing Mr. Hayes,” said Macgregor.

While the 4th Circuit opinion was a disappointment, Rabil said he still plans to move forward. “Well, I’ve been working on the case for 20 years and John’s been in prison — this will be his 26th year,” he said. “There’s no question in my mind that it’s a wrongful conviction because there was so much evidence that was hidden.”

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“*He’s a hero with a tie.*”
Moving forward, Rabil and his Wake Forest Law students will continue investigating, looking for other witnesses and turning to forensic science to evaluate the evidence.

“We’re going to file a motion for DNA testing on some of the shell casings and see if there are fingerprints to identify the real suspect in the case,” said Rabil. “We don’t really know what happened out there on that July night in 1993.”

Rabil said finding justice for Hayes is a strong motivator, but he’d also like to seek justice for Bitting and Samuels, who died 26 years ago, with an arrest of the actual shooter. Other options include what Rabil calls “gateways to innocence” such as filing for additional court hearings, seeking clemency from the North Carolina governor, or working with the media to bring more attention to the case.

The case has had a lasting impression on many Wake Forest Law students. Now a principal court attorney for a Supreme Court judge in Manhattan, Talbot spent seven years as a public defender in that same courthouse. He recommends the Innocence and Justice Clinic experience wholeheartedly.

“Our criminal justice system is far from perfect, and, at the very least, the Clinic should give you some hands-on criminal law experience as well as some perspective,” Talbot said. “You help people in unimaginably desperate situations, and our knowledge of the system, in general, tells us that many incarcerated people never received a fair trial. Some are actually innocent. Sometimes, you are their last hope.”

Persistence, perseverance, and strength of purpose keep Rabil’s focus on facing forward.

“Why am I sticking with it? Because once you develop a relationship with somebody over 20 years, you’re not going to just let it go,” he said.

“I’ll continue to teach the Hayes case in the Clinic as an example of what goes wrong when the evidence is not turned over, and what goes wrong when you have a lawyer who doesn’t do their job,” Rabil said. “It also educates future lawyers, not only as practitioners, but also as citizens, that they don’t want to vote for people who are hiding the ball or hiding the evidence.”

Below: Professor Mark Rabil uses the clinic’s casework to teach high school students about criminal justice at the Law Institute, part of Wake Forest University’s Summer Immersion program.
For the fourth consecutive year, Wake Forest Law rose in the U.S. News & World Report rankings to No. 31, matching the highest ranking in Wake Forest’s history. The law school was also ranked No. 5 for Legal Writing as well as No. 21 for both Trial Advocacy and Health Care Law.

National Jurist’s preLaw Magazine named Wake Forest Law among the Top 25 Best Value Law Schools in the country in the fall 2018 publication. The magazine also ranked Wake Forest as a No. 2 Best Value Law School among private law schools as well as a Top Law School for Business Law, marking the third year in a row that Wake Forest has been distinguished as a leader in business law by the magazine.

The International Jurist ranked Wake Forest among the nation’s top for LLM student experience, value, and career outcomes.

Professor Emeritus Charley Rose was awarded the Medallion of Merit, the University’s highest honor. Professor Rose was the first law honoree in the award’s 51-year history who was not also an alumnus.

The Wake Forest Master of Laws (LLM) program began offering degree specializations in 2018. Students can now specialize in business law, criminal law, intellectual property law, and technology law in addition to crafting a specialization when courses offered align with a preferred specialty.

Judicial pioneer Namon Leo Daughtry (BA ’62, JD ’65) was honored with a Wake Forest courtroom dedication at the North Carolina Business Court.

The Sager Speaker Series welcomed three distinguished guests to Wake Forest during the 2018-2019 academic year (from left): Dennis Archer, chairman emeritus of Dickinson Wright PLLC, former mayor of Detroit, Michigan Supreme Court Justice, and president of the American Bar Association; Leslie Thornton, senior vice president and general counsel of WGL Holdings Inc.; and Mark Chandler, executive vice president, chief legal officer, and chief compliance officer at Cisco.

Hanna Monson (JD ’19) interviewed Judge Jimmie V. Reyna, the first Latino to serve the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Federal Circuit, as part of the “Conversation With” series.

North Carolina Attorney General Josh Stein joined Professor Kami Chavis for a fireside chat as part of Wake Forest Law’s annual Dean’s Distinguished Lecture.

Ashley DiMuzio (JD ’19) was named a Law Student of the Year by the National Jurist magazine.

Lauren Martin (JD ’19) was named a Next Generation Leader by the American Constitution Society (ACS).
The National Moot Court Team placed among the nation’s top sixteen teams in the 2019 National Moot Court Competition. The team, which was coached by Professor John Korzen (BA ’81, JD ’91), included Shawna Abbatiello (JD ’19), Ashley Bouchez (JD ’19), and Jonathan Patton (JD ’19).

The Wake Forest Transactional Law Board, pictured above, named Rainsford Reel (JD ’20), Brandon LaRose (JD ’20), and Thomas Cain (JD ’20) overall team champions of the 2018 Transactional Law Competition. The trio also received Best Team Draft. Other award winners include: Alex Perry (JD ’20) and Yuqi Wei (JD ’20), who were named Best Team Negotiators; and Mary-Kathryn Hawes (JD ’21), Aaron Walck (JD ’21), and Dakota Baccus (JD ’21), who received Best Team Mark-Up.

Wake Forest Law competed in the 2018 Seal Software Legal Artificial Intelligence (AI) Showdown. After learning the software, which leverages AI-based models for contract analysis, students were given a real-life fact pattern that exposed competitors to complex legal issues related to data breaches, limitations of liability, and cyber protections.

Wake Forest won the 2019 1L Kilpatrick Trial Advocacy Tournament for the third year in a row. The team included Caitlin Augerson (JD ’21), Dakota Baccus (JD ’21), Katharine Batchelor (JD ’21), and Blake Svedsen (JD ’21).

Tracea Rice (JD ’19) won the 2019 Zeliff Trial Bar Competition.

Cassidy Webb (JD ’20) won the 2018 Stanley Moot Court Competition.

Marisa Mariencheck (JD ’21) won the 48th Annual George K. Walker Moot Court Competition.
Ronald Wright, Kami Chavis, and Gregory Parks release The Jury Sunshine Project, a study published by the Illinois Law Review that shares and discusses statistics from felony trial jury selection across North Carolina’s 100 counties. Professor Wright discussed the findings of the project in his New York Times op-ed, “Yes, Jury Selection Is as Racist as You Think. Now We Have Proof.”

Wake Forest Law faculty move up eight spots on the 2018 Scholarly Impact Score rating. Mark Hall was named the No. 2 most-cited faculty in Health Law, Ronald Wright was named the No. 12 most cited faculty in Criminal Law and Procedure, and Sidney Shapiro was named the No. 17 most cited faculty in Public Law and No. 15 most cited law professor for Environmental and Energy Law. Top cited tenured faculty include Jonathan Cardi, Michael Curtis, Mike Green, John Knox, Alan Palmiter, Gregory Parks, Kami Chavis, and Margaret Taylor.

Scott Schang joins Wake Forest Law as Professor of Practice of Environmental Law. In addition to teaching environmental law and natural resources, Schang is responsible for developing, launching, and directing a new environmental law clinic that will advise clients, inform transactional work, and draft amicus briefs and policy white papers.

Mark Hall is named lead reporter of the medical liability sections of the Restatement Third of Torts: Concluding Provisions by the American Law Institute (ALI). Wake Forest now has four ALI reporters, including Michael Green, co-reporter for the Restatement Third of Torts: Concluding Provisions on all remaining topics; Tanya Marsh, associate reporter for the first comprehensive Restatement of Property; and Jonathan Cardi, associate reporter for the Restatement Third of Torts: Intentional Torts to Persons.

Omari Simmons authors “Potential on the Periphery: College Access from the Ground Up,” a book that examines vulnerable high school student populations and access to higher education.

Gregory Parks’ research team is awarded the Wolters Kluwer Prize for Legal Education Innovation for “The Pathways Project: Connecting Ambition with Opportunity for Underrepresented Law Students.” It seeks to use data from a selection of national law schools to identify independent factors that contribute to underperformance in law school and on the bar exam. This project also aims to implement interventions to address discovered factors.

Marie-Amélie George authors the Northwestern University Law Review article, “Framing Trans Rights.” She joined the Ipse Dixit podcast and NPR’s KUAF radio show to discuss LGBTQ+ rights and the law.

Raina Haque and Brent Plummer (JD ’19) are coauthors of the Stanford Journal of Blockchain Law & Policy article, “Blockchain Development and Fiduciary Duty,” which is legal literature’s first detailed analysis of the operations and incentives involved in public blockchain development.

