

WAKE FOREST JURIST

THE MAGAZINE OF WAKE FOREST LAW | 2021

NEW BEGINNINGS

Looking to what lies ahead, Wake Forest Law stands ready to meet the moment





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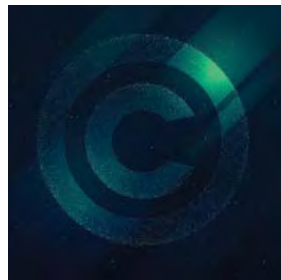
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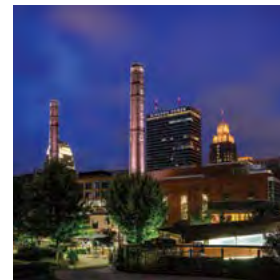
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Dear Wake Forest Law Community,

Over the last year, many of us have found ourselves looking forward to new beginnings. While we're continuing to grapple with the ways the COVID-19 pandemic continues to have an impact on us, we're also welcoming the return of certain aspects of life that give us joy, like in-person interactions, and the warmth and wisdom they bring.

This fall semester, law students, faculty, and staff returned to campus for in-person learning, thanks to public health measures and the diligence of our Wake Forest community in working to keep one another safe. This transition has required us to adapt to new circumstances once again, and it's been wonderful to see the connections sustained over the last 18 months return to the classrooms, hallways, and commons of Worrell Professional Center.

We're also looking forward to what the future will hold for Wake Forest Law graduates, and how we can continue to prepare them with the knowledge, skills, and judgement to succeed in whatever path they choose to pursue after law school.

Throughout this issue, you'll find many thoughtful and thought-provoking pieces from our faculty members about what they anticipate our graduates will face in the next three years: What will specific areas of legal practice look like? Are there current challenges that the profession will have addressed by then, or new ones that will emerge? What will be the most important skill that new lawyers will have? And what is Wake Forest Law doing to prepare students for the legal future?

Their insights into these questions and more provide a window into how Wake Forest Law is being thoughtful, intentional, and proactive in how we respond to new needs within the profession, while still holding close to the values and approach to legal education that have shaped decades of students.

It is those decades of Wake Forest lawyers — many of you — who have been at the forefront of advancing justice and making a meaningful difference through your work. As we all look to what lies ahead, know that we deeply appreciate your support for and contributions to the Wake Forest Law community. I hope that you find the stories within this issue of the Wake Forest Jurist to be inspiring, insightful, and indicative of how Wake Forest lawyers continue to meet the world's legal needs with, as we state in our mission, confidence, character, and creativity.

With my warmest regards,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Jane Aiken". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal stroke extending to the right.

Dean Jane Aiken

NEW BEGINNINGS

What does it mean to begin anew, to start again, to navigate a world that's continuously changing?

Throughout our 127-year legacy, Wake Forest Law has experienced new beginnings time and again, remaining steadfast in educating students to meet the legal needs of the future with confidence, character, and creativity.

As students, faculty, and staff return to campus after more than 18 months of learning, teaching, and collaborating remotely, again we are adapting to the challenges and opportunities that come with this new transition.

As we embark upon the academic year under the new leadership of University President Susan R. Wentz, again we are thinking creatively about the calling to collaborate with our broader community.

And as our graduates enter a legal profession that's evolving, again we aim to instill in them a certainty in their skills and character — both of which are needed for the responsibility of not only working in the law, but also making a meaningful difference.



EVOLVING WORLD, ENDURING VALUES

It was Monday, August 16, 2021.

The first day of classes for this year's fall semester marked the first time in nearly a year and a half that Worrell Professional Center was filled with law students, faculty, and staff, returning to resume learning, teaching, and working in person since the beginning of the COVID-19 pandemic.

For some at Wake Forest Law, it marked the very beginning of their law school experience. For others, it was the beginning of any part of that experience taking place face-to-face. And for many, it was the first time meeting classmates and colleagues outside of a screen.

For all, it was an adjustment to a new beginning.

Just as the pandemic demanded a shift in the way faculty taught and researched, students learned, and staff collaborated, so too did the return to campus. Each member of the Wake Forest Law community continues to draw upon the resiliency, determination, and compassion they demonstrated over the last 18 months.

And in a year that changed nearly every profession in some way, the legal landscape has been no exception. The fields in which Wake Forest lawyers practice — business, criminal justice, the environment, technology, and more — also faced their own developments, demanding that existing skills be adapted to fit new environments, and new ones be adopted in response to emerging issues.

As the legal profession shifts, so too must the ways in which law students prepare to join the professional world. These changes called on Wake Forest Law to build upon its strong foundation and continue to be a world-class center for legal education.

To do this, Wake Forest Law continues to reinvest in its strengths and evolve to meet moments of change, while still reflecting the values it has embodied for decades: character, service, and leadership among them.

EXPANDING TO MEET THE MOMENT

In the last two years, the law school welcomed a number of new faculty members, highlighted later on in this issue, to grow existing courses and introduce new offerings that provide students with the knowledge and skills necessary for the legal needs of the future. The teaching, research, and scholarship of each of these individuals build upon Wake Forest Law's expertise in criminal justice, environmental law, intellectual property, technology, international trade, business law, health equity, and more.

Two of these faculty members are also spearheading new clinics in an expansion of Wake Forest Law's robust experiential education programs, which offer students the opportunity to gain hands-on experience in appellate advocacy, environmental law and policy, innocence and justice, community law and business, litigation, and veterans' legal issues.

Through a new Medical-Legal Partnership Clinic, law and medical students are working together to identify patients with unmet social needs that may be negatively impacting their health and connect them with legal services to address those challenges. Associate Clinical Professor Allyson Gold, who joined Wake Forest Law in July, directs the new clinic and oversees students' work with the School of Medicine, the Downtown Health Plaza, Legal Aid of North Carolina, and other community partners to address the health-harming legal needs of patient-clients.

It was her experience as a tenant rights advocate at a housing non-profit that highlighted the relationship between housing and health — and inspired her to pursue a career in law.

“As a clinical professor, I not only have the opportunity to continue that legal work, but also teach the next generation of lawyers how to do it, too,” said Gold.

What's in store for Class of
2024

Ending the global pandemic requires us to strengthen public health law mechanisms, including bolstering international health regulations and global cooperation, providing regulatory pathways for new therapeutics that support innovation while encouraging safety, and implementing state and local legislation focused on improving the social determinants of health. The pandemic has devastated communities, and magnified gross and long-standing disparities with respect to the provision of health care for communities of color and vulnerable populations. Wake Forest health care lawyers will need to work in tandem with scientists, health professionals, community members, and other stakeholders to remove existing obstacles to health, while bridging deep political divisions. A multidisciplinary, team-based approach can rebuild our public health system which will, in turn, improve clinical health outcomes for all.

— **Chris Coughlin (JD '90)**

Professor of Law

The law school's first-ever Intellectual Property Law Clinic also launched this fall, providing students with an avenue to bridge the gap between their doctrinal courses and real-world intellectual property law practice. Directed by Associate Clinical Professor Zaneta Robinson, an alumna of Wake Forest Law, the clinic's students primarily assist clients with transactional trademark, copyright, and related intellectual property issues.

"It's a unique opportunity to enrich the traditional law school experience and offer legal services to individuals and small businesses that might not otherwise be able to hire an attorney," said Robinson, who was drawn to intellectual property law because it was a quickly growing field that she saw regularly impacting people's lives. "We are affected by, and interact with, things governed by intellectual property rights every day, from the movies or television shows we watch, to the brands we shop for, and the photographs we take."

Wake Forest Law is also creating new opportunities for students to gain experience in areas that complement their legal skills. Familiarity with topics like financial literacy, risk assessment, data analytics, project management, and conflict resolution are increasingly needed across a variety of legal practices. The law school is working to incorporate these topics and others into existing professional development courses and new course offerings.

These efforts are all a component of Dean Jane Aiken's focus on redefining experiential education for Wake Forest Law students.

"At a time of heightened awareness around many of the issues that lawyers work to resolve, it's essential that our students not only understand how the law impacts the world, but also the immense impact they can have on the law," said Aiken. "There's no better way to illustrate that than providing students with real-world opportunities to develop the skills and judgment needed for successful careers beyond graduation."



REINVESTING IN THE STUDENT EXPERIENCE

In the last year, Wake Forest Law also welcomed many new staff members to continue to strengthen the experiences students have both within and outside of the classroom.

In January, Christopher Martin became the new Assistant Dean of Academic Affairs, a position he previously held at Northwestern Pritzker School of Law. Among other efforts, he and his team have been coordinating with faculty members to look at ways to expand the well-established Master of Studies in Law program, which equips non-lawyers with a legal education to better collaborate with their organization's legal teams, anticipate and mitigate against legal risks, and help their employers find success in a rapidly changing legal environment.

As the demand for this skill set rises, the program's existing tracks in business law and compliance, health law and policy, and human resources could be expanded to serve a variety of other professionals working in industries where they would benefit from an understanding of basic legal concepts. Martin and his team are also

exploring the development of certificate programs that could be offered in coordination with other graduate and professional programs at Wake Forest. They are also looking at the possibility for students to earn a J.D. and master's degree in three years.

Wake Forest Law also gained a new Dean of Students, Cassandra Adams, who previously served as Assistant Dean of the Public Interest Program at Samford University's Cumberland School of Law. Adams oversees admissions, career services, and student life, with her initial focus on revitalizing student programming that was put on hold due to the pandemic and working with student organizations to reestablish their in-person activities.

She is also leading efforts to partner with others across the University and build upon well-established traditions, like engaging in service activities during Foundations Week. This year, the law school collaborated with the University's Office of Civic and Community Engagement to provide opportunities for first-year students to volunteer with a number of community organizations at the con-

Students of the Class of 2024 working together at Habitat for Humanity during Foundations Week



clusion of orientation. Professor Steve Virgil, along with other faculty members and local legal aid lawyers, conducted a simulation for students to better understand community issues before participating in the day of service.

“We want to help our students feel more connected to the community they’re residing in, even if it is only for the three years they are in law school,” said Adams. “Through these kinds of efforts, we can empower them with the information they need to do just that and truly understand how their service can have an impact.”

Trey Frye also joined the law school as Registrar this past year following the retirements of Patricia Martin and LeAnn Steele, who were an integral part of Wake Forest Law for decades of students, faculty, and staff. Building upon their legacy, Frye brings with him deep experience from more than 10 years in the University’s registrar’s office. This past year, the Registrar’s Office continued to accelerate digital integration into the law school’s record keeping practices, and collaborated with the IT Department to strengthen faculty and student experiences around exam administration.

What’s in store for Class of 2024



The graduating Class of 2024 will come into a much different reproductive rights landscape than currently exists. In light of the appointment of Supreme Court Justice Amy Coney Barrett following the death of Justice Ruth Bader Ginsburg, the constitutional right to abortion as it currently exists is very unlikely to survive. It is more likely that courts will review state-level abortion restrictions under a much more deferential standard, more similar to rational basis review. Currently, abortion access greatly varies by geography. This trend will only accelerate in the coming three years as a result of the probable diminishment of constitutional protections. On the other hand, the negative public health outcomes that will very likely result from large sections of the country having such restrictions on reproductive rights might spur unprecedented federal legislative action on this issue.

— **Meghan Boone**
Associate Professor of Law



We want to help our students feel more connected to the community they’re residing in, even if it is only for the three years they are in law school. Through these kinds of efforts, we can empower them with the information they need to do just that and truly understand how their service can have an impact.

— **CASSANDRA ADAMS**
Dean of Students

An expanded Marketing and Communications Department has also bolstered the law school’s ability to tell the story of the Wake Forest Law community. Jorge Reyna joined the law school as Executive Director of Marketing, along with Amelia Nitz Kennedy as Director of Marketing and Communications, and Maggie Sandy as Assistant Director of Marketing and Communications. Informed by input from students, faculty, staff, and alumni, the law school refreshed its mission, vision, and values statements, which will serve as the foundation from which to tell its story moving forward.

This fall, Wake Forest Law also welcomes Evan Didier as Assistant Dean for Admissions & Financial Aid. Didier joins the law school from the Law School Admissions Council where he served as Director of Enrollment Management. A North Carolina native, Didier spent several years in law school admissions around the Boston area, and now brings his experiences consulting with law schools on their uses of data and analysis in admissions, financial aid, academics, and bar passage to Wake Forest Law.

STEADFAST IN STRENGTHS AND TRADITIONS

As the law school adapts, the core values and aspects of a Wake Forest legal education that have shaped decades of law students and served them well continue to endure.

Wake Forest Law's academic leadership remains strong, with programs like Legal Analysis, Writing, and Research ranked fifth in the nation by U.S. News & World Report. Faculty members' enduring focus on equipping students with the skills to research and analyze problems, as well as use language with precision, clarity, and persuasiveness, ensure they have the foundational and essential skills for practicing law in any area.

After graduation, Wake Forest lawyers continue to find professional success. In July 2021, the law school's bar passage rate for first-time takers was 96%, and 95% of 2020 graduates were employed 10 months after graduation, with the vast majority in jobs that require bar passage or a J.D. This continues to reflect both the dedication of Wake Forest Law students to building their skills and investing in career planning during law school, as well as the commitment of the Office of Career and Professional Development, whose professionals maintain relationships with alumni, track market trends, and educate students on all aspects of professional development and career planning. In addition, the Wake Forest Law Academic Excellence Program helps set students up for success throughout law school, and then prepares graduates for the bar exam itself, reflected in the large percentage of successful first-time takers which has steadily increased over the last several years.

The Wake Forest Law trial teams also remain a force to be reckoned with at regional and national competitions. The Moot Court team made up of Katharine Batchelor (JD '21), Kyle Brady (JD '21), and Mary Catherine Young (JD '22) were Regional Champions in the Boston Regional



Family structures have changed dramatically in the past 50 years, but the law has yet to catch up to today's reality. Many children have adults in their lives who function as parents, but the law does not protect their relationships. A stepmother who raises her husband's child is not a legal parent unless the biological mother relinquishes her rights. A man who helps his friends raise their child at their request, taking on an equal share of the work, is a legal stranger to the child. Courts are constrained from recognizing these functional parents, as the Supreme Court held in the late 1980s that a child may only have two legal parents. In 2024, lawyers will be pressing the Supreme Court to reconsider that ruling, as well as other antiquated family law doctrines, to ensure the law reflects the reality of many families.

— **Marie-Amélie George**

Associate Professor of Law

What's in store for Class of 2024

For the first time in the history of the United States, military attorneys, not commanders, will be responsible for making all prosecutorial decisions in the military justice system, and thereby will be largely responsible for the good order and discipline of the armed forces. This change will provide unprecedented opportunities and responsibilities for Wake Forest Law graduates in the field of military criminal law. Embodying a strong commitment to service and justice, graduates will successfully navigate this new operating environment.

— **Ellie Morales (JD '10)**

Visiting Assistant Clinical Professor of Law
Director of Veterans Legal Clinic



Dakota Baccus (JD '21) argues during trial team practice at the law school

competition in 2021, also winning the Best Brief Award. The National Trial Team composed of Dani Kunkel (JD '21), Dakota Baccus (JD '21), and Amanda Manzano (JD '21) came together again this year to obliterate the competition and advance to the National Championship finals of the TYLA/ACTL National Trial Competition, where they finished in second place by a very narrow margin.