John Knox receives the 2019 Joseph Branch Excellence in Teaching Award.
Burk Wyatt (JD ’87) and his wife, Brenda, wanted to leave a lasting legacy to celebrate the lives and love of his parents, Frank (BA ’56, LLB ’59) and Becky Wyatt (BA ’58). They chose to make that happen at Wake Forest University School of Law, which played a large part in their lives.

Thanks to their generous gift, the law school transformed Room 1109 into a state-of-the-art classroom over the summer of 2018. The Wyatt Classroom is named in honor of Frank and Becky Wyatt and features a plaque with the couple’s photo captioned, “Whose love story began on this campus and inspired devotion to family, education, and Wake Forest for generations.”

Frank Wyatt, who helped cut the ribbon at the dedication ceremony, spotted his wife, Becky, crossing the Quad as an undergraduate. This was 1957, just one year after the Reynolda Campus opened. Wyatt told the audience he tracked her down, and the rest is history.

Earning his undergraduate and law degrees at Wake Forest through a joint program, Frank Wyatt co-founded Wyatt Early Harris Wheeler, LLP of High Point, N.C. The firm employs business, estate, family law, and litigation attorneys.

“It was at Wake Forest law school that Frank got the foundation that enabled him to enter a noble profession and make it nobler by the law firm that he helped found and the way he practiced law,” Dean Reynolds said. Frank Wyatt added that while he practiced law, his wife, Becky, focused on education, which made the classroom dedication so fitting.

Speaking at the ceremony was Burk Wyatt, one of their three children and a third-generation Wake Forest graduate. “We hope this classroom will be used to help students learn and alumni to come back and learn and have personal growth and to follow the spirit of Pro Humanitate,” Wyatt said. Burk Wyatt is general counsel at CommScope in Hickory, N.C.
Alumna Cheslie Kryst (JD/MBA ’17) makes waves on a national platform as the new Miss USA.
Her passion for this work was inspired by a speaker at the School of Law. Bryan Stevenson, the author of “Just Mercy,” is also a founder of the Equal Justice Initiative, a legal practice dedicated to defending the poor and wrongly imprisoned.

“Dean Ann Gibbs said, ‘You need to read his book. That’s something you should do after the bar,’” Kryst said. “So after passing the bar and before starting work, I read his book, and it had a profound impact on me.”

“He talks a lot about some of the injustice in the justice system, and how the justice system tends to negatively affect minorities and people who can’t afford attorneys more acutely than it affects others. Because of his book, and because of my stepdad — he’s also an attorney who worked a lot with President Obama’s clemency project — because of those influences on my life, I decided I needed to help. Being an attorney, I am empowered to help, and I have the means to help, so that is what I do.”

Another influence on Kryst’s career? Her mother, who held the title of Mrs. North Carolina US in 2002. According to a 2019 Charlotte Observer article, Kryst said she learned the power of the pageant platform as a grade school student. “I remember seeing people paying attention to every word my mom said,” the story quotes Kryst.

When it was her time for the interview segment at the Miss USA pageant, Kryst’s answer on the #MeToo and #TimesUp movements gained approval in the news and on social media.

“I don’t think these movements have gone too far. What #MeToo and #TimesUp are about are making sure that we foster safe and inclusive workplaces in our country. As an attorney, that’s exactly what I want to hear, and that’s exactly what I want for this country. I think they’re good movements.”

During her year-long reign as Miss USA, Kryst plans to continue her advocacy for Dress for Success, an international organization empowering women to achieve economic independence through a network of support, professional attire, and development. Kryst worked with the Charlotte chapter before becoming Miss North Carolina USA. She has also relocated to New York City to prepare for the Miss Universe competition. “I’ll get to design my national costume and also my evening gown for the competition,” she said. “I’m thrilled to represent the USA at the Miss Universe competition and excited to start prepping.”

said Cheslie Kryst (JD/MBA ’17) during a phone interview just days after winning the 2019 Miss USA title in Reno, Nevada. “I was always speaking for my siblings, always speaking on behalf of my friends, and they always trusted me to represent them. So, it seemed sort of a natural progression to go from that to law school.”

A 28-year-old civil litigation attorney, Kryst chose Wake Forest because she planned to practice law in North Carolina and wanted to attend a law school in the state. “And if I wanted to go to law school, I wanted to go to one of the best, and Wake Forest was clearly on that list.”

Her decision came after earning her undergraduate degree in business administration with a double major in marketing and human resources management while running Division I track at the University of South Carolina. She says visiting Wake Forest on Accepted Students Day sealed the deal for her.

“Wake Forest shaped who I was and am as an attorney and as a person,” Kryst said. “I just grew so much and learned so much about me, about the legal profession, and about what I wanted out of my career, at Wake Forest.”

During her time at the School of Law, Kryst experienced just about everything. She participated in Moot Court, was a prominent member of the national championship-winning AAJ Trial Team, served as president of the Sports and Entertainment Law Society, and was the national parliamentarian for the school’s chapter of the National Black Law Students Association (BLSA). “Seriously, I could go on for days talking about my experience at Wake Forest,” she said.

As an associate at Poyner Spruill in Charlotte, N.C., Kryst also performs pro bono work with prison inmates.
“For all of us as consumers who carry phones around with us, who have to look through but never read the acceptance of privacy policies, what we actually agree to are data collection policies,” says Josh Pitcock (JD ’01), vice president of government affairs at Oracle. “People are becoming more aware of that, which will affect the public policy debate. Because every time you walk anywhere with your phone, you’re putting off data — whether you know it or not.”

Pitcock says the data collection will only increase as the U.S. fully integrates a 5G network, and as we incorporate more internet-connected devices such as thermostats, appliances, and smart speakers. And, he says, that will ramp up the privacy issues we face.

Pitcock recommends that current and future law students take classes that cover topics such as patents, copyright, and intellectual property. He has not only found it useful in his new role at Oracle, starting in 2017, but also in his past career in politics.

“I remember when I was doing then-Congressman Pence’s judiciary committee work in Congress, I pulled out my old Simone Rose IP outlines and used those,” Pitcock says. “I’d encourage anyone interested in technology to take those classes, and learn about corporations, business structures, and tax law because it ultimately wraps into a good background for this field.”

Pitcock’s path to Oracle ran through the White House after a stop in Atlanta, where he met his wife, Katie Seaman (BA ’03).

After graduation from Wake Forest Law, Pitcock spent three years practicing corporate law at an Atlanta firm. Then he began to sense a calling to public service.

“I had been a political science major and had interned in the Senate when I was in college,” Pitcock says. “I had always loved politics, so by that time, President George W. Bush had been re-elected, and I had become drawn to Washington.”
In the winter of 2005, Pitcock left Atlanta to begin searching for opportunities on Capitol Hill. Although he was a young newcomer to D.C. politics, Pitcock had a strategy, one that reflects the community-based values of his legal alma mater.

“When I got to Washington, I walked around the Hill,” Pitcock recalls. “I asked the Indiana, North Carolina, and Georgia congressional offices for the chief of staff or legislative directors’ business cards so I could follow up with them.”

His door-to-door approach worked, connecting him with then-U.S. Representative Mike Pence of Indiana. “Mike Pence represented my hometown, so I had that connection,” Pitcock says.

After a three-month job search, Pitcock was hired as an aide. He immediately began exercising his legal degree in judiciary committee work. Although Pitcock took on many roles during his 12 years with the Pence team, his most notable occurred during the 2016 Presidential Election when he served as the vice presidential nominee’s senior policy adviser. He then took on a leadership role in the administration’s transition efforts and served as chief of staff to Vice President Mike Pence before leaving government to take his current position with Oracle.

Pitcock acknowledges the sharp partisan divide currently influencing D.C. politics. Although many accuse media consumption for creating this polarized climate, Pitcock sees the congressional calendar as a contributor to fewer relationships across the aisle.

“People would say that when Congress would be in session for a longer stretch, and members had their families here, that they were more apt to socialize or see each other — they would really fight it out on the House floor, but afterwards would go to a big social event, so people knew each other better.”

Building those connections on the Hill matters. Without these relationships, Pitcock believes that the human element behind policy is often lost and that the authenticity of character is frequently skewed.

“How do you solve it?” Pitcock asks. “Mainly by getting some things done, and I think that there are opportunities that we’re focused on like with infrastructure, which is generally something that’s thought of in a bipartisan manner.”

Pitcock reflects on his time at Wake Forest and draws parallels: “I made some really good friends in my law school class, and while there was a little bit of competition, like around class rank, I feel like we had a cohesive class. One of the lessons I’ve taken with me was that when you’re all in a tough thing together, you need that little bit of camaraderie.”
GETTING SOCIAL
JOIN THE CONVERSATION!    @WFULawSchool   #WFULAW
LARRY SITTON was inducted into the inaugural class of the N.C. Lawyers Hall of Fame. He practiced with the law firm of Smith Moore Leatherwood for almost 50 years before retiring in 2014.

LEO DAUGHTRY was honored by the School of Law last fall when the North Carolina Business Court courtroom in the Worrell Professional Center was named in his honor. Daughtry practiced law in Smithfield, N.C., and had a long political career. He served in the N.C. General Assembly for 25 years, first in the Senate and then in the House, where he served as majority and minority leader. See photo below.

DOYLE EARLY JR. was recognized in the 2019 edition of Best Lawyers in America for family law. He is of counsel at Wyatt Early Harris Wheeler in High Point, N.C.

DAN MCGINN was named a 2019 N.C. Super Lawyer and was also named one of the Best Lawyers in America. He was also recognized by Chambers USA as one of America’s leading lawyers in his practice in labor and employment. He is an attorney at Brooks Pierce in Greensboro, N.C.

JOHN M. MEMORY is author of “Mysteriously Missing College Courses:
Important Information That Is Nearly Never Covered in a University or College Course” (Archway Publishing, 2018). Memory is a retired criminal justice professor in Columbia, S.C., and a retired Army Reserve JAG LTC.

KEN MOSER is serving on the Wake Forest Alumni Council and is the new chair of the Golden Deacs, formerly known as the Half Century Club. He is a retired attorney in Winston-Salem.

1969

R. BRADFORD LEGGETT was recognized in the 2019 edition of Best Lawyers in America. He has been recognized every year since 1989. He is a shareholder in Allman Spry Davis Leggett & Crumpler in Winston-Salem.

1970

MICHAEL J. LEWIS was named to the 2019 edition of Best Lawyers in America. He is a senior partner and the owner of Mike Lewis Attorneys in Winston-Salem.

JOHN WOLFE is a private attorney and the longtime attorney for the town of Kernersville, N.C. He has an eclectic collection of “curiosities” in his law office. His great-grandfather built Kernersville’s most famous landmark, the historic Körner’s Folly house, in the 1870s. Wolfe and his wife, Bobbie, have been instrumental in restoring the house.

1971

G. EDGAR PARKER was recognized in the 2019 edition of Best Lawyers in America and was named a 2019 N.C. Super Lawyer for family law. He is a senior partner at Crumpler Freedman Parker & Witt in Winston-Salem.

DONALD M. VONCANNON was recognized in the 2019 edition of Best Lawyers in America. He is a shareholder in Allman Spry Davis Leggett & Crumpler in Winston-Salem.

1972

THURSTON DEBNAM JR. was recognized in the 2019 edition of Best Lawyers in America for commercial litigation and corporate law. He is a founding partner at Smith Debnam in Raleigh, N.C.

JIM FUNDERBURK retired after serving as an attorney in Gaston County, N.C. since 1972.

1975

THOMAS “TERRY” CRUMPLER was recognized in the 2019 edition of Best Lawyers in America for corporate law, mergers and acquisitions law, and real estate law. He is a shareholder in Allman Spry Davis Leggett & Crumpler in Winston-Salem.

E. VERNON F. GLENN wrote “Friday Calls: A Southern Novel.” He has been a practicing litigator for more than 40 years and lives in Charleston, S.C.

JAMES K. ROBERSON was awarded the Order of the Long Leaf Pine by North Carolina Gov. Roy Cooper for exemplary service. He served for more than 17 years in judicial positions before retiring as senior resident Superior Court judge in 2018. He worked closely with the Family Justice Center of Alamance County to develop the domestic violence electronic protective order system used across North Carolina.

RICHARD DEWITTE SPARKMAN was inducted into Business North Carolina’s 2019 Legal Elite Hall of Fame for bankruptcy law. He has practiced law for 40 years at Richard D. Sparkman & Associates in Angier, N.C.

DAVID D. WARD SR. was named a 2019 N.C. Super Lawyer for medical malpractice. He is an attorney and co-chair of the medical malpractice group at Cranfill Sumner & Hartzog LLP in Raleigh, N.C.
1976

TOM DAVIS JR. was inducted into the 2017 North Carolina Pro Bono Honor Society in conjunction with the N.C. Supreme Court. He also serves as president of the North Carolina Supreme Court Historical Society and is a partner with Poyner Spruill LLP in Raleigh, N.C.


1977

JOSEPH T. CARRUTHERS was recognized in the 2019 edition of Best Lawyers in America for commercial litigation, personal injury litigation-defendants and medical malpractice law-defendants. He is a partner with Wall Babcock LLP in Winston-Salem.

JOSLIN DAVIS was named a 2019 N.C. Super Lawyer for family law and was recognized in the 2019 edition of Best Lawyers in America for family law. She is a shareholder in Allman Spry Davis Leggett & Crumpler in Winston-Salem.

KENNETH KYRE received the 2018 J. Robert Elster Award for Professional Excellence from the North Carolina Association of Defense Attorneys. The award recognizes members who exemplify professionalism, integrity, and ethics. Kyre is a partner at Pinto Coates Kyre & Bowers in Greensboro, N.C.

1978

DAVIDIA WAGNER MARTIN retired as a Forsyth County attorney after 30 years of legal service. She has served as president of the N.C. Association of County Attorneys and was named Outstanding County Attorney of the Year in 2005.

BRAD WILSON is executive-in-residence with the Wake Forest School of Law and the School of Business. He is the retired president and CEO of Blue Cross Blue Shield of N.C.

1979

C. EDWIN ALLMAN III was named a 2019 N.C. Super Lawyer for bankruptcy and business law and recognized as one of the Best Lawyers in America. He is a shareholder in Allman Spry Davis Leggett & Crumpler in Winston-Salem.

J.H. CORPENING, chief district court judge for North Carolina’s Judicial District 5 New Hanover County, received the David W. Soukup Judge of the Year Award at the national conference of the National Court Appointed Special Advocates in Boston.

BOB SINGER was named a 2019 N.C. Super Lawyer and recognized as one of the Best Lawyers in America. He was also recognized by Chambers USA as one of America’s leading lawyers in his practice area in banking and finance law. He is an attorney at Brooks Pierce in Greensboro, N.C.

DON VAUGHAN received the 2018 Citizen Lawyer Award from the North Carolina Bar Association. He is an attorney in Greensboro, N.C., and an adjunct professor of state and local government at Wake Forest School of Law.

1980

ANDY HARTSFIELD received the Chancellor’s Legacy Award at Elizabeth City State University’s (ECSU) Founders Day Gala. He is on the board of trustees at ECSU and in 2017 retired from Sanofi, a multinational pharmaceutical firm, where he was head of international policy.

CAROLE FEE SIMMS was honored with the inaugural “Outstanding Women in Business Special Achievement Award” from the Triad Business Journal. Simms, a partner in the Greensboro, N.C., office of Fox Rothschild LLP, also serves on the boards of several local organizations, including Guilford College and Cone Health.

1981

RICHARD HUFFMAN is the incoming chair for Lenoir-Rhyne University’s board of visitors in Hickory, N.C.

THEODORE “TED” SMYTH was named a 2019 N.C. Super Lawyer for insurance law. He is an attorney at Cranfill Sumner & Hartzog LLP in Raleigh, N.C.

BETTIE KELLEY SOUSA was recognized in the 2019 edition of Best Lawyers in America. She is an attorney at Smith Debnam in Raleigh, N.C.

1982

JILL WILSON was named a 2019 N.C. Super Lawyer for education law and was recognized as one of the Best Lawyers in America. Wilson was also named to Triad Business Journal’s 2018 Outstanding Women in Business. She is an attorney at Brooks Pierce in Greensboro, N.C.
1983

JOHN MADDEN was named 2019 Lawyer of the Year for medical malpractice law-defendants by Best Lawyers in America. He is a partner at Smith Anderson in Raleigh, N.C.

BEN SUTTON was named by the National Football Foundation to its Leadership Hall of Fame. He also received the University of South Carolina's Lifetime Achievement in Sports and Entertainment Award at its Sports Entertainment and Venues Tomorrow conference. He is the founder and chairman of Teall Capital Partners in Winston-Salem.

1984

STANLEY ATWELL was named to the 2018 edition of Best Lawyers in America. He is a director at Carruthers & Roth in Greensboro, N.C.

KEVIN C. BLACK was elected by the Virginia General Assembly as circuit judge of the 26th Judicial Circuit. Black began his eight-year term in May.

SARAH KATHERINE “KAT” BURNETTE was appointed to District Court judge by North Carolina Gov. Roy Cooper. Burnette, who has practiced law for more than 33 years, will preside in Franklin, Granville, Vance, and Warren counties.

AUDREY FEINMAN MINER is chief counsel for the Pennsylvania Department of Conservation and Natural Resources.

JIM W. PHILLIPS JR. was named a 2019 N.C. Super Lawyer and was recognized as one of the state’s Top 100 Lawyers. He was also named to Business North Carolina’s 2019 Legal Elite, named one of the Best Lawyers in America, and was recognized by Chambers USA as one of America’s leading lawyers in general commercial law. He is an attorney at Brooks Pierce in Greensboro, N.C.