This success persisted even at a time when all competition rounds were held virtually, demanding students approach advocacy with fresh eyes and forge new paths to trial success that didn't depend upon physically being in the room with judges. Wake Forest Law and its trial competition teams program owe a great debt of gratitude to coach Mark Boynton (JD '97) — the law school's "winningest" coach — for all of his hard work over more than 13 years of leading the teams under his charge to great success. Boynton has stepped down from his coaching duties, but continues to be a tireless supporter of the teams from the sidelines.

Imbued with the University's motto *pro humanitate*, Wake Forest Law students are also developing an understanding of what it means to be a lawyer who contributes to their commu-


nity. As just one example, after more than a decade and with over a dozen projects under its purview, the Pro Bono Project continues to expand into new opportunities to meet emerging legal needs. Last year, students grew their work to include a COVID-19 Unemployment Insurance Project, COVID-19 Housing Eviction Project, and Protesters' Rights Project, among other efforts.

"We still were able to get quite a number of students involved in these new projects," said Sam Brady (JD '23), Pro Bono Project Secretary, of students' commitment to the new projects even as the pandemic demanded that they launch them remotely. "We were really focused on the pressing and historic issues of the homelessness crisis and eviction crisis facing our community and others."

As Wake Forest Law looks to the future, it will certainly continue to be filled with new beginnings, and new challenges that again spark the need to adapt. And as always, the law school's students, faculty, and staff will be ready to meet the moment.



THE ENVIRONMENT & THE LAW



The most recent report from the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change was unequivocally clear: climate change is a reality caused by human activity. The report's findings were so much more dire than in previous analyses that the United Nations called it a “code red for humanity.”

Our world has been experiencing the effects of a rapidly changing climate for some time, but in many cases, we are only now beginning to grapple with how they will affect vulnerable populations. Natural disasters that displace entire communities through floods or wildfires, air and water pollution that harms human health, and the many changes to life that are coming from our adaptation to a carbon-constrained world will require legal professionals to address issues of equity and justice with renewed vigor and in a much broader, interconnected context.

At Wake Forest Law, faculty members are forging new pathways for thinking about these complex issues, and preparing students both in and out of the classroom for the real-world environmental challenges that will demand informed, collaborative, and creative legal solutions.

ADOPTING THE RIGHT TO A HEALTHY ENVIRONMENT INTO LAW

Regulatory environmental statutes
have had some real success,
but they're far from complete

By John Knox

Henry C. Lauerman Professor
of International Law



Listen to Professor John Knox interview Stephen Hawthornthwaite (JD '96), founder and CEO of Rothy's, as they discuss his journey from law student to leading a direct-to-consumer footwear and apparel company that's shaping the future of sustainability in the fashion industry on Wake Forest Law's Legal Deac Podcast.

Since the rise of the modern environmental movement in the 1960s, environmental law has been primarily based on regulatory statutes. The National Environmental Policy Act, the Clean Air Act, the Clean Water Act, the Endangered Species Act, the Resource Conservation and Recovery Act, and the Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation, and Liability Act, among others, created an extensive regulatory regime in the 1970s that continues to this day.

That regime has had some real successes. Emissions of the most common air pollutants, including sulfur dioxide and fine particulates, have fallen by more than three-quarters since 1970. Average levels of lead in the bloodstream fell precipitously after lead-based gasoline was phased out. Hundreds of toxic waste sites have been cleaned up.

However, those successes are far from complete. Tens of millions of Americans still live in metropolitan areas that do not meet national air quality standards. Many rivers and lakes throughout the country still do not meet basic requirements for swimming and fishing. The United States and other countries are still failing to make effective progress to reduce carbon dioxide emissions that cause rising global temperatures.

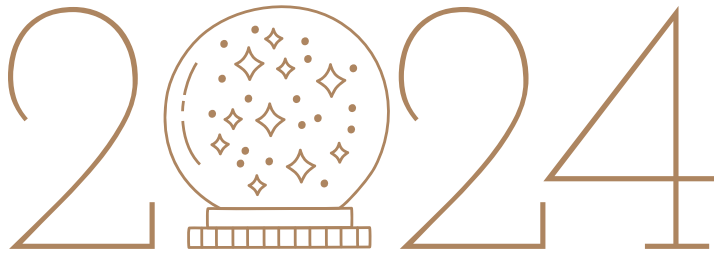


Increasingly, attention is being paid to the ways that environmental harm is often discriminatory: that is, it often disproportionately affects members of racial and ethnic minorities and those living in poverty. This disparity, which is sometimes called environmental racism or environmental injustice, can take many forms.

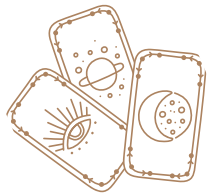
Increasingly, attention is being paid to the ways that environmental harm is often discriminatory: that is, it often disproportionately affects members of racial and ethnic minorities and those living in poverty. This disparity, which is sometimes called environmental racism or environmental injustice, can take many forms. Chemical plants, oil refineries, hazardous waste facilities, and other locally undesirable land uses are more likely to be located in communities that are already marginalized for other reasons. Studies show that people of color are more likely to be exposed to air pollution. The poorest people in the world contribute least to the ongoing climate breakdown, but will be the most quickly and severely affected by it.

At the international level, advocates are increasingly making the case that governments' failure to protect against environmental harm can violate their obligations under international human rights treaties. For example, if a government fails to effectively enforce its environmental laws, the result may be higher levels of pollution that foreseeably harm the lives and health of people within its jurisdiction. Because human rights law requires countries to take effective steps to protect people from these kinds of foreseeable harms, their failure to do so has been found to violate their obligations.

What's in store for Class of



To achieve justice, lawyers of the future need to think broadly not only about outcomes, but also about how to recognize and define injustice in the first place. Through exposure to a wide variety of subjects in courses and clinics at Wake Forest Law, our students will come to understand that social equity and environmental equity are intrinsically interconnected, and both must be addressed through legal advocacy. Wake Forest Law will equip them with rigorous ways of defining "a better world" and experience in applying legal tools to achieve those visions.



— **Alyse Bertenthal**

Assistant Professor of Law

Human rights and environmental activists are also drawing more attention to the threats faced by environmental defenders. In many places around the world, those who stand up against illegal and unsustainable logging, poaching, and land-grabbing are harassed, threatened, unlawfully detained, and even killed. At least 200 environmental defenders are killed every year — an average of four every week. Often their killers are never brought to justice, which creates an atmosphere of impunity that places all such defenders at a heightened risk. Even in countries like the U.S., which rarely sees outright killings, there has been a crackdown on peaceful environmental protests. Protestors against the Dakota Access Pipeline, for example, were sprayed with fire hoses in the middle of winter. In the last five years, more than a dozen U.S. states have enacted laws that increase criminal penalties for trespassing on sites with oil refineries and pipelines.

Between 2012 and 2018, I saw these issues firsthand. As the first United Nations Independent Expert (and later Special Rapporteur) on human rights and the environment, I spoke to members of civil society, academics, government representatives, and many others about the challenges they faced in defending human



At least 200 environmental defenders are killed every year — an average of four every week. Often their killers are never brought to justice, which creates an atmosphere of impunity that places all such defenders at a heightened risk.

rights and the environment, and issued reports calling on governments to do more to protect the environment and those who defend it. The courage and commitment of these environmental defenders is not only inspiring; it also benefits the entire world by demanding a cleaner, healthier world for us all.

In the coming years, rights-based approaches to environmental protection will only increase. Individuals will argue ever more strongly they have a right not to be discriminated against in relation to the environment, that they can exercise freedom of expression and peaceful assembly in opposing harmful environmental actions, and that governments have obligations to protect them from harassment and violence for trying to defend the environment.

Rights-based approaches are already having some success with respect to the largest environmental challenge of them all: climate change. In the last several years, courts in Germany, the Netherlands, and Pakistan, among others, have all issued decisions aimed at improving their governments' response to climate change to protect their people's human rights. In the U.S., the Biden administration has created an Environmental Justice Interagency Council, and

directed the Environmental Protection Agency to strengthen enforcement of environmental violations that have a disproportionate impact on underserved communities.

The simplest way to recognize the relationship of human rights and the environment is to adopt the right to a healthy environment into law. More than 150 countries around the world have already done so. While the U.S. is not among them, some states have written it into their constitutions. This November, for example, New York citizens will vote on whether to add a right to clean water, clean air, and a healthful environment to the New York Constitution's Bill of Rights. And perhaps as soon as this fall, the United Nations will recognize for the first time the human right to a healthy environment. While such recognition would not in itself be legally binding, it would be a powerful symbol of the fundamental importance of environmental protection to human well-being. ♡

Professor John Knox

is an internationally recognized expert on human rights law and international environmental law. He joined the Wake Forest Law faculty in 2006 and teaches international, environmental, and human rights law. From 2012 to 2015, he served as the first United Nations Independent Expert, and from 2015 to 2018, as its first Special Rapporteur, on the issue of human rights obligations relating to the enjoyment of a safe, clean, healthy, and sustainable environment.





EXPERIENTIAL EDUCATION

Environmental Law & Policy

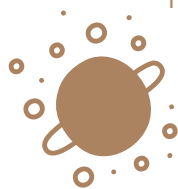
From researching and writing to strategizing, arguing and counseling, environmental law practice allows students to learn how to be well-rounded lawyers and to work with people in various disciplines. Directed by Professor Scott Schang, the Environmental Law and Policy Clinic at Wake Forest Law offers students the opportunity to do just that while working to advance the goals and defend the interests of local, state, and international clients tackling environmental challenges.

The clinic takes on non-litigation matters for clients who otherwise would be unable to afford or access environmental representation and whose cases are local to northwest North Carolina, have a statewide impact on North Carolina, or are international in scope. During the 2020-21 academic year, students in the clinic worked on a range of issues including environmental contamination at a Winston-Salem public school, heirs property in North Carolina, the disparate impacts of climate and food resiliency efforts in the state, environmental justice in state agencies, taxation of land used for natural resources extraction, the environmental and security implications of renewable resource development, and the protection of the environment and land defenders by international treaty bodies. The hands-on experiences students gain while working for a variety of clinic clients helps them to hone skills that cut across economics, social issues, science, and sustainability — encouraging a multidisciplinary, solution-focused approach to the environmental concerns our world faces.



What's in store for Class of 2024

Wake Forest lawyers heading into any area of the law will need to understand how a carbon-constrained world affects their clients and the context in which they operate. Stranded oil and coal assets, the death of the internal combustion engine, the condemnation of massive amounts of coastal land and infrastructure, and the proliferation of renewable and nuclear energy sources mean that lawyers must understand how to identify legal risks and opportunities for clients in the post-carbon economy. As of right now, no federal permits can be issued and no federal action taken or funding disbursed if it negatively impacts indigenous peoples or communities of color. Our future lawyers must have the skills to navigate the social, environmental, and economic complexities of the new normal.



— **Scott Schang**

Professor of Practice
Director of Environmental Law & Policy Clinic





CRIMINAL JUSTICE

Ensuring that justice is properly and proportionately delivered to those who fall victim to crimes as well as those who commit them is a complicated endeavor. Judges, attorneys, and other actors in the legal system all work to protect the rights of parties while doing their best to get to the truth. Our system of justice needs advocates who are passionate about the rule of law and committed to its proper functioning.

Wake Forest Law faculty have risen to the challenges of the past year, continuing to lend their voices and expertise to nationwide discussions about police reform, prosecutorial accountability, and the ways in which the system can be improved to achieve better outcomes for the communities it serves, especially at the local level. Through our Innocence and Justice and Appellate Advocacy clinics, as well as the newly established Accountable Prosecutor Project, Wake Forest Law will continue to offer unparalleled learning experiences for students choosing to pursue careers in the criminal justice system.

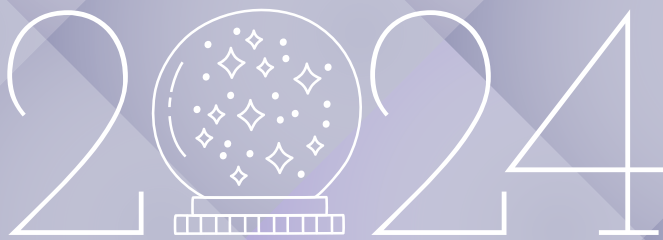
ACCOUNTABILITY IN ACTION

Wake Forest Law's newly launched Accountable Prosecutor Project aims to better understand the role of prosecutors and their accountability to communities



On the Wake Forest Law Legal Deac podcast, listen to Chris Swecker (JD '81) discuss how the skills he learned at the FBI informed his work as the chair of the civilian committee that investigated the events at Fort Hood.

What's in store for Class of



By 2024, defense attorneys will work more often in teams (including with social workers and other non-lawyers) on behalf of clients. And they will need to know immigration law!

Prosecutors will also need expertise in topics that are relevant beyond the courtroom. Trials will not go away, and plea negotiations will still be a central task, but prosecutors will also spend more time diverting some defendants away from the criminal courts. They will need to become an expert in their local community, working with groups that try to prevent crime, to create accountability for crimes and single out some crimes as local priorities.

— **Ron Wright**
Professor of Law



Since 1989, the National Registry of Exonerations has tracked more than 2,800 exonerations in the United States — 129 of them recorded just last year. Together, these cases have resulted in individuals collectively losing more than 25,000 years of their lives to wrongful imprisonment.

In a legal system designed, when functioning as it should, to bring justice to victims and hold those who commit crimes accountable for their actions, how do these kinds of mistakes occur, and what might be done to prevent them?

This is at the heart of the Accountable Prosecutor Project at Wake Forest Law. The newly established research and public information project is aimed at better understanding how prosecutors do their jobs, what factors influence prosecutorial conduct, and the systems that can help promote prosecutorial accountability.

“There’s a need in research, in policy, and in practice for more information about how prosecutors are and can be accountable for what they do,” said Project Director Eileen Prescott. “This project is oriented toward looking at multiple aspects of what it means for prosecutors to be accountable — not only for misconduct, but to themselves and their communities, too.”

Before joining Wake Forest Law to manage the new research effort, Prescott worked as a law clerk in Chicago’s Cook County State’s Attorney Office and as an Assistant District Attorney in Philadelphia, both among the largest prosecutor’s offices in the U.S. Now, she coordinates the efforts of the law school’s deep bench of faculty with expertise in criminal law who are contributing to the project’s efforts.

The group includes University Vice Provost and Wake Forest Law Professor Kami Chavis, who is also the founding director of the law school’s Criminal Justice Program and a former federal prosecutor; Professor Ron Wright, a leading criminal justice scholar who, before entering academia, was a trial attorney with the U.S. Department of Justice; Clinical Professor Mark Rabil, who launched and has directed the law school’s Innocence and Justice Clinic since 2009 and was formerly an assistant capital defender in North Carolina; Assistant Professor Alyse Bertenthal, who previously worked as an attorney for the ACLU Criminal Law Reform Project and whose interdisciplinary research looks at the relationship of law, culture, and the environment; and Assistant Professor Esther Hong, whose scholarship focuses on the intersection of criminal and juvenile law, and who formerly represented indigent youth and adults in juvenile delinquency and criminal appeals.