1985

JOHN W. BABCOCK was named to Business North Carolina’s Legal Elite Hall of Fame for business law and was also recognized as one of the Best Lawyers in America. He is a partner with Wall Babcock LLP in Winston-Salem.

J. DENNIS BAILEY was recognized in the 2019 edition of Best Lawyers in America for commercial litigation, personal injury litigation-defendants, and medical malpractice law-defendants. He is a partner with Wall Babcock LLP in Winston-Salem.

JOHN D. BRYSON was recognized in the 2019 edition of Best Lawyers in America for criminal law, DUI/DWI defense. He is a partner at Wyatt Early Harris Wheeler in High Point, N.C.

DAVID DAGGETT received the 2018 Forsyth County Governor’s Volunteer Service Award in the People’s Choice category for his commitment to the local Down Syndrome community. He was nominated by the Piedmont Down Syndrome Support Network, an organization he has worked with for many years. He is an attorney and partner with Daggett Shuler Law in Winston-Salem.

KAREN WILSON was recognized in the 2019 edition of Best Lawyers in America for corporate law. She is a partner with Wall Babcock LLP in Winston-Salem.

1986

M. JOSEPH ALLMAN was recognized in the 2019 edition of Best Lawyers in America for real estate law. He is a shareholder in Allman Spry Davis Leggett & Crumpler in Winston-Salem.

PAUL T. FLICK opened Flick Dispute Resolution, a mediation practice, and joined Miller Monroe & Plyler in Raleigh, N.C. He was also named a 2019 N.C. Super Lawyer.

1987

RON HICKS was named a 2019 Super Lawyer in Pennsylvania. He serves as co-chair of the U.S./Canada litigation group of Meritas, a global alliance of law firms, and is a member of the Academy of Trial Lawyers of Allegheny County and an elected member of the Board of Governors of the Allegheny County Bar Association. He is a partner at Meyer, Unkovic & Scott in Pittsburgh, Pa.

JAN BOSTIC YARBOROUGH was recognized in the 2019 edition of Best Lawyers in America for health care law. She is a partner with Wall Babcock LLP in Winston-Salem.

1988

BOB KING was named a 2019 N.C. Super Lawyer and was recognized as one of the Best Lawyers in America. He was also recognized by Chambers USA as one of America’s leading lawyers in environmental law. He is an attorney at Brooks Pierce in Greensboro, N.C.

JEFF MELCHER is regional managing partner of the Southeast for the law firm Wilson Elser in Atlanta, Ga.
LEE W. GAVIN has been appointed chief District Court judge for Randolph County, N.C. He has served as a judge since 1998.

LEW STARLING is president of Mid-Atlantic Restaurant Corp., the franchisor of Smithfield’s Chicken ’N Bar-B-Q, and Cary Keisler Inc. He is the first non-family member to be appointed president. He also continues to practice law as managing partner at Daughtry, Woodard, Lawrence & Starling and serves as mayor of Clinton, N.C.

SYLVESTER WILLIAMS was named dean of the College of Business and Management at East Stroudsburg University of Pennsylvania. He has more than 30 years of experience in foreign affairs, banking, and education. He most recently worked at Elizabethtown College as chair of the business department and in other roles.

D. BETH LANGLEY was named to Business North Carolina’s 2019 Legal Elite for employment law and the 2019 N.C. Super Lawyers list of the state’s Top 50 Women Lawyers. She was also elected to the N.C. Bar Association’s Board of Governors and named one of the Best Lawyers in America. She is an attorney at Brooks Pierce in Greensboro, N.C.

RENE CALDWEBLL GILBERTSON is a Superior Court Judge in Los Angeles. She has practiced law for 24 years, working primarily in juvenile law, handling child abuse and neglect cases. She and her husband, Jack (JD ’92), have four children.

JENNIFER VAN ZANT was named a 2019 N.C. Super Lawyer and was named one of the Best Lawyers in America. She was listed in the Top 100 N.C. Lawyers and Top 50 N.C. Women Lawyers.

LAWRENCE M. BAKER is president of the North Carolina Association of Defense Attorneys. He practices with Wilson Jones Carter & Baxley PA in the firm’s Charlotte, N.C., office and handles workers’ compensation and civil litigation matters.

FORREST W. CAMPBELL JR. was named a 2019 N.C. Super Lawyer and recognized as one of the Best Lawyers in America. He was also recognized by Chambers USA as one of America’s leading lawyers in health care law. He is an attorney at Brooks Pierce in Greensboro, N.C.

PATRICK H. FLANAGAN was named a 2019 N.C. Super Lawyer for employee litigation, defense. He is an attorney at Cranfill Sumner & Hartzog LLP in Charlotte, N.C.,

JOHN M. FLYNN was recognized as one of the Best Lawyers in America. He is a director at Carruthers & Roth in Greensboro, N.C.

LUANNE LAMBERT RUNGE has been named CEO of Elliott Davis, a business solutions firm in Greenville, S.C. Previously, she was president and CEO of Liberty Fellowship, a statewide values-based leadership initiative, and an attorney in Greenville. She has been recognized as one of the Best Lawyers in America, an S.C. Super Lawyer, and one of Greenville’s Legal Elite, as well as one of Greenville’s 50 Most Influential People for 2016.

MARSH PRAUSE was recognized as one of the Best Lawyers in America for environmental law. He is a shareholder in Allman Spry Davis Leggett & Crumpler in Winston-Salem.

MARY E. SHARP, a member of the South Carolina Bar Board of Governors since 2014, was sworn in as bar secretary in May 2019. She is an attorney in Beaufort, S.C., with more than 20 years of experience and also serves as a mediator.

JEFFREY S. WHITTLE joined Womble Bond Dickinson LLP as managing partner to help open a Houston office. He also leads the firm’s international IP energy practice group. He previously was at Hogan Lovells, a global law firm.

J. GREGORY HATCHER celebrated 25 years in the practice of family law. He was named a 2019 N.C. Super Lawyer and was recognized as one of the Best Lawyers in America. He is managing partner of Hatcher Law Group in Charlotte N.C., a board-certified specialist in family law, and a fellow of the American Academy of Matrimonial Lawyers.

MARY E. SHARP, a member of the South Carolina Bar Board of Governors since 2014, was sworn in as bar secretary in May 2019. She is an attorney in Beaufort, S.C., with more than 20 years of experience and also serves as a mediator.

JENNIFER VAN ZANT was named a 2019 N.C. Super Lawyer and was named one of the Best Lawyers in America. She was listed in the Top 100 N.C. Lawyers and Top 50 N.C. Women Lawyers.
She was also recognized by Chambers USA as one of America’s leading lawyers in antitrust. She is a partner at Brooks Pierce in Greensboro, N.C.

1995

**SOPHIA GATEWOOD CRAWFORD** was appointed by North Carolina Gov. Roy Cooper to be a District Court judge in District 16A, serving Anson, Richmond, Scotland, and Hoke, N.C. counties. She has served as a trial attorney in private practice for 17 years and previously was a senior assistant district attorney in the 20th District.

**EDWIN L. WEST III** was named a 2019 N.C. Super Lawyer for criminal defense and recognized as one of the Best Lawyers in America. He was also named to Business North Carolina’s 2019 Legal Elite list for criminal law. He is an attorney at Brooks Pierce in its Raleigh and Wilmington, N.C., offices.

1996

**PATRICIA W. GOODSON** was recognized as one of the Best Lawyers in America. She was also named by Chambers USA as one of America’s leading lawyers in labor and employment law. She practices in the Raleigh, N.C., office of Brooks Pierce.

**HENRY “HAL” L. KITCHIN JR.** was named Lawyer of the Year for antitrust law in Business North Carolina’s 2019 edition of N.C. Legal Elite. Kitchin is a partner in the Wilmington N.C., office of McGuireWoods LLP.

**ALLISON OVERBAY MULLINS** was appointed by North Carolina Gov. Roy Cooper to a four-year term on the Guilford Technical Community College Board of Trustees. Mullins is a partner at Turning Point Litigation/Mullins Duncan Harrell & Russell PLLC, a law firm she co-founded in Greensboro, N.C. She was named one of the state’s Top 50 Women Lawyers for 2019 by N.C. Super Lawyers.

1997

**DOUG BALYEAT** received the 2018 Dealmaker Award from the Atlanta Business Chronicle and the Georgia chapter of the Association of Corporate Counsel. He is a CPA and the general counsel of Georgia-based Pratt Industries, the world’s largest privately held 100 percent recycled paper and packaging company.

**BONITA HAIRSTON BROWN** was selected as one of the 2019 Top 35 Women in Higher Education by Diverse: Issues in Higher Education magazine. Brown is vice president of network engagement at Achieving the Dream, a national nonprofit dedicated to helping more community college students, particularly low-income students, stay in school and graduate.

**DAN KATZENBACH** was named to Business North Carolina’s 2019 Legal Elite for construction law. He is an attorney at Cranfill Sumner & Hartzog LLP in Raleigh, N.C.

1998

**COE W. RAMSEY** was named a 2019 N.C. Super Lawyer and recognized as one of the Best Lawyers in America. He was also recognized by Chambers USA as one of America’s leading lawyers in intellectual property. He is an attorney at Brooks Pierce in Raleigh, N.C.

**ADAM VANEK** has been appointed CEO of Mothers Against Drunk Driving (MADD). Vanek served as national general counsel for MADD from 2011–2017 before taking a similar position with Susan G. Komen Dallas County, in Texas.

1999

**TYWANDA HARRIS LORD** was appointed to the executive committee of her law firm, Kilpatrick Townsend & Stockton. Similar to a board of directors, the 12-member committee steers the firm’s policy and strategic direction. Lord is a partner in the firm’s Atlanta office, focusing her practice on trademark and advertising counseling and litigation.

**PATTI WEST RAMSEUR** was named to the 2019 class of Outstanding Women in Business by the Triad Business Journal. Ramseur is a partner at Fox Rothschild LLP and leads the firm’s Labor & Employment Group. She is based in the firm’s Greensboro, N.C., office.

**ANNA GREGORY WAGONER TAYLOR** is chair of the North Carolina Real Estate Commission, responsible for licensing and regulation of about 100,000 real estate agents and firms. She practices commercial real estate and renewable energy law and is a shareholder with Blanco Tackabery & Matamoros P.A. in Winston-Salem.

2000

**DREW H. DAVIS** is director of human resources and legal counsel at Catawba College in Salisbury, N.C. He has practiced education law for nearly 18 years and previously served as general counsel for the Beaufort County, S.C., School District.
CHRISTOPHER GREEN was recognized by Chambers USA as one of America’s leading lawyers in intellectual property law. He is a principal at Fish & Richardson PC in Atlanta, Ga.

JASON R. HARRIS has received the AV Rating from Martindale-Hubbell, a peer review rating to reflect an attorney’s ethical standards and ability. He is a partner at Cranfill Sumner & Hartzog LLP in Wilmington, N.C., and serves as chair of the firm’s Admiralty and Maritime Law Practice Group.

CORENA NORRIS-MCCLUNYE has rejoined Kilpatrick Townsend & Stockton LLP in Winston-Salem as counsel for the firm’s labor and employment team. She previously worked at the firm from 2002–2014 before taking a job as senior vice president and general counsel for Krispy Kreme Doughnuts.

KETAN SONI received the 2018 Up and Coming Mediator Award from the North Carolina Dispute Resolution Commission. He is a family law attorney with Hull & Chandler in Charlotte, N.C., and has been mediating family financial disputes for more than seven years.

2001

MARLA J. DIAZ was named to the 2018 Leaders in the Law list by Virginia Lawyers Weekly. She is a partner with Whiteford, Taylor & Preston LLP in Falls Church, Va.

BETH MABE GIANOPULOS is associate general counsel in the legal department, associate dean of faculty relations and retention in the Office of Faculty Affairs, and assistant professor at Wake Forest Baptist Medical Center.

SHANNON “MISSY” SUMERELL SPAINHOUR was named to Business North Carolina’s 2019 Legal Elite for employment law and was named a 2019 N.C. Super Lawyer for employment and labor law. She is a partner at Davis Hartman Wright PLLC in Asheville, N.C.

2002

ROBERTA KING LATHAM was named partner of the firm Bennett Guthrie Latham in Winston-Salem. She was also named a 2019 N.C. Super Lawyer.

GINA RUSSO is serving as a judge on the Franklin County, Ohio, Court of Common Pleas, General Division. She was appointed to the position by Ohio Gov. Mike DeWine. Russo previously served as assistant prosecutor for the Franklin County Prosecutor’s Office.

2003

KYLE DEAK has been named managing partner of Troutman Sanders’ Raleigh, N.C., office, where he specializes in financial services litigation.

SCOTT R. ELDRIDGE is a senior principal with Miller Canfield PLC and resident director of the firm’s Lansing, Mich., office.

ELIZABETH JESTER ZOOK was recognized as one of the Best Lawyers in America. She is a director at Carruthers & Roth in Greensboro, N.C.

2004

WES CAMDEN has been named partner at the law firm Williams Mullen in Raleigh, N.C. Camden was named to Business North Carolina’s 2019 Legal Elite Hall of Fame for criminal law and has been recognized as an N.C. Super Lawyer since 2015.

BEN R. NORMAN was named to Business North Carolina’s 2019 Legal Elite for litigation. He was also recognized in the 2018 edition of Benchmark Litigation’s 40 & Under Hot List as a leader in the legal profession. He is an attorney at Brooks Pierce in Greensboro, N.C.

BRADLEY J. NOWAK was elected to the board of directors of the Maryland-DC-Delaware-Virginia Solar Energy Industries Association. He is a partner at Williams Mullen in Washington, D.C.

SUE YOUNG was elected to the board of directors of Triangle Family Services in Raleigh, N.C., and named chair of its audit committee. She is a partner at Brooks Pierce.
2005

ELIE JOHNSEY FOY is a trusts and estates attorney at Womble Bond Dickinson LLP in Raleigh, N.C.

BRADLEY P. KLINE was named a 2019 Rising Star by N.C. Super Lawyers. He is a partner at Cranfill Sumner & Hartzog LLP in Charlotte, N.C., where he specializes in worker’s compensation law.

MEGAN S. MURRAY has opened her own practice, The Family Law Offices of Megan S. Murray, in Hazlet, N.J. She was also recognized as one of the Best Lawyers in America.

David L. Pope was named senior vice president of operations and COO for Scotland Health Care System (SHCS) in Laurinburg, N.C. An affiliate of Atrium Health, SHCS oversees Scotland Memorial Hospital and more than a dozen ancillary facilities. It’s the largest private employer in Scotland County with more than 1,000 workers. Pope most recently was interim CEO at St. Luke’s Hospital in Columbus, N.C.

Jacob R. Stump is a partner at Shumaker, Loop & Kendrick LLP. He is a medical malpractice litigator in the Charlotte, N.C., office.

2006

LUCAS M. FOLETTA was promoted to partner at McDonald Carano LLP in Reno, Nev. Foletta has been an attorney with the firm since 2013 and has significant experience working on issues facing the energy industry.

2007

D.J. O’Brien was recognized as one of the Best Lawyers in America for employment law. He practices in the Greensboro and Raleigh, N.C. offices of Brooks Pierce.

Scott M. Seedorf was named to the Super Lawyers list of Rising Stars for the second year in a row. He is a partner at O’Donoghue & O’Donoghue LLP in Washington, D.C., and the deputy general counsel of a North American labor union for plumbers and pipefitters.

Porsha N. Buresh has joined Halvorsen Family Law Group in Winston-Salem as an associate attorney for family law cases.

Patrick M. Kane was certified as an appellate specialist by the N.C. State Bar Board of Legal Specialization. Kane is a partner at Fox Rothschild LLP in the firm’s Greensboro and Charlotte, N.C., offices.

Kristen Lewis is vice president of finance at Skyland Trail, a nationally recognized treatment organization for adults with mental illness, in Atlanta, Ga. She previously served as tax director of Piedmont Healthcare.

Charlie McCurry is a senior associate with CBRE Triad’s brokerage team. He holds licenses from the N.C. State Bar and the N.C. Real Estate Commission.

Erin Comerford Miller is a full-time photographer after a decade of practicing law. She specializes in interiors and architecture and is based in the Charlotte, N.C., area.

Clint S. Morse was named a Young Gun in Business North Carolina’s 2019 Legal Elite listing and was named a 2019 Rising Star by N.C. Super Lawyers. He was also recently named to Benchmark Litigation’s 40 & Under Hot List. He is an attorney at Brooks Pierce in Greensboro, N.C.

Antonia “Toni” Peters Peck was named to Business North Carolina’s 2019 Legal Elite. She is a partner in Nelson Mullins’ Raleigh, N.C. office, where she specializes in health care law.

Chad R. Ziepfel was named a 2019 Rising Star by Ohio Super Lawyers. He is a partner at Taft Stettinius & Hollister LLP in Cincinnati, Ohio, where he specializes in white collar criminal defense.

2008

Andrew Appleby has joined Stetson University College of Law in Gulfport, Fla., as an assistant professor, focusing on tax law. He was special counsel in the tax group at Pillsbury Winthrop Shaw Pittman LLP and a partner in the tax group at Eversheds Sutherland (U.S.) LLP.

Kristen M. Kirby was named a partner at McGuireWoods LLP in Raleigh, N.C., where she specializes in public finance transactions.

2009

Edward Grossi is running for Village Trustee in South Orange, N.J. He serves as an associate at the law firm Javerbaum Wurgaft in Springfield, N.J.