Together, their aim is to conduct new research that will provide greater insight into the prosecutorial role — research that the group hopes individual prosecutors, their offices, and others working in the criminal legal system will find useful.

“The need for greater research in this area is clear, and we want the project to result in helpful information that prosecutors can use to inform policies that deepen community trust,” said Prescott.

UNDERSTANDING THE ROLE OF PROSECUTORS

The role of a prosecutor is essential to the legal system. Their jobs are complex, encompassing a wide range of duties and decision-making in pursuing the fair administration of justice.

Among other things, they have the authority to decide whether to bring charges in a case and what those should be, assess evidence and determine if any of it could clear a defendant, negotiate plea deals, help select members of a jury, and try cases.

“Prosecutors have an incredibly important role in our society, and we know that this role carries with it vast discretion,” said Professor Kami Chavis, who was involved in a wide range of criminal prosecutions as a former Assistant U.S. Attorney for the District of Columbia. “While there is often this focus on policing because it is the entry point into the criminal justice system, a prosecutor’s office and their policies can be really good barometers of what’s happening in the criminal justice system, too.”

Chavis says she sees the project as an opportunity to continue to build upon the work of Wake Forest Law’s Criminal Justice Program, which for the past seven years has sponsored symposia and speakers on issues related to criminal justice.

As part of the Criminal Justice Program, Chavis and Wright, along with Wake Forest Law Professor Gregory Parks, developed the Jury Sunshine Project, which examined felony jury trial selection across North Carolina. Chavis says she is interested in exploring as a part of the new project how prosecutors across a broader swath of states use peremptory challenges to strike potential jurors.

By studying behavior like peremptory strikes or charging decisions, the project could build on these previous efforts and provide further information that helps prosecutors be more accountable to their communities, as well as suggest approaches for prosecutors to maintain community trust.

The project is also an avenue to examine how prosecutors view their own roles within the criminal legal system, and how that can be impacted by the secondary trauma many experience throughout their careers, according to Professor Mark Rabil. Such trauma, if ignored, can lead to unintended burnout, stress, and poor decision-making, he says.

“Many young attorneys who come out of law school have this deep drive to be compassionate and to help people,” said Rabil. “We need to better understand and foster ways to support prosecutors in being able to maintain the compassion that was their basis for entering the job. If we can figure out ways to recognize that there is trauma, then I think we can help improve decision-making.”

Through his work with the project, he hopes to increase understanding of how systems and situations impact prosecutorial functions, and the factors that might influence misconduct.

“One of the goals is to create awareness in future lawyers that the system, although it largely works accurately, has a lot of room for improvement,” said Rabil.





UNITED STATES COURT OF APPEALS

EXPERIENTIAL EDUCATION

Appellate Advocacy

The Appellate Advocacy Clinic allows third-year students to learn about various aspects of appellate practice, represent clients in civil and criminal appeals, and develop the research, brief writing, and advocacy skills necessary in a variety of areas of legal practice. Many of the clinic's cases involve criminal justice.

Directed by Associate Professor John Korzen since 2006, the clinic's 20 students handled nearly a dozen appeals in the past academic year. In one of the appeals, the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Fourth Circuit issued a published opinion reversing the conviction of the clinic's client due to the prosecutor's improper closing argument. A four-student team that included Mackenzie Herman (JD '21), Mary Jasperse (JD '21), Kristen Kovach (JD '21), and Henna Shah (JD '21) researched and drafted two briefs in the complex appeal, with Herman and Shah also presenting oral arguments via Zoom.

"The Appellate Advocacy Clinic provides a unique opportunity for students to put their classroom knowledge to work," said Shah.

"This clinic allows students to do the work of seasoned attorneys, and I am incredibly thankful for this experience."

Another clinic appeal in the Fourth Circuit involved a client who alleged ineffective assistance of counsel at the plea bargain stage and at sentencing. The appeals court reversed the lower court's dismissal of the claims. Caitlin Augerson (JD '21) and Katharine Batchelor (JD '21) successfully presented oral arguments via Zoom, while Tim Misner (JD '20) and Ryan Dibilio (JD '20) researched and drafted the briefs.

The clinic's students handled other appeals on behalf of incarcerated people, filed four amicus curiae briefs (three in the U.S. Supreme Court), and filed a petition for certiorari to the U.S. Supreme Court in a case involving a North Carolina state court criminal conviction.

Wake Forest Law Review Symposium: Secondary Trauma in the Legal Profession

For lawyers, judges, and others who cross paths with the legal system, secondary trauma is a real risk — and in a year that has brought a pandemic, political unrest, and a national reckoning with racial inequality, that risk has only intensified.

For Wake Forest Law students Ethan Haddon (JD '21) and Kyle Brady (JD '21), the need to bring attention to this often-undiscussed challenge was clear after a conversation with Professor Mark Rabil, who directs Wake Forest Law's Innocence and Justice Clinic — and so they set out for it to be the focus of the 2021 Wake Forest Law Review Spring Symposium, "Secondary Trauma in the Legal Profession."

"It was an important topic for us because it is something that affects so many people within the legal profession, and outside of the legal profession that get involved with the legal system," said Haddon. "I think that the reach of this issue, and developing a better understanding of how it really impacts everyone who touches the law, not just certain lawyers or certain fields of lawyers, was really meaningful."

As the symposium editors, the pair worked with Professor Rabil and Professor Kenneth Townsend to bring together lawyers, judges, academics, and those who have otherwise interacted with the legal system — such as a jury foreman from a Charlotte death penalty case — to address the secondary trauma

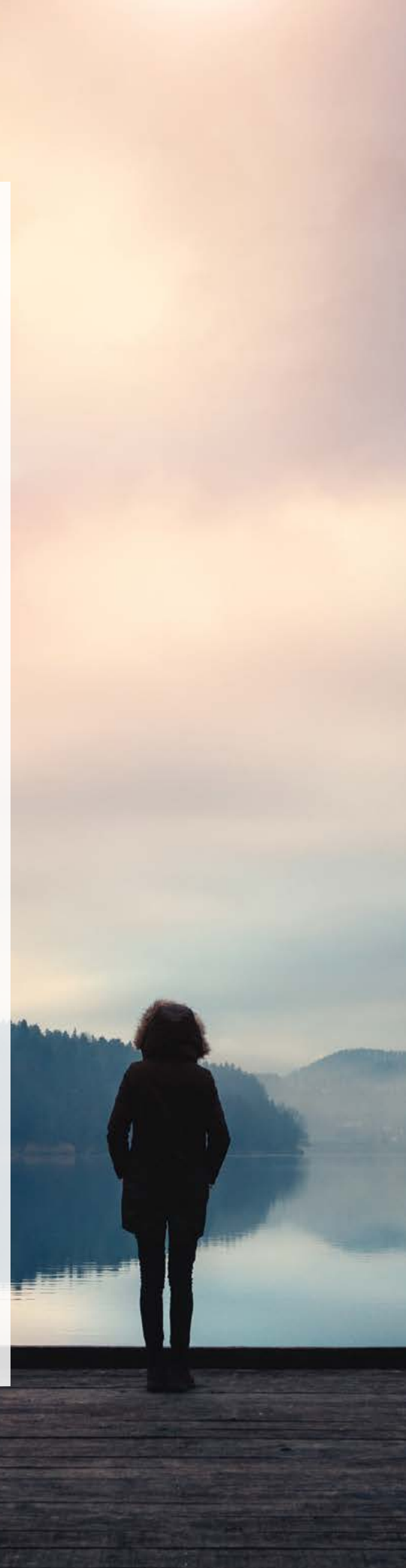
that can result from working with people who have been traumatized by crime, abuse, the environment, or even the legal system itself. The five symposium panels discussed the various forms that secondary trauma can take, addressed the elevated impact of secondary trauma when race and the law intersect, and presented steps that lawyers can take to reduce the risks that both they and non-lawyers face.

"The realization was that sometimes it's okay to not be okay," said Brady. "Lawyers face a lot of really tough things in certain fields, and seeking help is not something that lawyers should be afraid of. It's something that should be encouraged."

The symposium was the first ever that the Wake Forest Law Review had held virtually, due to the pandemic, which Brady and Haddon said ultimately had a silver lining: nearly 700 people attended.

"We were able to move it online and get so many more people, from, I think, over 30 states and territories, to join in and be able to learn about vicarious trauma and secondary trauma," said Brady.

And that virtual format has also enabled the discussion to extend beyond the symposium itself: the two students continue to have conversations with people who are interested in sharing the speakers' remarks and resources with others.



EXPLORING COMMUNITY ACCOUNTABILITY

When it comes to defining accountability, Professor Ron Wright sees it as two-fold: an accountable prosecutor is one who both stays within the bounds of the law and is responsive to the priorities of their communities.

“We want to look at all the various ways that prosecutors do this, most of the time successfully,” said Wright, whose research under the project will explore the ways in which prosecutor offices share data and information with their communities, as well as how they manage and communicate priorities within their own offices.

Though prosecutors are public officials, often their decisions are made out of public view, making proactive transparency essential.

To that end, Wright is working with student research assistants to begin examining how some of the country’s largest prosecutor’s offices publicly disclose information and data about their activities.

“Our students expand the reach of this work,” said Wright. “It means we can offer more than just a case study. We can survey the landscape and provide information about how common or uncommon a practice is.”

Teala Volkamer (JD ’23) has worked with Wright on the project, as well as on another survey of absolute immunity laws across various jurisdictions.

“It helps bring that real-world component in,” said Volkamer, of the experience conducting research outside of the classroom. “Being able to work on something relevant and tangible, and where you can see the impact it can have on people’s lives, is a good reminder of why I’m studying law and what I want to do as a lawyer.”

INFORMING THE PROFESSION

During what he describes as a “change moment for criminal law,” Wright believes the project can offer grounded insight into the prosecutorial function.

“Success looks like building a body of original research that tells us things about prosecutors that we never knew before — and confirmation from people in the field that they find it relevant in some way,” he says.

It’s a sentiment echoed by Professor Alyse Bertenthal, whose research with the project will examine how state and local level actors prosecute environmental crimes. With support from student research assistants, she will collect interview and numerical data that will help inform discussions about the criminal enforcement of environmental laws, as well as the potential impacts of that enforcement on environmental justice.

“We don’t want to propose solutions without having a better understanding of what’s going on,” said Bertenthal. “We need to start by collecting data, so that if and when solutions are offered, they are based on something that has been deeply researched and analyzed.”

As Professor Esther Hong puts it: “We want to get it right.” At a time when discussions about prosecutorial power are prevalent, one of the project’s priorities is to ensure that the empirical data and sources it is reviewing are robust.

“Ultimately, we want to understand the ways that various actors can have a role in creating a more just criminal legal system,” said Hong.

Continuing the efforts begun over the last year, student research assistants are hard at work this semester collaborating with faculty on the project, with the goal of publishing initial findings beginning in the spring.



We don’t want to propose solutions without having a better understanding of what’s going on. We need to start by collecting data, so that if and when solutions are offered, they are based on something that has been deeply researched and analyzed.

— ALYSE BERTENTHAL
Assistant Professor

INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY & TECHNOLOGY

The protection of intellectual property and the rights it affords its owners provides the foundation upon which a thriving economy is built. Inventors, artists, business entities, and any other creators can confidently produce their innovative works knowing that their rights to control the commercial use of their creations are secure.

Faculty members Simone Rose, Raina Haque, and Chris Mezell are joined this year by Professors Keith Robinson and Zaneta Robinson (JD '03) to continue to expand Wake Forest Law's offerings in this growing field. Through the launch of the law school's first Intellectual Property Law Clinic, as well as an array of courses touching on topics like blockchain, data analysis, artificial intelligence, and individual privacy, Wake Forest Law students have a number of opportunities to gain experience in breakthrough technologies and the emerging legal issues that arise from these rapid advances in technology.



SET UP FOR SUCCESS

How coding, blockchain, and data skills
prepare law students for the future

By Keith Robinson

Professor of Law

Scott Adams, the creator of the famous Dilbert comic strip, claims that “the best way to increase your odds of success — in a way that might look like luck to others — is to systematically become good, but not amazing, at the types of skills that work well together and are highly useful for just about any job.” For lawyers, acquiring technology skills is the best way to increase their odds of success, particularly at a time when the legal profession can no longer afford to ignore rapid technological advances.

The Supreme Court has wrestled with privacy issues that may arise now that the majority of adults in the U.S. store vast amounts of personal data on their cell phones. Traditional companies such as Ernst & Young and legal tech startups are using technology to provide alternative legal solutions. In response to developments like these, law schools — including Wake Forest Law — are offering more courses that address issues at the intersection of law and technology. When it comes to technology skills, there are three areas future lawyers can focus on in particular to elevate their ability to serve their clients and make legal decisions.

Prof Poetry:

NFTs? Oh please!
Virtual worlds are the real deal.
Provenance is just pride.

What's in store for Class of
2024

In 2024, some innovations in financial technology will move from sandbox stages into widespread adoption. Wake Forest Law graduates will need to be equipped to help clients and policymakers understand the distributed ledger and blockchain-based assets, and the legal and societal implications of such markets. They will also be called upon to help form tax, anti-money laundering, securities, and foreign asset regulations. Non-fungible tokens will also have evolved to transfer access to virtual reality assets, and our graduates will support the design, testing, and transparency of machine learning systems. Lawyers will also need to be informed about and involved in software development life cycles, and understand how to diligence computational systems.