Kristen G. Garris has joined the law firm Scarinci Hollenbeck. She is based in the firm’s New York City office and specializes in intellectual property law.

Kristen Lewis is vice president of finance at Skyland Trail, a nationally recognized treatment organization for adults with mental illness, in Atlanta, Ga. She previously served as tax director of Piedmont Healthcare.
ANNA WARBURTON MUNROE was named a 2019 Rising Star by N.C. Super Lawyers. She has been recognized each year since 2015. She was recognized as one of the Best Lawyers in America for family law for the second consecutive year. She is a shareholder in Allman Spry Davis Leggett & Crumpler in Winston-Salem.

MEREDITH A. PINSON was named a partner at McGuireWoods LLP in Charlotte, N.C., where she specializes in labor and employment law.

2010

BENJAMIN S. CHESSON was named to Business North Carolina's 2019 Legal Elite. He is a partner at Nelson Mullins in Charlotte, N.C., where he practices business and product liability litigation.

STEPHAN A. CORNELL is a partner at Fox Rothschild in Warrington, Pa.

ANGELIA DUNCAN is a partner in the Atlanta, Ga., and Charlotte, N.C., offices of Bryan Cave Leighton Paisner LLP. She specializes in business and employment matters.

NEUBIA L. HARRIS opened the Law Office of Neubia L. Harris PLLC in Raleigh, N.C. Harris practices education and juvenile law.

ELEANOR RHOADES MORALES received the Douglas MacArthur Award for Leadership in June 2019. She was one of six women, one of seven reservists, and the only JAG officer to receive the award.

2011

JESSE W. ANDERSON has been elected a director in Tuggle Duggins, a law firm in Greensboro, N.C. He represents clients in corporate matters, including mergers and acquisitions.

ALAN B. FELTS has been elected a director in Tuggle Duggins, a law firm in Greensboro, N.C. He focuses primarily on commercial, business, and construction disputes.

BLAKE P. HURT has been elected a director in Tuggle Duggins, a law firm in Greensboro, N.C. He focuses on patents, trademarks, and copyright issues.

2012

KATHERINE BARBER-JONES was named a 2019 Rising Star by N.C. Super Lawyers. She is an attorney at Cranfill Sumner & Hartzog LLP in Raleigh, N.C., where she specializes in state, local, and municipal law.

MARC A. RIGSBY has joined Bass, Berry & Sims PLC, a law firm based in Nashville, Tenn. He is an associate in the health care group, focused on mergers, acquisitions, and regulatory issues. At Wake Forest Law, Rigsby interviewed Supreme Court Justice Clarence Thomas for an audience of 350 for the School’s “A Conversation With” series.

2013

ROBERT BENNETT is a leveraged finance associate at Paul, Weiss, Rifkind, Wharton & Garrison in New York City.

STEPHEN EKEMA-AGBAW is a staff attorney at the Pennsylvania Department of Conservation and Natural Resources.

DANA MULLEN GRABER was appointed senior director of global packaging regulations for the Plastics Industry Association in Washington, D.C. She will lead the association’s programs that relate to the safety of plastic packaging. She was previously regulatory counsel for the Food Marketing Institute.

ANNA SWEIGART ROTHSCILD has joined Hunton Andrews Kurth LLP as a senior-level associate in the firm’s Boston office. She focuses her practice on complex employment litigation.

CHRISTIAN E. STOFFAN is an attorney at Sherrard, German & Kelly in Pittsburgh. He is a member of the firm’s real estate, financial, and corporate services groups.
2014

JENICA ERIN CASSIDY joined Lerch, Early & Brewer in Bethesda, Md., as an associate in elder law with its estates/trusts practice.

BRANDON E. HEFFINGER joined the law firm of Smith Anderson in Raleigh, N.C., practicing a wide range of business litigation. Before law school, he served as a major in the U.S. Marine Corps and still serves in the Reserve.

ASHLEY SADLER was named to the Rising Stars in the mortgage industry by the Massachusetts Mortgage Bankers Association. Sadler is business and compliance counsel for CATIC, a title insurance underwriter.

DOUGLAS C. TSAO joined Williams Mullen law firm as an associate in the Raleigh, N.C., office. Tsao, who holds a Ph.D. in chemistry from UNC Chapel Hill, advises clients on intellectual property issues, including patent litigation.

2015

STEPHEN FROST is the assistant business administrator and assistant board secretary for Randolph Township Schools in Randolph, N.J. He is also a payroll consultant for Esmer PS in Madison, N.J., and an adjunct business instructor for the County College of Morris.

EVAN T. LEADEM is special assistant to the president and board secretariat at the University of Portland in Oregon.

PETER J. LEWIS is an associate at Hamilton, Miller & Birthsel in Miami, Fla.

JASMINE M. PITT is president of the Forsyth County Bar Association Young Lawyers Division for 2018–2019. She also was selected to the N.C. Bar Association’s Leadership Academy Class of 2019. Pitt is an attorney with Bennett Guthrie Latham PLLC in Winston-Salem.

2016

ALAN H. BOWIE was elected president-elect of the George W. Crawford Black Bar Association. Bowie is an associate with the firm Carmody Torrance Sandak & Hennessey in New Haven, Conn., practicing primarily in the area of labor and employment law.

DAWNIELLE Y. GRACE has joined the litigation team at Spilman Thomas & Battle PLLC in the firm’s Winston-Salem office. Her focus is on collections, bankruptcy, and employment law.

ANDREW KILPINEN has joined Robinson Bradshaw law firm in Charlotte, N.C. Previously, he was an associate at Kirkland & Ellis LLP in Chicago, Ill.

MARLA E. RAUS is an associate attorney at Smith Sovik Kendrick & Sugnet in Syracuse, N.Y.

2017

KIMBERLY HAYES HARRIS is a district attorney in the 30th Prosecutorial District focusing on district court and misdemeanor appeals to superior court in Cherokee and Clay, N.C., counties. She is a U.S. Army veteran and served four years with the Second Stryker Brigade as an intelligence analyst.

MEGHAN R. HOLLAND was awarded a yearlong Public Policy Fellowship with The Fund for American Studies in Washington, D.C. Holland is legislative counsel for U.S. Rep. Ralph Norman, R-S.C.

2018

KATHERINE DIDIER ESCALANTE has joined the civil litigation team at Hedrick Gardner LLP in Charlotte, N.C.

ALLISON H. GREENE is an associate attorney for Robert Peirce & Associates in Pittsburgh, Pa. Greene previously worked for the Allegheny County District Attorney’s Office and the Innocence and Justice Clinic at the Wake Forest School of Law.

KYLE HEUSER has joined Bell, Davis & Pitt PA in Winston-Salem. He will focus on civil litigation and intellectual property matters.
MIKE J. STEPHENS has joined Bradley Arant Boult Cummings LLP as an associate in the litigation practice group in the firm’s Nashville, Tenn., office. As a student, he was executive editor of the Wake Forest Law Review and a board member for the Wake Forest Moot Court.

2019

LAUREN A. MARTIN was named a Next Generation Leader (NGL) by the American Constitution Society (ACS). Martin was one of 25 individuals selected for the NGL program, which provides support to recent or forthcoming law school graduates who have demonstrated skills and leadership in their ACS student chapters.

BRIANA WHALIN received the 2019 Smith Anderson Pro Bono Award for Excellence in Service. The award is given annually to a Wake Forest Law student who exhibits passion, creativity, and dedication to serving people in need. Whalin volunteered more than 145 hours to the Wills Project, which helps low-income clients draft their will under the supervision of seasoned attorneys. She also served as co-president of the Domestic Violence Awareness Coalition (DVAC).

MARRIAGES

 RANDOLPH SHELTON (’08) and Jacqueline Nordahl. 11/25/17 in Pinehurst, N.C. They live in Browns Summit, N.C.

 SARAH RIEDL (’13) and Brandon Clark. 1/26/19 in Chicago, Ill., where they live.

 KATYE MARIE JOBE (’15) and Judge Jefferson Griffin. 5/19/18 in Beaufort, N.C. They live in Raleigh, N.C. The wedding party included MADISON MORROW (’16) and RACHEL SHIELDS (’15).

 DAVID DUKES JR. (’18) and Mary Nalley. 12/15/18 in Greenville, S.C. They live in Columbia, S.C.

 BIRTHS & ADOPTIONS

 MARC SNEED (’98) and Tiffanie Sneed, Raleigh, N.C.: a son, Mason Cole. 4/14/18. He joins his brother, Xavier (10).

 JOSEPH “BOYD” CAMAK III (’03) and Sara Elizabeth Camak, Ashburn, Va.: a daughter, Mary Edith. 4/7/19. She joins her sister, Charlotte Elizabeth (3).