— Raina Haque
Professor of Practice

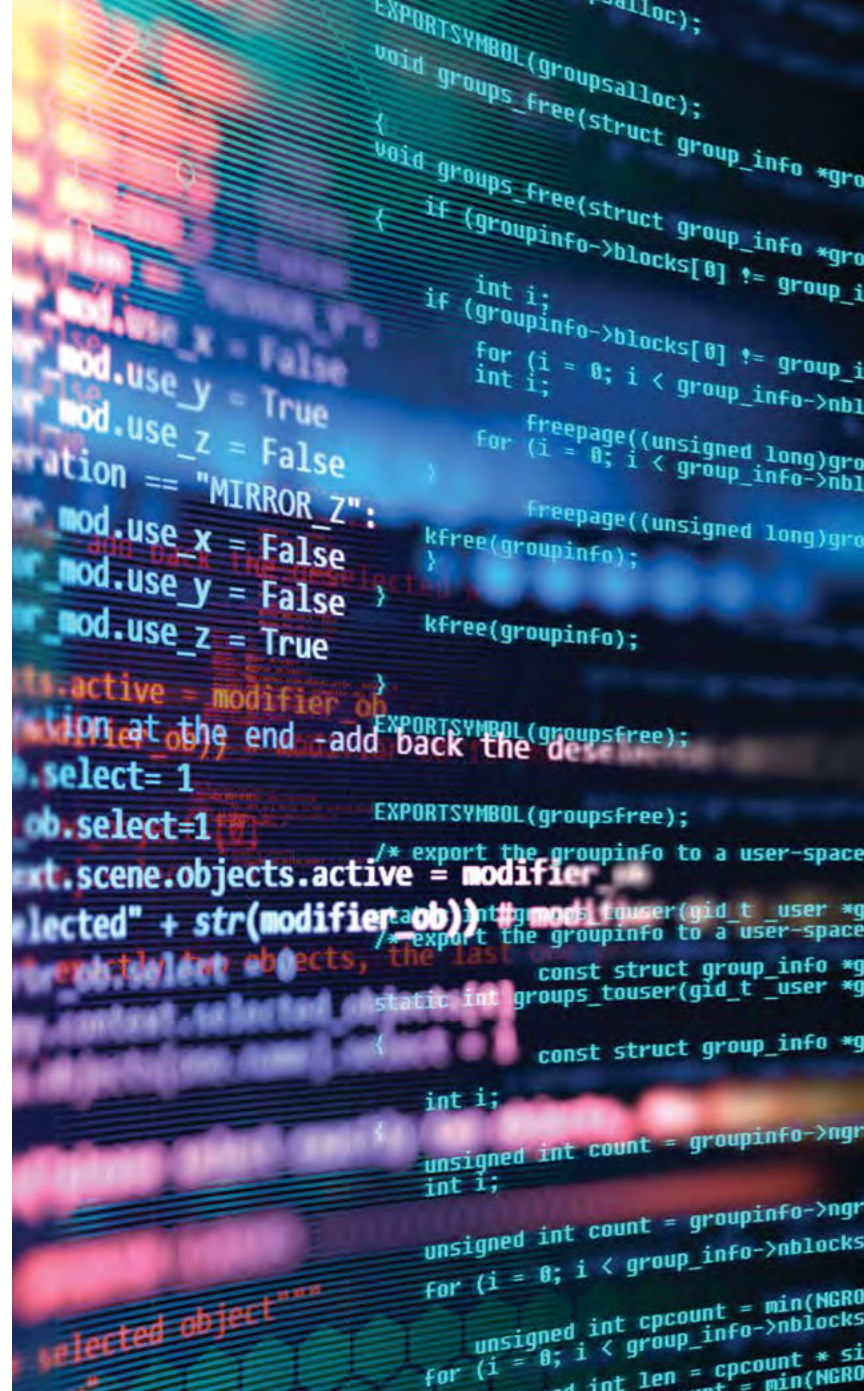


SOFTWARE DEVELOPMENT

A lawyer that knows how to code knows how to solve problems. I learned how to code in college and understanding how a computer works and software is built served me well during my time as a patent attorney. I was able to talk to inventors on their level and understand their goals. In my course on designing legal apps, students develop these skills through building a software application to solve a legal problem. In the process, they also learn how to view a legal problem from a client's perspective, break complex legal issues into manageable pieces and solve them, and harness technology to address access to justice issues.

BLOCKCHAIN

Lawyers who understand blockchain technology will be able to navigate the legal risks and opportunities of the not-so-distant future. Earlier this year, a digital image of a flying cat with a Pop-Tart body fetched a price of \$580,000 at auction. The image is freely available on the internet, yet this particular image demanded a high price because it was an authentic nonfungible token (NFT). Products like NFTs and Bitcoin use blockchain technology, a decentralized distributed encrypted ledger that is essentially a database of transactions. While NFTs have garnered press recently, not all blockchain applications involve new concepts. For example, state governments are using blockchain to solve chain of title issues. The future of products like NFTs and cryptocurrencies is uncertain, but blockchain will undoubtedly be a platform for future products and services that graduates will need to navigate.



A lawyer that knows how to code knows how to solve problems.

EXPERIENTIAL EDUCATION

Intellectual Property Law

This year, Wake Forest Law launched its first-ever Intellectual Property Law Clinic, providing students with an avenue to bridge the gap between their doctrinal courses and real-world intellectual property law practice. Directed by Associate Clinical Professor Zaneta Robinson (JD '03), who joined the law school in July to launch and direct the clinic, students will primarily assist clients with trademark and copyright related issues. With intellectual property among the fastest-growing areas of the law, students will now have the opportunity to gain supervised, hands-on experience in this area.

“The fieldwork component definitely adds a different feel to the classroom experience,” says Robinson. “Students are not only learning how to apply the relevant law, but they’re also learning how to interact with clients to get, and provide, the information needed to help clients achieve their goals. It’s a unique opportunity to enrich the traditional law school experience and offer legal services to individuals and small businesses that might not otherwise be able to hire an attorney.”

BIG DATA

The explosion in the amount of potentially useful information that’s accessible to businesses, government, and other institutions requires that lawyers understand how to work with data. Companies spend billions of dollars each year to collect data for use in making business decisions that can often have legal implications. For example, advances in artificial intelligence that uses data to build predictive models have given rise to privacy concerns that put data collection practices in the legal spotlight. Lawyers must understand how to consume and interpret data, how their clients use it to inform their decisions, and how it can be used to shape their legal strategies.

While future lawyers must prioritize understanding the law, become excellent writers, and work extremely hard, they must also understand that the law does not exist in a vacuum. We live in an era where almost every consumer product has software and collects data. Understanding foundational areas such as coding, blockchain technology, and data literacy are equally important to increase lawyers’ odds of success in this environment. 🍷

Professor Keith Robinson

joined the Wake Forest University School of Law faculty in July 2021. He teaches intellectual property and patent law, in addition to researching and writing in these areas as well as property and technology law.





As rapid advances in intellectual property and technology pose new legal issues, Wake Forest Law is proud to have a strong and growing group of faculty members with deep expertise in these areas. This year, Professors Simone Rose, Chris Meazell, and Raina Haque were joined by Professors Keith Robinson and Zaneta Robinson (JD '03). Together, they are preparing Wake Forest lawyers to better understand emerging technologies and their impact on the law.

From left to right: Keith Robinson, Raina Haque, Zaneta Robinson (JD '03), Simone Rose, Chris Meazell



What's in store for Class of

2024



I have the good fortune to teach torts, a first-year class that covers accidental injury. By far the largest class of such injuries is automobile accidents. Last year, there were almost 40,000 fatalities due to car crashes. But those fatalities are only the tip of the iceberg: Some 2 million additional persons suffered personal injuries, and there were almost 7 million cars damaged in traffic accidents. When drivers make mistakes on the road — which occurs in 94% of accidents — tort law governs who is responsible for the resulting losses.

While many accident claims, particularly the smaller ones, are resolved administratively by insurance companies and their adjusters, numerous lawyers are involved in those resolutions. Some represent injured individuals — perhaps you have seen billboards advertising those lawyers — and many more, usually hired by liability insurers, represent the drivers who are alleged to have driven carelessly and caused the injuries.

We are in the midst of a technological revolution in the automobile industry. Autonomous vehicles (AVs) — cars that can drive themselves in a variety of traffic environments without input from a human — are on the verge of being widely available to the public. Just as autopilots in aircraft reduced crashes due to pilot error by 90%, current estimates are that when AVs are fully deployed, accidents could be reduced by somewhere between 75% and 95%. And the remaining ones will likely be due to failures in the artificial intelligence, sensor, or coding components of AVs, which will mean products liability suits would be brought against the manufacturers of the technology rather than against individual drivers.

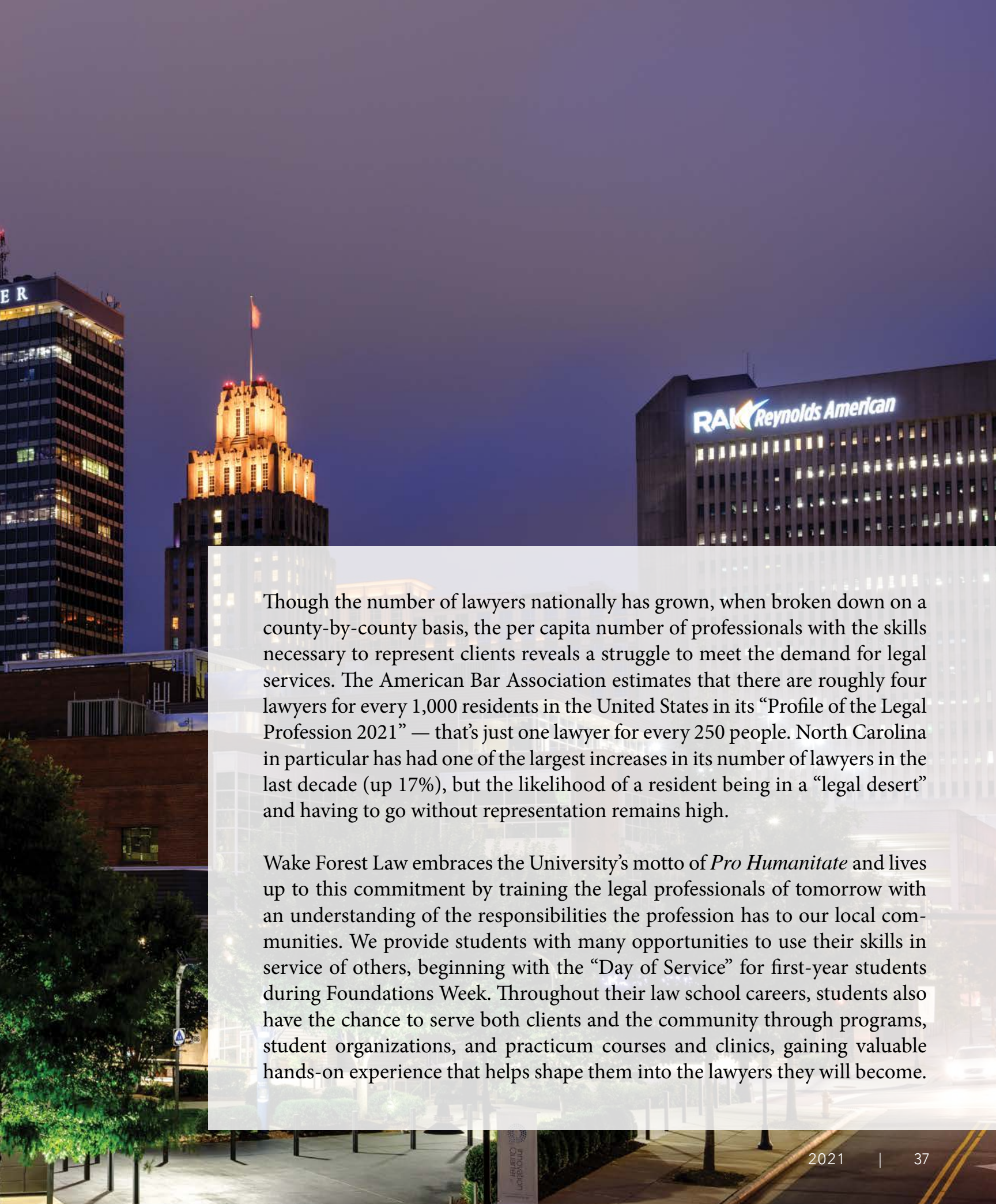
AVs will likely comprise only a small fraction of cars on the road when our graduates enter the workforce. But inevitably over their professional careers, AVs will substantially diminish the current toll of traffic accidents and, at the same time, the need for lawyers in this area of law.

— **Michael Green**

Bess & Walter Williams Professor of Law

COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT





Though the number of lawyers nationally has grown, when broken down on a county-by-county basis, the per capita number of professionals with the skills necessary to represent clients reveals a struggle to meet the demand for legal services. The American Bar Association estimates that there are roughly four lawyers for every 1,000 residents in the United States in its “Profile of the Legal Profession 2021” — that’s just one lawyer for every 250 people. North Carolina in particular has had one of the largest increases in its number of lawyers in the last decade (up 17%), but the likelihood of a resident being in a “legal desert” and having to go without representation remains high.

Wake Forest Law embraces the University’s motto of *Pro Humanitate* and lives up to this commitment by training the legal professionals of tomorrow with an understanding of the responsibilities the profession has to our local communities. We provide students with many opportunities to use their skills in service of others, beginning with the “Day of Service” for first-year students during Foundations Week. Throughout their law school careers, students also have the chance to serve both clients and the community through programs, student organizations, and practicum courses and clinics, gaining valuable hands-on experience that helps shape them into the lawyers they will become.

MAKING A LOCAL IMPACT

Through a new practicum course, students gained experience in community lawyering by working with Winston-Salem residents

By Yolanda Taylor

Adjunct Professor of Law

It's not often that law school curricula allow students who are learning the law to analyze what's legal and what's just in our society.

Oftentimes, where a legal remedy ends, justice may demand more. It's with this in mind that I launched Wake Forest Law's first-ever Community Lawyering practicum last spring, offering students an opportunity to immerse themselves in how to use their legal skills and knowledge to support community-identified concerns and enhance community power.

Students in the practicum worked directly with residents in historically marginalized communities in Winston-Salem, developing creative legal remedies and approaches to support residents' participation in local decision-making processes that involve the future of their neighborhoods, city, and history. The practicum not only allows students the opportunity to personally reflect on the intersection of the law and justice in America, but also better understand how they can use their legal knowledge to support communities' meaningful involvement in conversations around the laws and policies that impact them.



EXPERIENTIAL EDUCATION

Medical-Legal Partnership

As Winston-Salem, like many communities, continues to grapple with the health and socioeconomic impacts wrought by COVID-19, Wake Forest Law and the Wake Forest School of Medicine are joining forces to launch a new partnership aimed at improving community health outcomes during and beyond the pandemic. Beginning this year, the law school's new Medical-Legal Partnership Clinic will bring together law and medical students to identify patients with unmet social needs that may be negatively impacting their health and connect them with legal services to address those challenges. Associate Clinical Professor Allyson Gold joined Wake Forest Law in July to direct the new clinic and serve as Associate Dean of Experiential Learning. She will oversee students' work with the School of Medicine, the Downtown Health Plaza, Legal Aid of North Carolina, and other community partners to address health-harming legal needs of patient-clients.

"I hope that all students understand the impact they can have on a case and on their clients," says Gold. "Many students enroll in a clinic unsure of themselves or wondering what they can accomplish, but come to realize that through hard work and intentional legal advocacy, they can provide high-quality legal representation and help their clients realize their goals."

The partnership is part of Wake Forest Law's efforts to build upon the law school's strong experiential learning program and increase opportunities for students to gain supervised, hands-on experience working with clients, which ultimately helps prepare them to be more effective legal practitioners throughout their careers.



Wake Forest
School of Medicine

Bowman Gray Center
for Medical Education



THE NEED FOR COMMUNITY LAWYERING

Issues that often arise for Community Lawyering practicum clients include affordable housing, historic preservation, land ownership, zoning laws, health and food equity, and local government policies around economic growth and development. Students view these legal and social problems through a community perspective, and since most of the communities that are challenged by these issues are often communities of color, they also develop an equity lens or a racial justice equity lens in solving legal and non-legal problems.

As our society deals with social challenges involving race, justice, inclusion, and equity, it's increasingly important for lawyers to have this skill set in order to best serve their clients. Nonprofit and corporate clients alike deal with topics around diversity and inclusion within the employment law context. Corporate clients will have to figure out ways to negotiate deals that expand marketing to more diverse clientele and how to present their corporate social responsibility statements. Investor clients or developers wishing to build in low-wealth communities may want to engage in social impact investing or create equitable strategies around working with the community. Future legal service or nonprofit lawyers may find themselves faced with the realization that the remedies for individual clients' problems may lie somewhere between what is legal and what is just.

Through experiential opportunities, students gain hands-on experiences that help them to become well-rounded lawyers prepared to work in a society that is becoming more diverse.



PREPARING TODAY TO SERVE COMMUNITIES TOMORROW

The concept of justice must always involve people, rather than only the law itself: How are people being treated? Are they meaningfully involved in conversations around policies and laws that impact them?

Community lawyering often involves creative lawyering. It encourages students to apply what they are learning in their traditional legal classes, and think critically and unconventionally about the complex challenges faced by marginalized and often under-resourced communities. Instead of examining these issues from their perches as law students, they will view these issues from the community perspective and aid community members in finding their own solutions. Students who enrolled in the practicum read “The Color of the Law” and other assigned readings to learn the history of housing segregation and the concept of justice. The practicum also aimed to help students understand that often lawyers can be professional allies to communities because of the institutional power they can bring in support of their community clients.

For example, a student commented last year that she thought her research had yielded the final advice for her client’s problem, but after I pushed her a little more to “think outside of the box,” she realized she could find a solution that involved the client being a participant in their own destiny. Further, she realized that just because certain divisions within the city were telling the client “no,” it wasn’t a definite “no.” The city simply needed more information, and as a law student, she could help educate the client on the city’s request and help the client formulate a response.

This student realized that her client’s remedy couldn’t be reduced to a cognizable legal claim. This isn’t traditional lawyering, but it uses the skills acquired as a lawyer to research, educate, and advise clients around complex issues that they may not understand — all important lawyering techniques. When students leave the Community Lawyering practicum, they take with them an expanded understanding of the law and how to creatively use their problem solving, research and writing, and oral advocacy skills to advance people more so than the law.



COLLABORATING WITH WINSTON-SALEM'S OLDEST BLACK COMMUNITY

During the spring 2021 semester, students in the practicum worked directly with Happy Hill Neighborhood Association in Winston-Salem, one of the oldest black communities in the city, and perhaps in North Carolina. The association includes residents who are very energized and involved, which makes for a great practicum client. The residents in Happy Hill were interested in support for their ability to acquire land, influence zoning policy, and build leadership capacity to advocate on their own behalf. These areas could help residents continue to grow its cross-sector partnerships throughout the community, building on those that exist, such as an art grant from the UNC School of the Arts Kenan Institute, and a food collective with other partners who have helped them create a community garden.

Due to COVID-19, students in the spring primarily met virtually. However, they did have the opportunity to take a tour of Happy Hill led by one of the residents who was a member of the association. On the tour, students met up with other residents, saw some of the historic landmarks in Happy Hill, and learned more about the community's concerns. After that, students were able to speak with the client virtually during almost every class after the first four weeks of the semester. Students worked in groups on topics involving equitable policies, zoning and land use, historical preservation, and community land trusts, analyzing these issues through a legal lens and community perspective. At the end of the semester, students presented their research to the association, and educated the client about each area of concern. The students also co-drafted a letter and talking points on behalf of the association that its members could use as an entry point in deepening relationships and collaboration with other stakeholders in the community, including the city of Winston-Salem. 🏡

Yolanda Taylor

is an adjunct professor of law at Wake Forest University School of Law, a managing attorney at Legal Aid of North Carolina, and a leading economic development attorney. She launched the pilot practicum, Introduction to Community Lawyering, in 2021 to teach Wake Forest Law students how to do impactful legal work on the community level.



BUSINESS & THE LAW

The rule of law governs business transactions of all types, ranging from very simple micro-enterprise due diligence to extremely complex multi-national corporation interactions, tax obligations, and human resource regulations. This breadth and varying degree of complexity requires the counsel of legal professionals at every stage of the lifecycle of an enterprise. Wake Forest Law is continuously looking for ways to provide students with the best opportunities to learn how to excel in the practice of transactional law.

The Community Law and Business clinic led by Professor Steve Virgil enables students to develop real-life experience advising clients from the community and providing legal services for businesses of all types. Wake Forest Law recognizes that the world of business is constantly evolving. Whether we're bringing together a group of corporate leaders, lawyers, and alumni to identify upcoming trends or updating the highly ranked Master of Studies in Law program to equip working professionals with the legal knowledge they need to bring more value to their organizations, Wake Forest Law is constantly looking for ways to prepare students to meet the rapidly changing legal needs of today's businesses.



LEARNERS FOR LIFE

Thriving at the intersections of the law
and other disciplines

When **Tim Ellerbe (MSL '21)** is asked to share what drew him to pursue his Master of Studies in Law degree in Business Law and Compliance, he unequivocally credits the University's reputation. He relishes the reaction he gets when people ask about it. "You have a law degree from Wake Forest?" he quips, mimicking an impressed expression. **"That opens doors."**

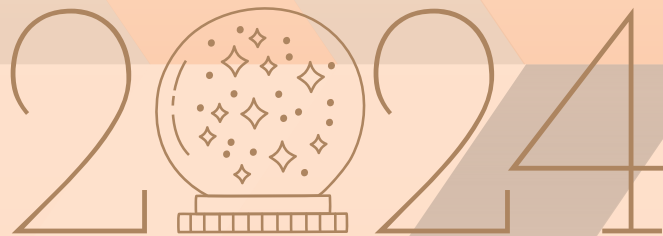
As Senior Program Manager for IT Security and Compliance at Dell, Inc., Ellerbe is very much enjoying how the degree has enhanced his role working with lawyers and legal teams where issues of privacy and security intersect with business operations and practices.

“Companies get sued for not getting this stuff right,” he says, and a big part of his job is ensuring that Dell is and remains compliant with the laws regulating its business.

He joined the company after 30 years at Hewlett-Packard, and quickly found himself feeling restless as he contemplated the next step to take in his IT career. Ellerbe identified security, privacy, and compliance as issues of top concern in the technology space, so he set out to find a degree that would accommodate both his new career ambitions, as well as his lifestyle as a long-time working professional. He found a multitude of options and eventually settled on the Wake Forest Law MSL due to the school’s reputation, and because the program felt like exactly what he needed to learn to become a security and compliance officer.

The fact that the MSL program felt tailor-made to Ellerbe was not a coincidence. In the summer of 2015, then-Dean Suzanne Reynolds (JD ’77) hired Professor Ellen Murphy (JD ’02) to re-invent the MSL as a part-time, online-only degree to meet the needs of working professionals. It was to be a market-driven curriculum by design, and Murphy spent a great deal of time performing extensive research, consulting with industry experts, and conducting market studies. She discovered the tremendous need for professionals who understand how to mitigate risk in their workplaces — a need that was only matched by those professionals’ desire for maximum flexibility to accommodate their busy schedules. The program was developed based on Murphy’s research, and it currently offers a curriculum focused on three tracks: Business Law and Compliance, Health Law and Policy, and Human Resources.

What’s in store for Class of



Prof Poetry:

The law fades away.
Public morphs into private
As our world warms up.

In 2024, more pressure will fall on the Sustainability Accounting Standards Board to pick up where the government has failed to act. Climate and employment standards will increasingly arise, as environmental, social, and governance standards that institutional investors demand their portfolio companies follow. The Big Three will become the focus of ever-greater interest group lobbying. Our graduates will work with mostly small- and medium-sized enterprises to help business leaders understand and conform to the “new legal regime.” Reading, writing, and thinking clearly — our law school’s unwavering mission — will remain at a premium as artificial intelligence increasingly does the nitty-gritty work of law research, contract drafting, brief writing, and policy advocacy. Our “integrative thinking” graduates will navigate these new waters successfully.

— Alan Palmiter

Associate Professor of Law
William T. Wilson, III Presidential Chair for Business Law

EXPERIENTIAL EDUCATION

Community Law & Business

For over a decade, Wake Forest Law's Community Law and Business Clinic has provided a wide range of transaction-focused legal services to nonprofits, start-ups, neighborhood associations, artists, micro-enterprises, and other community-based clients. Directed by Professor Steve Virgil, the clinic provides students with a place to identify, practice, and refine the core competencies needed for a lawyer working with business, corporate, and transaction matters. Students engage in hands-on work with real clients on issues such as entity formation, regulatory compliance, tax law, real estate transactions, capital formation, employment law, intellectual property, and more.

During the 2020-21 academic year, 29 law students advised more than 100 clients on general corporate and business law issues while delivering more than 3,300 hours of pro bono service. Because clinic clients are drawn from our community, these services have a direct impact on community economic development in our region by creating jobs, expanding businesses, and enabling nonprofits to serve people in need.

Historically, the clinic has also focused on responding to emerging community-defined needs, such as creating a foreclosure prevention practice during the Great Recession, partnering with local business accelerators in 2012 to enhance Winston-Salem's entrepreneurial ecosystem, and in recent years, organizing the first housing authority-wide election to establish tenant advisory boards for every public housing estate in Forsyth County.

Continuing that commitment, the clinic's students spent this past year partnering with local and government community organizations to develop an eviction mediation program to help people stay in their homes during the COVID-19 pandemic, provided legal assistance to Forsyth Technical Community College students through a new partnership, and collaborated with a community development financial institution and tribal college to help two dozen entrepreneurs in Native American communities across the country with business development efforts. By working directly with clients in a supervised setting, clinic students can put the knowledge gained in the classroom into action and develop valuable knowledge, skills, and confidence that will immediately translate into their careers after graduation.



OPEN

Welcome

Sam Parker (MSL '20) feels his MSL in Health Law and Policy differentiates him from his peers because it focuses on a different aspect of the needs of his organization.

“I’ve seen a lot of friends go back and get their master’s in social work or MBAs,” said Parker. “I chose this degree because it is a different way to look at the same problem.”

He began his current role as Program Manager for the Ryan White Department at Atrium Health in January 2021, and he credits his MSL for helping him get the position more quickly. In this role, Parker has taken on writing Standard Operating Procedures for his department, managing staff, working with the General Director on HR issues, and ensuring he is documenting correctly in the highly regulated business setting in which he works.

When discussing the contributions having this degree helps him bring to the Ryan White Department at Atrium Health, he said, “Am I the authority? No, but this degree has given me the ability to have a good basic understanding to help avoid some pitfalls” — pitfalls that can be costly to any organization.

Learning from world-class faculty who invite leading legal experts to the classroom is often cited by MSL students as a great value-add to their classes. Parker recalls an experience where a state judge speaking in one of his classes discussed how over-documentation will often be as detrimental to a case as under-documentation because both denote inconsistency and carelessness that can complicate a complaint.

Having access to classroom speakers at that level was a unique experience that stood out for him, he says. This high level of professor interaction and engagement is not a given in an asynchronous online format, yet the Wake Forest Law MSL accomplishes this through its faculty and administrative staff, who remain committed to providing students with a high-caliber academic experience.

The program recently completed its fifth year in its current format. Dean Jane Aiken has continued the work of meeting with leaders in different business sectors to identify new opportunities to grow in ways that remain responsive to the needs identified in the marketplace. Working with newly-arrived Assistant Dean of Academic Affairs Chris Martin and Director Amber Featherstone, they are exploring ways in which the MSL could enhance other graduate programs within Wake Forest University.

“Though our program is still young, the experiences of career advancement and professional fulfillment our MSL students report back to us after graduation have inspired us to invest more resources into growing it much, much further in the years to come,” said Aiken.

The program is expanding its offerings to MSL alumni who want to audit classes as a way to keep their knowledge and skills current. Ellerbee, for one, has already enrolled and completed his first class audit since graduation, Cybersecurity and Privacy. It was a class he wasn’t able to take during his time earning the degree.

“And I’ll be taking some more classes,” he says, spoken like a true life-long learner. ♡

BUSINESS TASK FORCE: Meeting the needs of the marketplace



Ward Nye (JD '87)
CEO of Martin Marietta

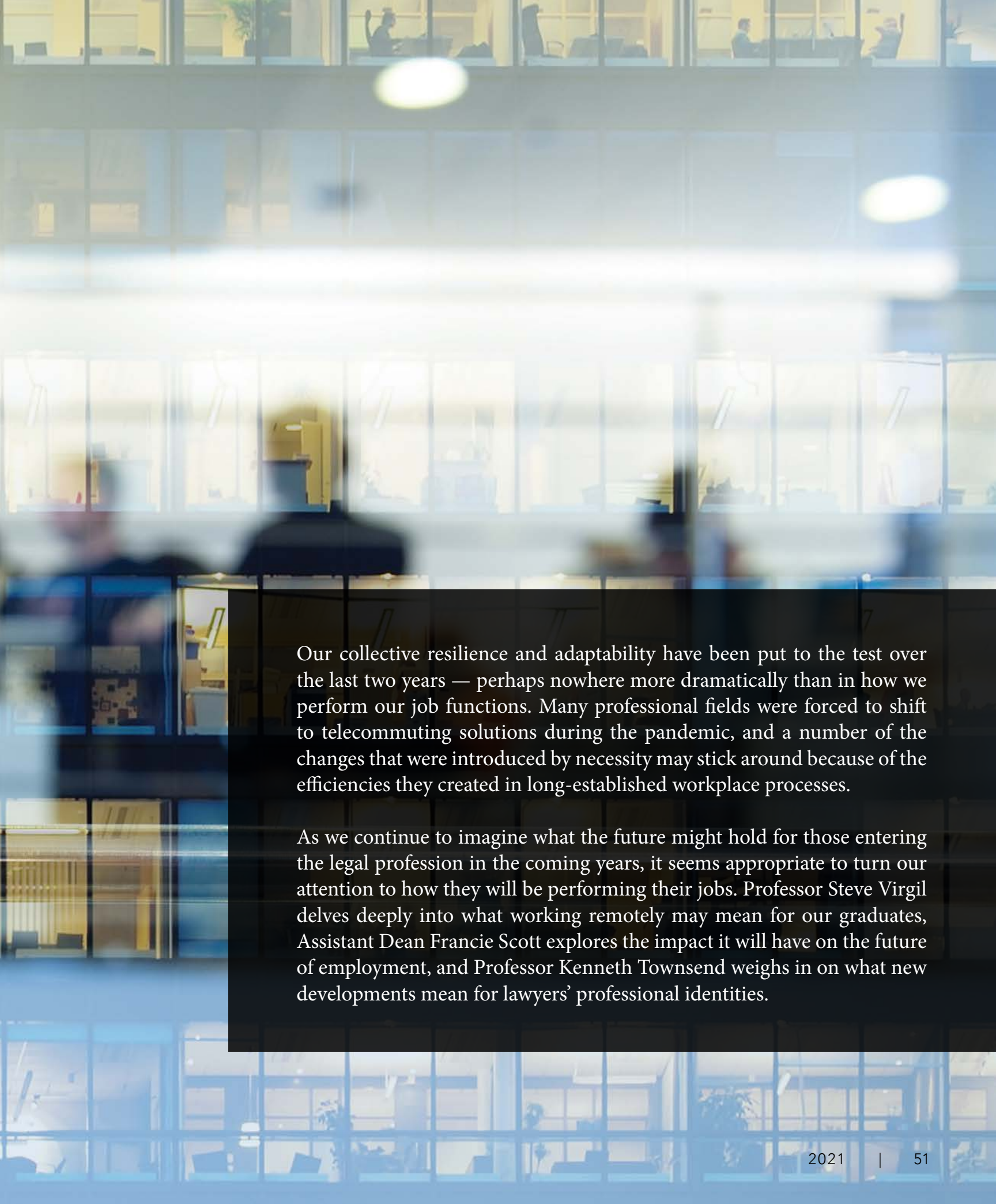
Today’s businesses face a number of disruptors: The COVID-19 pandemic has given rise to both financial and workforce challenges. New technologies demand different skill sets. A rapid expansion of data has generated privacy and security needs that at one time did not exist. We expect more from business leaders, who must be fluent in emotional intelligence, prioritize ethical decision making, cultivate a supportive culture, and encourage collaboration.