 JOSE VEGA (’07) and Betsy McLeod Vega, Charlotte, N.C.: a son, Archer Elias. 6/3/18

 AMY HOLBROOK WOOTEN (’09) and Joshua Wooten, Holly Springs, N.C.: a daughter, Evelyn Harper. 3/1/19. She joins her brother, Holten Alexander (2).

 DEATHS

 FRED DOUGLAS TURNAGE (’48). July 7, 2018, Winston-Salem. He received a Distinguished Alumni Award from Wake Forest in 1978 and was a lifetime member of the law school Board of Visitors. After serving with the U.S. Army in Korea, he attended the School of Law. He never lost a case as a trial lawyer with
the Antitrust Division of the U.S. Department of Justice from 1948–1965. He joined the law firm of Cleary Gottlieb Steen & Hamilton in Washington, D.C., where he became partner. He retired in 1986. He established a law professorship and supported the college and athletics and was a member of the Deacon Club for more than 60 years.

BERNARD B. HOLLOWELL ('48), Dec. 26, 2018, Bayboro, N.C. He served in the U.S. Army Air Corps in England during World War II. His legal career in Pamlico County spanned five decades, including as county attorney and school board attorney for 40 years. He had a private practice with his wife of 69 years, Marybelle, as his secretary. He is survived by his four children, including STEVEN HOLLOWELL ('89); seven grandchildren, including MATTHEW LEE ('06); and six great-grandchildren.

LACY WILSON BLUE ('50), Dec. 5, 2018, Huntersville, N.C. He was in the U.S. Army in Europe during World War II and practiced law in North Carolina and federal courts for more than 50 years. He was an avid reader, a church deacon at First Presbyterian in Charlotte, N.C., and a passionate Wake Forest fan. He is survived by his wife, Joyce, and two children, Thomas and Carolyn Blue.

GRADY SILER PATTERSON JR. ('50), May 13, 2018, Raleigh, N.C. He was a U.S. Navy and U.S. Air Force veteran. In 1953, he began his law career, which continued until his retirement from Patterson, Dilthey, Clay & Bryson in 1993. He was a charter member and past president of the N.C. Association of Defense Attorneys.

SAMUEL MARTIN MILLETTE ('51), May 12, 2018, Charlotte, N.C. He served in the U.S. Navy and the U.S. Marine Corps. He had a long career as an attorney spanning 52 years. Millette was a member of the Mecklenburg County and North Carolina Bar Associations, the North Carolina State Bar Association, the American Trial Lawyers Association, and the Medical-Legal Society. He also served on the Wake Forest Law Alumni Council.

ROBERT HORACE JONES ('52), Oct. 26, 2018, Dunn, N.C. He served as a U.S. Air Force aerial photographer during WWII. He practiced law in Harnett County, N.C., and co-founded Jones & Jones law firm with his son, Cecil B. "Bo" Jones. In addition to Bo, he is survived by his wife, Peggy, sons Robert Jr. and JONATHAN JONES ('95), nine grandchildren, two great-grandchildren, and a sister.

LONNIE BOYD WILLIAMS ('53), April 11, 2018, Wilmington, N.C. He was a U.S. Army veteran and practiced law in Wilmington for more than 60 years. In 2008, he was awarded the Order of the Long Leaf Pine. Williams served on Wake Forest's Board of Trustees, was a Life Trustee, and member of the Samuel Wait Legacy Society. He was preceded in death by his wife, Janice, his parents, and five brothers. He is survived by three children, including LONNIE WILLIAMS JR. ('81), and three grandchildren.

THOMAS MCLEAN FAW SR. ('54), March 24, 2018, Mount Airy, N.C. He was a captain in the U.S. Army during World War II and the Korean War. Faw was a trial and corporate attorney in Mount Airy for 53 years. He was an elder at First Presbyterian Church and served on several boards.

LOUIS A. BURNEY ('59), Dec. 19, 2018, Wilmington, N.C. He served in the U.S. Army in Austria. He practiced law for more than 50 years in the Wilmington area, primarily at Burney Burney & Jones, and served as president of the New Hanover County Bar Association. He was a member of many civic organizations and Temple Baptist Church, serving as a deacon and trustee. He was preceded in death by his father, JOHN J. BURNEY SR. ('26), and brother, JOHN J. BURNEY JR. ('51).

JOE HENDERSON MORRIS ('59), June 8, 2018, Fayetteville, N.C. He served in the U.S Air Force during the Korean War and later retired at the rank of lieutenant colonel. He started his law practice in 1963 and was a sole practitioner in Fayetteville for more than 50 years. He served the City Rescue Mission as attorney and member of the board of directors. Morris was a member of Hay Street United Methodist Church.

CECIL CAIRNES JACKSON JR. ('59), Aug. 20, 2018, Asheville, N.C. He played football for Wake Forest. He was an FBI agent whose work produced 17 felony convictions. He then set up his own law practice for 40 years. Jackson was a member and president of the Kiwanis Club of West Asheville and a Boy Scout troop leader.

JAMES RUSSELL SUGG SR. ('59), May 26, 2018, New Bern, N.C. He was a U.S. Marine Corps veteran. He served eastern North Carolina counties for 38 years as a county attorney, including 35 years for Craven County. An early founder and president of the N.C. Association of County Attorneys, Sugg retired from practicing law after 50 years in 2009. In 2008, he was awarded The Order of the Long Leaf Pine. He is survived by four sons, including JAMES RUSSEL SUGG JR. ('85), three grandchildren, and a sister.

WILLIAM EVAN HALL ('60), April 11, 2018, Clemmons, N.C. He served in the U.S. Navy during World War II. He followed his late father into the law profession and opened a practice in Mocksville, N.C. Hall served as county district judge and solicitor, retiring in 2003.

GEORGE WILLIAM COAN MOUNTCASTLE ('60), Jan. 23, 2019, Winston-Salem. He ran his own law practice in Winston-Salem. He was captain of the golf team at UNC Chapel Hill and played on the PGA Summer Tour. He traveled to England and Scotland nearly 20 times and Ireland 12 times to play golf. He loved the arts and supported the Winston-Salem Symphony.

RONALD “GENE” EDMUNDSON ('62), Feb. 18, 2019, Oxford, N.C. He was a member of Phi Delta Phi fraternity at Wake Forest. He practiced law in Oxford for 53 years and received the Jaycees’ Distinguished Service Award. He played golf all over the United States and overseas.

WALTER EUGENE JOHNSTON III ('63), March 28, 2018, St. Petersburg, Fla. He pursued careers in law, business, real estate, and politics. In 1980, Johnston was elected to represent the 6th District of North Carolina in the U.S. House. He was a founder of Hope Harbor, a home for men recovering from addictions, in Greensboro, N.C.

DON H. GARREN ('63), June 24, 2018, Hendersonville, N.C. He served in the U.S. Navy and taught English and SAT preparation at the Naval Academy in Annapolis, Md. He served in the N.C. House of Representatives from 1965 –1969 and was elected the minority leader of the General Assembly in 1967. Garren practiced law in Henderson County for 35 years and served as a county attorney for several years.

LOUIS “FRANK” BURLESON JR. ('64), Jan. 28, 2019, Jackson, N.C. He served in the U.S. Army. While in law school, he became a contributing writer and editor for the Winston-Salem Journal. He practiced law in the Murfreesboro, N.C., area for nearly 50 years.

STEPHEN GRAY CALAWAY ('64), Sept. 4, 2018, Winston-Salem. He practiced real estate and zoning law for 54 years, influencing how the city grew and developed. He was active in youth sports, hunting, and cooking barbecue.
JAMES T. WILLIAMS (’66), Sept. 3, 2018, Greensboro, N.C. He was a standout offensive lineman at Wake Forest and went on to become one of North Carolina’s top corporate trial lawyers. He served as chair of Wake Forest’s Board of Trustees from 2009–2012, received the Distinguished Alumni Award in 2014, and the Medallion of Merit — Wake Forest’s highest award for service — in 2016. Survivors include his wife, Barbara, and their two daughters, Anne Bryan Trent and PATRICIA VAUGHAN GOODSON (’96).

WILEY PORTER WOOTEN (’68), Dec. 8, 2018, Burlington, N.C. He was clerk of court in Alamance County, N.C., then practiced law at Vernon Law Firm in Burlington for 46 years. He was chair of the Family Law Section of the N.C. Bar Association, assisted in rewriting the state’s equitable distribution law, and lectured across the country on family law. He helped bring world-class art exhibits to Alamance County. He served on the Wake Forest Alumni Council.

DON COWAN (’68), April 1, 2019, Raleigh, N.C. A nationally revered trial lawyer, he began his legal career in the U.S. Army JAG Corps, serving in Germany and Vietnam. He went on to practice law for nearly four decades. In 2014 he received the John J. Parker Award, the highest honor given by the N.C. Bar Association. He served multiple terms on Wake Forest’s Board of Trustees and was president of the University’s Law Alumni Association. In 2010, he established the Don Cowan Family Scholarship for law school students attending Wake Forest. Survivors include his wife and two children, Duren Banks and COLEMAN COWAN (’95).