This past year, Dean Jane Aiken engaged a group of business professionals, lawyers, and alumni to provide input on how the law school can prepare students and professionals for success in this evolving business environment. Chaired by Ward Nye (JD '87), CEO of Martin Marietta, the Business Task Force met virtually between January and March 2021. The group offered a number of recommendations for law school faculty and administrators to consider over the coming years to best prepare business leaders and the lawyers who advise them, including introducing opportunities for students to hone skills that are complementary to practicing law, such as financial literacy, project management, data analytics, risk assessment, cross-cultural communication, conflict resolution, and more.

Photo courtesy of rtp.org



THE FUTURE OF WORK



Our collective resilience and adaptability have been put to the test over the last two years — perhaps nowhere more dramatically than in how we perform our job functions. Many professional fields were forced to shift to telecommuting solutions during the pandemic, and a number of the changes that were introduced by necessity may stick around because of the efficiencies they created in long-established workplace processes.

As we continue to imagine what the future might hold for those entering the legal profession in the coming years, it seems appropriate to turn our attention to how they will be performing their jobs. Professor Steve Virgil delves deeply into what working remotely may mean for our graduates, Assistant Dean Francie Scott explores the impact it will have on the future of employment, and Professor Kenneth Townsend weighs in on what new developments mean for lawyers' professional identities.

POST- PANDEMIC PRACTICE

When students graduate into a post-COVID world, some pandemic-induced changes will remain

By Steve Virgil

Clinical Professor of Law

What's in store for Class of

2024



The COVID-19 pandemic has fundamentally changed what professional work may look like in 2024. In a profession not known for its agility, the legal world shifted very quickly to a virtual work environment, and all signs point to most employers maintaining some level of flexibility going forward, with fully remote or hybrid work environments seeming far more feasible than they did 18 months ago. When looking at a generation of young lawyers who are comfortable with technology, understand how to build virtual relationships, and prize autonomy and balance, we expect that the ability to work remotely will quickly become a hiring and retention issue for many legal employers.

— **Francie Scott (JD '04)**

Assistant Dean of the Office of Career & Professional Development

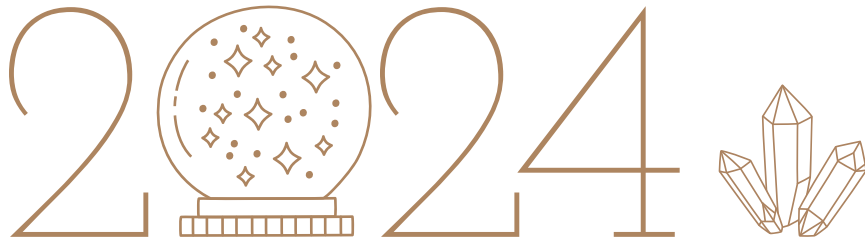
After 18 months of lockdown, isolation, and seemingly perilous encounters with people outside our bubble, life is beginning to look a bit like it once did. People are traveling, dining out, and socializing in ways that look very much like 2019—while wondering how that might end up. As the legal profession emerges into this near-post-COVID world, it is a good time to consider what changes Wake Forest Law students may face as they start their careers.

But before touching on what changes may endure post-COVID, it is important to note what will remain steadfast for our current students: The adherence to a vision of our profession as one of service to others is core to Wake Forest Law. Students will continue to serve their clients and communities in meaningful ways and with impact. They will continue to help clients exercise judgment in ways that are aligned with their values, whether during a conflict or in a boardroom. They will continue to build value in transactions between parties, adding creativity and insight in ways that make the sum of a relationship greater than its parts. They will continue to help clients form relationships between parties that will endure over time, and when they don't, still allow their clients to anticipate an acceptable outcome.

In all of this, Wake Forest Law students will display the highest level of professionalism and skill. These values are deeply ingrained into a Wake Forest Law education, reflected in the faculty and enhanced with each year's class. How students do this, however, will almost certainly be different in the future.

Looking to the future, it should not be understated how transformational COVID-19 has been. Generally, society adopted and refined tools for this rapid change, and many of these work exceedingly well. Today's law students will hopefully step into a practice that will retain the best parts of this change.

What's in store for Class of



If the last 10 years of observing the legal job market have taught us anything, it's that entry-level hiring is a roller coaster, and graduates better strap in for a long ride. The ups and downs of the last 18 months have only reinforced that conclusion, with national numbers for the Class of 2019 showing the highest employment rate since the 2008 recession. Shortly after those numbers came out, COVID-19 essentially forced a pause in hiring while employers scrambled to transition to a virtual environment and maintain economic viability. Lately, we've seen a significant upswing in hiring in the private sector as the country has experienced accelerated economic growth.

The incoming Class of 2024 should benefit from robust hiring in the corporate and finance sectors, as long as banks continue to lend money and investor confidence remains high. In the public sector, federal and state governments have begun to respond to 2020's massive social movements. They've funded reforms aimed at providing greater access to justice for underserved populations and worked to address underlying issues of policy that create disparity, ultimately increasing public interest lawyering opportunities as well.

Nevertheless, there is reason to be cautious about making rosy predictions. Nationwide, a record number of students are enrolling in law school this fall. Although employment rates have increased steadily since 2008, this was primarily a result of fewer people choosing to attend law school, not necessarily more jobs being created. Students will still need to be thoughtful and intentional about choosing a career path and developing marketable skills during law school.

— **Francie Scott (JD '04)**

Assistant Dean of the Office of Career &
Professional Development

A “GREAT DECENTRALIZATION” OF THE WORKPLACE

The centralized workspaces and hierarchies that have been part of work life for decades quickly eroded in the wake of COVID-19, replaced by physically dispersed workforces where individuals are responsible for accomplishing tasks from wherever they may be. The pandemic showed us that large, and expensive, offices containing hundreds of lawyers and support positions aren't necessarily needed on a day-to-day basis. Moving forward, firms may continue to shift lawyers to remote workplaces, reducing overhead, and rely on smaller offices that are used for limited activities, such as closings, depositions, and important client meetings.

This decentralization of workspaces will open up wonderful opportunities for lawyers. They will have flexibility that can allow for a better balance of life with work and more time for other pursuits.

Lawyers will also find expanded opportunities as they are able to join firms in other cities, states, or regions — working remotely from places that offer the quality of life they desire. Wake Forest Law students can expect to step into a much more engaging practice and life balance than what was possible a few decades ago.

We can also anticipate that firms will increasingly move away from hierarchical structures. Remote work has proven that organizations can be incredibly efficient without rigid managerial and administrative structures. This will likely be expressed in new employment relationships for lawyers, and will also impact how client relationships are developed and maintained. Today's students have an incredible opportunity to build and grow their book of clients much earlier in their careers than in the past.



REMOTE COURT PROCEEDINGS WILL REMAIN

As with offices, the court system will hopefully take advantage of lessons learned during the pandemic and adopt more remote hearings when possible, creating numerous efficiencies and limiting the need to physically “go to court.” Such a change will lower the cost of litigation for everyone and expand opportunities for lawyers to take on pro bono matters or serve clients in other ways. For example, where it may have been difficult for a lawyer to carve out two or three mornings for calendar calls and preliminary motion hearings on a case when they must be in person, remote hearings make this much easier and could expand the pool of lawyers willing to represent clients in family law, landlord tenant, simple consumer law, and immigration matters. Remote practice has the potential to expand access to justice in other ways, as lawyers will also be able to take engagements for clients from wider areas of need.

An enduring shift to remote courtroom proceedings would also allow clients to broaden where they look for lawyers and no longer depend only on local representation. The connection of legal expertise to a place has been diminished for at least a decade, and clients have now seen how easy it is to seek advice from lawyers outside of where they are located. Online meeting platforms have proven themselves apt at facilitating these interactions and, more importantly, clients have gotten very comfortable with having significant conversations with a lawyer who is far removed from where they are sitting. Clients will increasingly look beyond their city, state, region, and perhaps country for their legal needs. This is a good thing for clients who will see expanded access to services and, due to competition, reduced costs. And it will be a good thing for our students as well, who will see expanded opportunities to serve a wider group of individuals.



What's in store for Class of
2024

The class of 2024 will have more fully developed professional identities than most previous classes. The American Bar Association will soon require law schools to promote the “development of a professional identity” among law students, which according to the ABA, “involve[s] an intentional exploration of the values, guiding principles, and well-being practices considered foundational to successful legal practice.” This new emphasis in legal education reflects a growing awareness that lawyers must develop not only the necessary knowledge and skills to represent their clients, but also cultivate the capacities of character needed to find meaning and purpose in their work.

— **Kenneth Townsend**
Scholar in Residence



As with offices, the court system will hopefully take advantage of lessons learned during the pandemic and adopt more remote hearings when possible, creating numerous efficiencies and limiting the need to physically “go to court.” Such a change will lower the cost of litigation for everyone and expand opportunities for lawyers to take on pro bono matters or serve clients in other ways.

INCREASES IN SPECIALIZATION

Clients' ability to access legal advice from remote places will also drive increased competition among lawyers, who may respond in one of a couple ways. There will be some who will compete on price, lowering their fees to attract clients, though such strategies rarely lead to long-term sustainability. The more successful practices will most likely couple a degree of "price" competition with a decision to compete as specialists, offering services in more specific practice areas led by highly skilled lawyers who are located in different places around the country.

An intellectual property firm, for example, may pull in professionals from cities across a wide region to offer their clients highly skilled lawyers in several product areas. Clients will realize a significant benefit from being able to access the best specialized legal representation needed for an engagement. Additionally, more specialized law practices might crop up in mid-sized cities with lower overhead, while larger firms who have significant real estate footprints in expensive cities may face challenges.

The pandemic undoubtedly leaves its mark on our profession and creates new dynamics for our stu-

dents to navigate throughout their careers. The boundaries around when lawyers work will be further eroded by remote employment, which eliminates the physical distinctions between where people work and live. Increased connection through technology can also lead to working more. New lawyers, and maybe some experienced ones, will likely feel an increased urgency to specialize, and perhaps an increased sense of competition. All of this sounds challenging, but Wake Forest Law students will meet these new challenges well prepared.



New lawyers, and maybe some experienced ones, will likely feel an increased urgency to specialize, and perhaps an increased sense of competition. All of this sounds challenging, but Wake Forest Law students will meet these new challenges well prepared.



Wake Forest Law is committed to offering an environment that nurtures the habits of mind and practice that will enable our students to thrive in this future, emphasizing for students the importance of personal relationships over short-term transactional gains. These are the types of bonds that allow a student to enter the profession knowing they have not only the skills they need to succeed, but also a depth of human understanding that will allow them to do what lawyers have always done — serve others. This is expressed in friendships that last a lifetime, service that takes many forms over a career, and a deep understanding that the full formation of a lawyer begins in community — one that serves all. 🍷

Professor Steve Virgil

has practiced law for 30 years and is the founding director of the Community Law and Business Clinic at Wake Forest Law. He joined the faculty as a clinical professor of law in 2008 and teaches courses on community economic development, poverty, and the nonprofit sector.



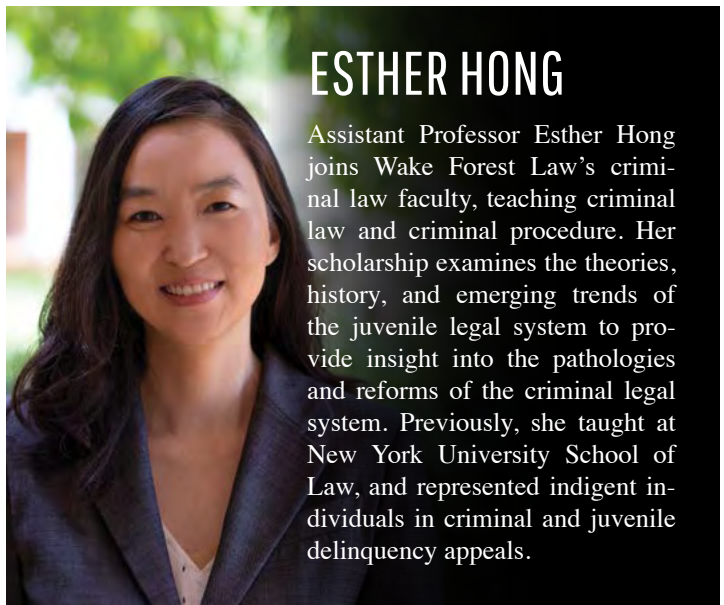
NEW FACULTY HIRES

Wake Forest Law is proud to have welcomed many new faculty members in the last two years, enabling us to grow existing courses and introduce new offerings that provide our students with the knowledge and skills necessary to meet the world's legal needs with confidence, character, and creativity. In addition to the individuals you will read about here, we're excited to also have Audra Savage join us as an Assistant Professor of Law in the fall 2022 semester, when she will begin teaching courses in business law, as well as law and race.



ALYSE BERTENTHAL

Assistant Professor Alyse Bertenthal currently teaches criminal law and criminal procedure. Her interdisciplinary research merges criminal justice and evidentiary issues with environmental law to examine the cultural, legal, and scientific practices that shape environmental regulation and possibilities for environmental justice. Broadly trained as a lawyer and critical social scientist, her scholarship draws from a variety of empirical methods and social theories to provide new insights about legal rules and institutions.



ESTHER HONG

Assistant Professor Esther Hong joins Wake Forest Law's criminal law faculty, teaching criminal law and criminal procedure. Her scholarship examines the theories, history, and emerging trends of the juvenile legal system to provide insight into the pathologies and reforms of the criminal legal system. Previously, she taught at New York University School of Law, and represented indigent individuals in criminal and juvenile delinquency appeals.



BRENDA GIBSON

Associate Professor of Legal Writing Brenda Gibson is an expert on legal writing, focusing her research on the science of pedagogy and its intersections with social science, history, and the law. Previously, she spent nearly 15 years leading the legal writing program at North Carolina Central University School of Law. She also teaches appellate advocacy, bringing experience from her work as a staff attorney and law clerk at the North Carolina Court of Appeals.