JAMES L. WILSON (’70), Dec. 7, 2018, Siler City, N.C. He was a Babcock Scholar. He practiced corporate law for Southern Railway in Washington, D.C., before setting up his law practice in his native Liberty, N.C. He was also Liberty’s town attorney. He co-owned an international pet food company based in Great Britain. He and his late wife, Peggy, owned eight convenience stores in Alamance and Randolph, N.C., counties. He was honored as Businessman of the Year by the Liberty Chamber of Commerce and Man of the Year by the Liberty Rotary Club. He served on the Deacon Club board of directors.

JAMES JOSEPH COMAN (’71), Aug. 30, 2018, Raleigh, N.C. He served in the U.S. Army during the Vietnam War before attending law school. He worked for Jefferson Pilot in Greensboro, N.C., served as police attorney in Statesville and Greensboro, was a prosecutor in Guilford County, and was senior deputy attorney general for the criminal division. In 1993, he became director of the N.C. State Bureau of Investigation. Three governors awarded him the Order of the Long Leaf Pine, the highest honor a governor can bestow. Survivors include his wife, two daughters, and two brothers, EDWARD COMAN (’78) and FRANK COMAN (’75).

JAMES E. FLOORS (’71), Oct. 16, 2018, Smithfield, N.C. He served in the U.S. Army in Germany before going to law school. He was an assistant district attorney before opening a law practice.

WARREN “BILL” BICKETT MORGAN JR. (’71), May 23, 2018, Marshville, N.C. He grew up on the family farm helping carry on the generations-old traditions of farming and producing much of the food for the family table. He worked for the district attorney’s office for North Carolina District 20 and later opened his own practice in Monroe, N.C. After retiring in the 1990s, he devoted himself to farming with other members of his family. He is survived by three siblings, including JAMES “REID” MORGAN (’79).

JOHN “ROD” PENRY JR. (’71), Feb. 14, 2019, Lexington, N.C. He was an attorney in private practice for 37 years before being appointed as judge for North Carolina District 22A, retiring in 2017. He is survived by his wife, PHYLLIS STURDIVANT PENRY (’75), two children, and two grandchildren.

GEORGE WILLIAMS HUGHES (’72), Sept. 30, 2018, Shallotte, N.C. He served in the U.S. Army through ROTC and as an infantry officer. He was an attorney in Danbury, King, Atlantic Beach, and Raleigh, N.C., before retiring. He served as a Brunswick County magistrate in Bolivia, N.C. He worked part-time at Crow Creek Golf Course and was a member of Alcoholics Anonymous/PALS, strongly supporting the mission of alcohol recovery.

CHARLES H. HARP IV (’72), Feb. 12, 2019, Lexington, N.C. He served in the U.S. Navy. He was a lawyer for 47 years in Davidson County, N.C., and a former president of the Denton Lions Club.

HENRY DANIEL FRONEBERGER JR. (’72), Jan. 5, 2018, Fairfax, Calif. He served in the U.S. Army during the Vietnam War. He started his career as an attorney for the U.S. Department of the Interior and later started his own firm before retiring in 2017. With the birth of his sons he became involved in Little League and soccer and coached many teams over the years.

MARION “LARRY” LAWRENCE JOHNSTON JR. (’73), Aug. 10, 2018, Winston-Salem. He is survived by his wife, Ann, and two sons, BART JOHNSTON (’12) and RILEY JOHNSTON (’12).

WILLIAM EDWARD POE JR. (’74), Aug. 9, 2018, Charlotte, N.C. He worked at Duke Energy Corp. for 25 years, becoming deputy general counsel, then joined Parker Poe Adams & Bernstein LLP. Active in his community, he served on the Catawba Lands Conservancy board and was the 2009 North Carolina Land Trust Stanback Volunteer Conservationist of the Year. Poe is survived by his wife, Joyce, two children, a grandson, and five siblings, including RICHARD “RICK” POE (’81).

CRAIG AKIO KAWAMOTO (’75), May 29, 2018, Fairfax Station, Va. He had a successful career as an attorney for more than 40 years. He was devoted to his wife, Cindy, and his family. He had a passion for playing with his grandkids, fishing, movies, and Washington, D.C. sports.

PETER JOSEPH SARDA (’76), March 17, 2018, Raleigh, N.C. He graduated from the U.S. Air Force Academy in Colorado Springs, Colo., and was an Air Force pilot instructor. Sarda practiced law in Raleigh for more than 40 years and taught business law courses at N.C. State University and Duke University. In his free time, he continued flying and volunteered with Angel Flight.

DALE DEAN GLENDENING JR. (’76), Dec. 27, 2018, Decatur, Ga. He served in the U.S. Army before entering private practice as an attorney. Later, he was appointed as an administrative law judge and traveled extensively as a member of the judges’ national bargaining team.

STATEN LANGBOURNE WILCOX (’78), Nov. 25, 2018, Charlotte, N.C. He was an attorney for 40 years, specializing in personal injury law.

WILLIAM “BILL” SAMUEL BRITT (‘80), Nov. 24, 2018, Lumberton, N.C. He practiced law with his late father and brother at Britt & Britt law firm and later on his own. He was preceded in death by his parents, Margurete and EVANDER M. BRITT JR. (‘50), and his twin brother, EVANDER M. BRITT III (‘80). He is survived by his sister, MARGURETE “PEGGY” BRITT (‘85), and two sons.

BRYAN “DOUG” MARTIN (‘82), July 7, 2018, Advance, N.C. He practiced law in Sarasota, Fla. and Greensboro and Stokesdale, N.C. His passion was for writing, and he was working on a novel. He loved sports, animals, working in the yard, and reading.

CHARLES EDGAR DOBBIN SR. (‘82), June 15, 2018, Lenoir, N.C. His career included working in family business, banking, and private law practice, focusing on mediation, wills, and estates. He loved his community and church and served in leadership roles with many local organizations. Low-tech until the end, he did all of his work on a manual typewriter.

BOBBY EUGENE HILL JR. (‘82), March 10, 2018, Lexington, N.C. He was formerly of Atlanta, Ga., and worked as a corporate lawyer at Kimberly-Clark for 20 years.

MICHAEL GREGORY FERGUSON (‘88), April 16, 2018, Randleman, N.C. He was an attorney and entrepreneur and enjoyed playing golf.

ANDREW “ANDY” KRAFSUR (‘86), April 25, 2019, El Paso, Texas. He worked in commercial litigation and bankruptcy law in West Texas, serving as a founding partner at the firm Krafsur, Gordon, and Mott PC. An entrepreneur at heart, he later founded Spira Footwear and ran the company for 14 years. Along with his family, his life’s other great passion was running.

DAVID NORRIS CHAMBERS (‘89), March 12, 2019, Orlando, Fla. He played football at the University of Northern Iowa and the University of Iowa. His professional career included working for the NCAA National Office and as an athletics administrator at several universities, including Virginia Tech and the University of Nevada Las Vegas.

MICHAEL JOSEPH RANDALL (‘90), Dec. 22, 2018, Lutz, Fla. He was a TV reporter and anchor in the Tampa Bay area for 12 years before enrolling in law school. He was a prosecutor in Hillsborough County, Fla., and later served as general counsel to the Pasco County sheriff. He loved traveling with his wife, Sherry, particularly to national parks and historic sites.

FAYE DALTON IVEY (‘90), April 23, 2018, Greensboro, N.C. She was a registered nurse at Moses H. Cone Memorial Hospital for 15 years and taught nursing at Guilford Technical Community College. She also practiced law as an estate attorney. She and her husband, Dennis, loved to travel all over the United States.

FRIENDS & FAMILY


In Memoriam
Ozioma "Ozi" Obi-Onuoha

Ozioma Adaobi Obi-Onuoha, a first year student at Wake Forest University School of Law, passed away on May 8, 2019 in Winston-Salem, N.C., at age 24.

Hailing from Raleigh, N.C., the 2016 graduate of Princeton University was a social justice advocate and member of the women’s rugby team there.

At Wake Forest, Obi-Onuoha participated in the Black Law Student Association (BLSA) and had won two prestigious summer positions in Charlotte, N.C.

“Ozi was quiet and serious,” said Professor Abby Perdue at a gathering on campus May 9, “but when she spoke, people listened because there was always something intelligent, insightful, and meaningful to share.”

Remembered as a “front-row” person who was ready to be called on during class, fellow students spoke about the relentless preparation for class and fierce intellect displayed by their classmate Ozi and how much that presence will be missed.
There are many ways to make a planned gift. And no matter which you may choose, all count toward our goals for Wake Will. We would love to talk to you about how you can support Wake Forest through planned giving at any level. For more information, please visit wfugift.org.