STRATOS PAHIS

Assistant Professor Stratos Pahis' research focuses on the laws that govern the global economy and cross-border business. He teaches contracts and international trade at Wake Forest Law, where he brings a wealth of experience from academia and private practice. He previously taught at NYU School of Law, Penn Law, and the Universidad de San Andrés in Buenos Aires. Prior to entering academia, he represented clients in international commercial and investor-state disputes around the world.



ZANETA ROBINSON

Zaneta Robinson (JD '03) has returned to Wake Forest Law as an Associate Clinical Professor and Director of the law school's first Intellectual Property Law Clinic, where students bridge the gap between their doctrinal courses and real-world intellectual property law practice. Previously, she directed the Intellectual Property Clinic at UNC-Chapel Hill School of Law and had extensive experience counseling clients on trademark, copyright, and trade secret protection in private practice.



ALLYSON GOLD

Associate Clinical Professor Allyson E. Gold joins Wake Forest Law as the first Director of the Medical-Legal Partnership Clinic, overseeing students' work with Wake Forest School of Medicine, the Downtown Health Plaza, Legal Aid of North Carolina, and other community partners to address the health-harming legal needs of patient-clients. Also Associate Dean of Experiential Education, she oversees all aspects of experiential learning, clinics, and externships.



SARAH MORATH

Associate Professor of Legal Writing Sarah Morath brings her expertise on legal writing pedagogy to our robust Legal Analysis, Writing, and Research program, which is ranked fifth in the nation. She has contributed extensively to the field of legal writing through her involvement with national legal writing organizations including the Association of Legal Writing Directors and the Legal Writing Institute. Her scholarly research focuses on environmental, food, and agricultural law and policy.



KEITH ROBINSON

Professor of Law Keith Robinson joins our growing roster of faculty members with expertise in intellectual property and technology. He teaches intellectual property, patent law, and other courses related to law and innovation. His scholarship focuses on the impact of emerging technology on the U.S. patent system. Previously, he was an Associate Professor at Southern Methodist University Dedman School of Law, where he was a member of the faculty for 10 years.



MEGHAN BOONE

Associate Professor Meghan Boone rejoined our faculty to teach civil procedure, constitutional law, family law, and reproductive justice, among other courses. Her research focuses on topics related to state regulation of the physical body, and she is considered an expert on matters related to reproductive rights and gender equality.



ELLIE MORALES

VISITING PROFESSOR

Ellie Morales (JD '10), is Director of the Veterans Legal Clinic and Visiting Assistant Clinical Professor. Through a multidisciplinary approach, she supervises students who represent former service members seeking to obtain veteran status under the law. A former federal prosecutor for the Department of Justice, she has also served for over a decade in the Army as a judge advocate, including a deployment to Afghanistan where she earned the Bronze Star.



ANNUAL HIGHLIGHTS

ALUMNI SUPPORT AT AN ALL-TIME HIGH

This past year, members of the Wake Forest Law community gave back to the law school in record-breaking ways. The law school finished FY '21 with an increase of 8% in total donors and 56% increase in donation amount. Alumni stepped up big time for the Law Annual Fund, making this a record-breaking year. Assistant Dean of Development for the School of Law Logan Roach is excited to continue this upward trend and beat the records he set this past year. His team also welcomed two new members, Natalya Lewitt as Development Coordinator, and Taylor Hill as Assistant Director of Development.



BAR PASSAGE AND EMPLOYMENT RATES CONTINUE TO RISE

The bar passage rate among Wake Forest Law graduates continued its steady increase, with a 96% passage rate for first-time takers in July 2021. In addition, 95% of 2020 graduates were employed 10 months after graduation, with the vast majority in jobs that require bar passage or a J.D.



LAW STUDENTS PARTICIPATE IN WAKEHACKS BLOCKCHAIN TRACK DURING 2021 HACKATHON

Wake Forest Law joined the University's Computer Science, Anthropology, and Art History departments in a brand new track — "Blockchain and Cultural Property" — for the yearly Hackathon hosted by WakeHacks. Law students were a part of interdisciplinary teams that developed a prototype for using smart contracts on a blockchain to keep track of provenance for artworks and artifacts of cultural significance. Kristen Kovach (JD '21) and Caitlin Kelly (JD '22) were members of one of the two winning teams, and Karen Saeed (JD '22) was in the other.



STUDENTS AND FACULTY SUPPORT WHITE HOUSE EVICTION PREVENTION SUMMIT

Amid the eviction crisis wrought by the pandemic, Wake Forest Law faculty and students participated in the White House's virtual Eviction Prevention Summit on June 30, 2021, which brought together government, judicial, legal, housing, and community leaders to develop plans to prevent eviction in communities across the country. More than three dozen Wake Forest Law students supported planning efforts and logistics for the summit, and then-Visiting Professor of Law Emily Benfer, Professor Christine Coughlin (JD '90), and Visiting Assistant Clinical Professor Ellie Morales (JD '10) helped facilitate discussion sessions.





KATHARINE BATCHELOR (JD '21) RECEIVES INAUGURAL KAY HAGAN AWARD

In recognition of her achievements in the law school's State and Local Government course, Katharine Batchelor received the first-ever Kay Hagan Award. Established last year, the award honors the late U.S. Sen. Kay Hagan (JD '78) who passed away in October 2019, following a career that included serving for a decade in the North Carolina General Assembly and one term in Congress.



THE PROGRAM FOR LEADERSHIP AND CHARACTER IS STRONG AT WAKE FOREST LAW

The Program for Leadership and Character continued to grow its presence and impact in the law school this year. Law students have participated in leadership workshops, retreats, and cohort programs, in addition to taking a variety of courses that have incorporated leadership and character. More law faculty participated in the Leadership and Character course development and redesign workshops in summer 2020 and 2021 than any other department or school at the University. Professor Mark Rabil referred to these workshops as the "most meaningful program that [he's] participated in since [he] started teaching full time in 2013." A gift from Rosewood Family of Companies, led by Chandler Rose (JD '04), and others will help make possible the work of the Program for Leadership and Character, which is led in the professional schools by Kenneth Townsend, who is also Scholar-in-Residence in the law school.



Photo courtesy of Penmarc Inspired Spaces

LAWR PROGRAM RANKED #5 IN THE NATION

The U.S. News & World Report 2022 Best Graduate Schools Rankings for Law Schools ranked Wake Forest Law's Legal Analysis, Writing, and Research program fifth in the nation. Wake Forest Law is proud to call itself home to one of the top five LAWR programs in the country, a recognition of the law school's longtime commitment to ensuring graduates excel in the foundational research, analysis, and writing skills that legal practice requires.



GREGORY PARKS EXAMINES RACE AND GUNS IN AMERICA

Over the summer, Associate Dean for Strategic Initiatives and Professor Gregory Parks convened a panel of academics and experts for a virtual conversation on race and guns in the United States. The thoughtful and thought-provoking discussion examined how race intersects with the history of gun ownership in America, the roots of the Second Amendment, and the modern politics of guns.



CLASSES NOTES

1960s

Henry A. Mitchell Jr. ('61) was named to the 2021 edition of The Best Lawyers in America for corporate law. He is an attorney at Smith Anderson in Raleigh.

Ashley Lee Hogewood Jr. ('63, P '90) received the John B. McMillan Distinguished Service Award from the North Carolina State Bar. He is a retired partner at Parker Poe Adams & Bernstein LLP in Charlotte. He has served on the Charlotte-Mecklenburg Schools Board of Education, the Central Piedmont Community College Board of Trustees, and the Mecklenburg County Board of Elections. He received the Order of the Hornet, Mecklenburg County's highest honor, for his civic contributions.

Dallas Clark ('68) has written a legal thriller, "The Investigation Officer's File" (Black Wrote Writing). The story was inspired by events he experienced as a legal officer in the U.S. Marines in Vietnam and Okinawa in 1969. Clark is a retired attorney living in Greenville, NC.

W. Leslie Johnson Jr. ('68) was awarded the Order of the Long Leaf Pine, North Carolina's highest civilian honor for community service. Johnson is the founding partner of Johnson & Johnson Attorneys at Law PLLC in Elizabethtown, NC, where he works with his three sons, **William L. Johnson III ('00)**, S. Weston Johnson and Allen Morgan Johnson. He was recently honored by the North Carolina Bar Association for 50 years of service.

1970s

C. Ernest "Ernie" Simons Jr. ('71) was named to the 2021 edition of The Best Lawyers in America for medical malpractice law and product liability litigation. He is an attorney at Smith Anderson in Raleigh.

James E. Cross Jr. ('73) was one of 11 attorneys awarded the North Carolina Bar Association 2020 Citizen Lawyer Award. He was also named to the 2021 North Carolina Super Lawyers list for estate planning & probate. He practices law at Cross & Currin LLP in Oxford, NC, with **Sam Currin ('71)**.

John P. Paisley Jr. ('73) was elected to the Alamance County (NC) Board of Commis-



Mitchell
('61)



Hogewood
('63)

sioners. He has practiced law in Alamance County for 47 years. He lives in Burlington, NC, with his wife, Joyce Aldret Paisley.

Jim Bailey Jr. ('75) retired after 40 years of practicing law in Wilmington, DE. He and his wife, Connie, are enjoying more time with family, including their three daughters and five grandchildren. He enjoys staying in touch with the Wake Forest community and would love to hear from fellow alums.

E. Vernon Glenn ('75) has written a crime novel, "You Have Your Way" (Cooper River Books), a followup to his debut 2019 novel, "Friday Calls." Both books draw on Glenn's 40-plus years as a trial lawyer. He is the founder of Cooper River Books and lives in Charleston, SC.

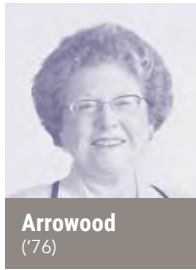
David Greenfield ('75) and Carla Howell Greenfield have been reelected to the board of trustees of Warren Wilson College, a small liberal arts college in Swannanoa, NC. The Greenfields are attorneys in Pittsburgh. They also spend time in Asheville and became interested in Warren Wilson when they were doing service work in the area. David is a past member of the law school board of visitors.

Paul Marth ('75) is district governor for North Carolina Lions District 31-O, overseeing 53 Lions Clubs in central North Carolina. Lions Club International, with 1.4 million members, serves primarily blind and visually impaired people and emphasizes hunger, the environment, diabetes, and pediatric cancer. Marth is a member of the Greensboro Lions Club along with former classmate **Robert "Bob" Benson ('72, '75, P '00)**.

Catharine Biggs Arrowood ('76) received the Advocate's Award from the Litigation Section of the North Carolina Bar Association (NCBA). The award recognizes members of the Litigation Section as "superstars" in the profession. Arrowood has served as president of the NCBA and the Wake County Bar Association and was named to the inaugural class of the North Carolina Lawyers Hall of Fame. She co-



Bailey
(‘75)



Arrowood
(‘76)



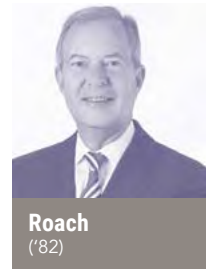
Dorsett
(‘77)



Reynolds
(‘77)



Wicker
(‘78)



Roach
(‘82)

chaired the North Carolina Commission on the Administration of Law and Justice, which conducted a comprehensive review of the state’s court system. She is retired of counsel from the law firm Parker Poe Adams & Bernstein LLP in Raleigh.

Greg C. Gaskins ('76) retired as deputy treasurer and secretary of the North Carolina Local Government Commission. He also led the staff of the state and local government finance division to enact reforms to benefit local governments. He was also a member of the North Carolina State Water Infrastructure Authority, which helps smaller water/sewer entities. He lives in Raleigh with his wife, Janet.

James K. Dorsett III ('77) was one of nine attorneys awarded the North Carolina Bar Association 2021 Citizen Lawyer Award, which honors attorneys who go above and beyond to serve their communities. He was also named to the 2021 edition of The Best Lawyers in America for commercial and bet-the-company litigation. He is an attorney at Smith Anderson in Raleigh and past president of the NCBA.

Suzanne Reynolds ('77) received the Game Changer for Social Justice Award from Winston-Salem’s Gateway YWCA as one of the 2021 Women of Vision recipients. Reynolds taught at the School of Law for 40 years until retiring in 2020 and was the school’s first female dean from 2015 to 2019. She is an expert on family law and co-founder of a domestic violence program at the law school.

David H. Coates ('78) retired to Greensboro, NC, with his wife, Suzanne, after a successful legal career in central New Jersey. In addition to being a longtime stockholder at the law firm Turp, Coates, Driggers and White, he was counsel to East Windsor (NJ) Regional School District for 38 years. In 2019 he and Suzanne were named “Shining Stars” in the Highstown-East Windsor, NJ, community after many years of civic service.

Dennis A. Wicker ('78) received the Award for Distinguished Public Service

from the North Carolina Chamber and was recognized in the 2021 edition of The Best Lawyers in America for government relations. He is a partner in the Raleigh office of Nelson Mullins Riley & Scarborough LLP and a former lieutenant governor of North Carolina. He lives in Sanford, NC.

Bob Singer ('79) was named a 2021 N.C. Super Lawyer and was also recognized by Chambers USA as one of America’s leading lawyers for banking & finance law. He is an attorney at Brooks Pierce in Greensboro, NC

Don Vaughan ('79) was one of seven lawyers inducted into the North Carolina Bar Association Hall of Fame. He has practiced law for nearly 40 years in Greensboro, NC, and is an adjunct professor at the Wake Forest School of Law. He is also a former North Carolina state senator and Greensboro city council member and mayor pro tem.

1981

Rick O. Kopf was recognized by Chambers USA as a top lawyer in real estate law. He is a shareholder at Munsch Hardt Kopf & Harr PC in Dallas, Texas.

Steven M. Sartorio was named to the 2021 edition of The Best Lawyers in America for eminent domain & condemnation law and insurance litigation. He is an attorney at Smith Anderson in Raleigh.

Ted Smyth was named to the 2021 edition of The Best Lawyers in America in bet-the-company litigation, commercial litigation, insurance law and personal injury litigation. He is an attorney at Cranfill Sumner & Hartzog LLP in Raleigh.

Thomas Preston Walk served two terms as president of the board of the disAbility Law Center of Virginia, a nonprofit that protects and advocates for Virginians with disabilities. He lives in Tazewell, VA.

Craig B. Wheaton ('81, P '17) was named

to the 2021 edition of The Best Lawyers in America for employee benefits (ERISA) law. He is an attorney at Smith Anderson in Raleigh.

1982

Charles “Chuck” Frye III received the 2020 Outstanding Attorney of the Year award from the North Carolina Association of County Attorneys. He has served Davidson County (NC) for more than 30 years, as county attorney and staff attorney for the Department of Social Services.

David M. Furr created a webinar for the North Carolina Bar Association on “Cybersecurity & the Practice of Law: the Risks, Realities, and Solutions.” Furr is an attorney at Gray, Layton, Kersh, Solomon, Furr & Smith PA in Gastonia, NC. The webinar was part of the bar association’s Expert Series and was free to all 9,000 members. The webinar was co-hosted by Chris Swecker ('81), former assistant director of the FBI Criminal Investigation Division

Rudy Ogburn received a Distinguished Service Award from the Estate Planning and Fiduciary Law Section of the North Carolina Bar Association. He is a shareholder at Young Moore and Henderson PA in Raleigh, where he is head of the estate planning and business law team. In 2020 he was named to Business North Carolina’s Legal Elite Hall of Fame in tax and estate planning.

Gerald Roach (P '12) was named to the 2021 edition of The Best Lawyers in America and was recognized in the 2020 Chambers USA guide as one of the top lawyers in his practice area of corporate/mergers & acquisitions. He is a firm chair at Smith Anderson in Raleigh and chair of Wake Forest’s Board of Trustees.

Eric R. Spence was named a 2020 N.C. Super Lawyer and was named to Business North Carolina's 2020 Legal Elite. He was also recognized as one of the Best Lawyers in America for commercial real estate law. He is an attorney at Ragsdale Liggett PLLC in Raleigh, NC

Ryal W. Tayloe was named to the 2021 North Carolina Super Lawyers list for construction litigation. He is an attorney at Ward and Smith PA in Wilmington, NC.

1983

Hamilton "Hal" DeSaussure was elected president of the Akron (OH) Bar Association. He is a partner at Brennan Manna Diamond in Akron, where he practices insurance and commercial litigation. He has been a member of the city council in nearby Hudson, OH, for 10 years.

Sarah Wesley Fox (P '17) was named to the 2021 edition of The Best Lawyers in America for employee benefits (ERISA) law and labor & employment law. She was also named "Lawyer of the Year" in Raleigh for ERISA law. She is an attorney at Smith Anderson in Raleigh.

Paula A. Kohut was named to the 2021 North Carolina Super Lawyers list for estate planning & probate. She is a shareholder at Kohut & Adams PA in Wilmington, NC.

Kurt E. Lindquist II joined Cozen O'Connor as part of its commercial litigation practice in Washington, DC, after 12 years at Womble Bond Dickinson LLP in Charlotte. He splits his time between Charlotte and Washington.

John D. Madden was named to the 2021 edition of The Best Lawyers in America for insurance law, medical malpractice and personal injury litigation. He is an attorney at Smith Anderson in Raleigh and leads the firm's medical malpractice defense practice group.

1984

Craig A. Minegar was named to the 2021 edition of The Best Lawyers in America for real estate law. He is an attorney at Win-

derweedle, Haines, Ward & Woodman PA in Winter Park, FL.

Jim W. Phillips Jr. was named a 2021 N.C. Super Lawyer and was recognized as one of the state's Top 100 Lawyers. He also 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, NC.

1985

John D. Bryson was named to the 2021 edition of The Best Lawyers in America for DUI/DWI defense. He was also named a 2021 N.C. Super Lawyer for criminal defense law. He is an attorney at Wyatt Early Harris Wheeler LLP in High Point, NC, and has been an adjunct professor at Wake Forest School of Law since 1994.

Mary J. Davis was named dean of the University of Kentucky's J. David Rosenberg College of Law, its first female permanent dean. She joined the faculty in 1991 and had been interim dean since July 2019.

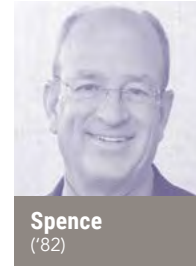
1986

Jeffrey A. Batts was named to the 2021 edition of The Best Lawyers in America for business law. He is a partner at the Rocky Mount, NC, firm Batts, Batts & Bell LLP, where he works alongside his brother, **Michael S. Batts ('87)**.

Joal Hall Broun was appointed district court judge for Chatham and Orange counties by North Carolina Gov. Roy Cooper. She was director of the Lobbying Compliance Division for the North Carolina Department of the Secretary of State.

Robert Griffin was named to the 2021 edition of The Best Lawyers in America in insurance litigation. He is an attorney at Cranfill Sumner & Hartzog LLP in Raleigh.

J. Kevin Moore has been named to the 2021 Northern California Super Lawyers list for construction litigation. He is an attorney at Bold, Poliser, Maddow, Nelson & Judson in Walnut Creek, CA.



Spence
'82



Minegar
'84

1987

David P. Larsen was listed in Chambers High Net Worth 2020 guide as one of Michigan's leading attorneys for private wealth law. He is an attorney at Bodman PLC in Detroit, where he advises several high-net-worth families. In 2020 he was named Detroit's "Lawyer of the Year" for litigation — trusts and estates by The Best Lawyers in America.

Catherine E. Thompson joined Colombo Kitchin Attorneys in Greenville, NC, as of counsel. She has practiced law in North Carolina since 1987, focusing primarily on estate and trust planning, business planning and commercial litigation.

1988

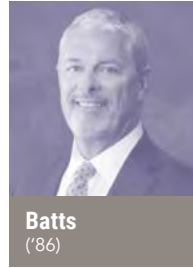
Bob King was named a 2021 N.C. Super Lawyer, one of the Best Lawyers in America, and was recognized by Chambers USA as one of America's leading lawyers in environmental law. He is an attorney at Brooks Pierce in Greensboro, NC.

Jeffrey W. Melcher has joined Chartwell Law as a partner in its newly opened Atlanta office. He will lead efforts to build the firm's practice in the southeastern US. He has more than 30 years of experience in commercial and insurance defense litigation.

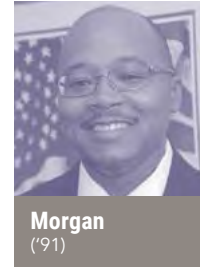
Joel R. Rhine was named to Business North Carolina's 2021 Legal Elite for construction and litigation law. He was also recognized as one of the state's top 100 lawyers by North Carolina Super Lawyers. He is a partner at Rhine Law Firm P.C. in Wilmington, NC.

1989

Mike Mitchell was named to the 2021



Batts
(’86)



Morgan
(’91)



Valaoras
(’92)

edition of The Best Lawyers in America and was recognized in the Chambers USA 2020 guide as one of the top lawyers in his practice area (litigation: general commercial). He is an attorney at Smith Anderson in Raleigh, NC, and is co-chair of the firm’s business litigation team and the intellectual property litigation practice.

David Rhoades was named to the 2021 edition of The Best Lawyers in America in workers’ compensation law. He is an attorney at Cranfill Sumner & Hartzog LLP in Raleigh.

Anthony Tansimore was named president of the Peninsula Humane Society & SPCA in the San Francisco Bay Area. He has held senior leadership roles in the nonprofit sector for more than 25 years.

1990

Andy Avram was named to the 2021 edition of The Best Lawyers in America in workers’ compensation law. He is an attorney at Cranfill Sumner & Hartzog LLP in Charlotte.

Forrest Campbell was recognized by Chambers USA as a top lawyer in health care law. He is an attorney at Brooks Pierce in Greensboro, NC

Tom Coulter has rejoined global law firm Norton Rose Fulbright as a partner in its office in Washington, DC. He previously worked as an associate with the firm in Houston from 1992 to 1997.

Patrick H. Flanagan was recognized in the 2021 edition of The Best Lawyers in America and named to Business North Carolina’s 2021 Legal Elite for employment law. He is an attorney at Cranfill Sumner & Hartzog LLP in Charlotte.

Lew Starling was named to the 2021 edition of The Best Lawyers in America for commercial litigation. He is managing partner at Daughtry, Woodard, Lawrence,

& Starling LLP in eastern North Carolina and mayor of Clinton, NC.

1991

Clayton D. Morgan is president-elect of the North Carolina Bar Association. He is associate general counsel at Duke Energy in Raleigh. He received the bar association’s Corporate Counselor’s Award, which recognizes “superstar” attorneys who demonstrate high ethical standards and dedication to the community.

1992

Farhad Aghdami was listed in Chambers High Net Worth 2020 guide as a “Band 1” attorney for private wealth law, the highest rating available. He is managing partner at Williams Mullen law firm in Richmond, VA, and is the Virginia state chair of the American College of Trust and Estate Counsel.

Charlie E. Brown was reappointed chair of the North Carolina Sentencing and Policy Advisory Commission. The 28-member commission monitors the state’s criminal and juvenile justice systems and reports to the General Assembly. Brown is chief district court judge in Rowan County.

John “Jack” T. Gilbertson joined the health care and life sciences practice of Epstein Becker Green PC in Los Angeles. He has more than 20 years of experience in the legal industry and was most recently senior counsel at Denton Wilde Sapté LLP.

D. Beth Langley was named a 2021 N.C. Super Lawyer and was named to Business North Carolina’s 2021 Legal Elite for employment law. She is an attorney at Brooks Pierce in Greensboro, NC.

Jon W. Myers was appointed a District Court judge for Davie and Davidson coun-

ties by North Carolina Gov. Roy Cooper. He has practiced law in Lexington, NC, since 1992.

Nick Valaoras received an AV® Rating from Martindale-Hubbell, a peer review rating designed to reflect an attorney’s ethical standards and ability. He was also named to the 2021 edition of The Best Lawyers in America in workers’ compensation law. He is an attorney at Cranfill Sumner & Hartzog LLP in Charlotte.

1993

Beth Tate Hondros was named to the 2021 edition of The Best Lawyers in America for family law. She is a partner at James, McElroy and Diehl PA in Charlotte.

Andrew K. McVey was named to Business North Carolina’s 2021 Legal Elite for litigation and to the 2021 North Carolina Super Lawyers list for employment & labor law. He is an attorney at Murchison, Taylor & Gibson PLLC in Wilmington, NC.

Michael G. Young was appointed an administrative law judge (ALJ) by The Federal Mine Safety and Health Review Commission. Young has worked with the commission since 2003 as a commissioner and attorney-advisor. As an ALJ, he will provide independent review and issue decisions governing alleged violations and civil penalties in proceedings under the Mine Safety and Health Act of 1977.

1994

William Derasmo was named to the 2021 edition of The Best Lawyers in America for energy law. He is a partner at Troutman Pepper LLP in Washington, DC. When he’s



Van Zant
(‘94)



Ramseur
(‘95)



Goodson
(‘96)



Inabinett
(‘96)



Kitchin
(‘96)

not practicing law, he enjoys running with his wife, Jennifer, and watching his three children compete in various sports, including his oldest daughter, Kelly, who is a collegiate swimmer.

Jennifer Van Zant was named a 2021 N.C. Super Lawyer and one of the state’s Top 50 Women Lawyers. She was recognized by Chambers USA as one of America’s leading lawyers for antitrust law and was named to Business North Carolina’s 2021 Legal Elite for appellate and litigation law. She is a partner at Brooks Pierce in Greensboro, NC

1995

Deanna Davis Anderson was named to the 2021 edition of The Best Lawyers in America for medical malpractice and professional malpractice law. She was also named “Lawyer of the Year” in Raleigh for professional malpractice law — defendants. She is an attorney at Smith Anderson in Raleigh.

Curtis C. Brewer IV was named to the 2021 edition of The Best Lawyers in America for corporate law, leveraged buyouts and private equity, mergers & acquisitions, private funds/hedge funds and venture capital law. He is an attorney at Smith Anderson in Raleigh.

Robert J. Ramseur Jr. was named a 2021 N.C. Super Lawyer, one of the Best Lawyers in America and was named to Business North Carolina’s 2021 Legal Elite for real estate law. He is a partner at Ragsdale Liggett PLLC in Raleigh, NC

Edwin L. West III was named a 2021 N.C. Super Lawyer and named to Business North Carolina’s 2021 Legal Elite for criminal law. He is an attorney in the Brooks Pierce offices in Raleigh and Wilmington, NC

1996

W. Ross Forbes Jr. was named to the 2021 edition of The Best Lawyers in America for commercial litigation. He is a partner in the Dallas office of Jackson Walker LLP.

Patricia W. Goodson was recognized by Chambers USA as one of America’s leading lawyers for labor & employment law. She is a partner at Brooks Pierce in Raleigh, NC

David E. Inabinett was named to the 2021 edition of The Best Lawyers in America for elder law, trust and estates. He is a member of the National Academy of Elder Law Attorneys and has received an AV™ Preeminent Peer Rating from Martindale-Hubbell. He is a managing member of Brinkley Walser Stoner PLLC, working in the firm’s offices in Greensboro and Lexington, NC.

Henry “Hal” Kitchin Jr. was named to Business North Carolina’s 2021 Legal Elite for litigation. He was named to the Legal Elite Hall of Fame for antitrust law in 2019. He is a partner at McGuireWoods LLP in Wilmington, NC.

R. Keith Shackelford has joined the board of directors and is treasurer of the Wake Forest College Birthplace Society, which operates the Wake Forest Historical Museum and the Dr. Calvin Jones House in Wake Forest, NC. He is an attorney with Warren, Shackelford & Thomas PLLC in Wake Forest.



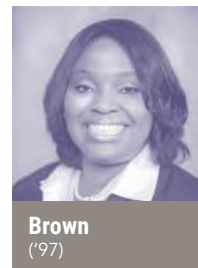
Shackelford
(‘96)



Wang
(‘96)



Waugh
(‘96)



Brown
(‘97)

Amy Pinne Wang was appointed chair of the Environment, Energy & Natural Resources Law Section of the North Carolina Bar Association. She is an environmental attorney at Ward and Smith PA in New Bern, NC. She leads the firm’s environmental practice group and its Green Initiative, which promotes environmentally sustainable professional practices.

Derek Waugh was named athletic director at Marist School, a private Catholic school in the Atlanta metro area. He has more than 20 years’ experience in athletics at BSN Sports apparel and equipment, as president and CEO of the Georgia Sports Hall of Fame, athletic director at Dalton State College and head men’s basketball coach and assistant athletic director at Stetson University.

1997

Bonita Hairston Brown was appointed to Education Design Lab’s Designers in Residence program, a national initiative that aims to close economic and racial opportunity gaps in higher education. She was one of 12 individuals chosen to participate in the program, which is funded by the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation. She is vice president and chief strategy officer at Northern Kentucky University.

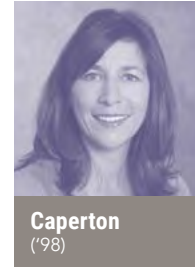
Jeffrey Harvey joined Holland & Knight LLP as a partner in the law firm’s Dallas office. He advises clients on an array of business and finance matters, including mergers and acquisitions, securities, intel-



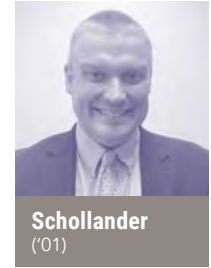
Lee ('97)



Reinke ('97)



Caperton ('98)



Schollander ('01)

lectual property and compliance. He was previously executive vice president and general counsel of PrimeSource Building Products based in Dallas.

Dan Katzenbach was recognized as one of the Best Lawyers in America and named to Business North Carolina's 2021 Legal Elite for construction law. He is an attorney at Cranfill Sumner & Hartzog LLP in Raleigh.

Michael V. Lee was named to Business North Carolina's 2021 Legal Elite for real estate law and to the 2021 North Carolina Super Lawyers list for real estate law. He is a partner at Lee Kaess PLLC in Wilmington, NC, and is serving his third term in the North Carolina Senate.

Anne Reinke was named president and CEO of the Transportation Intermediaries Association, a trade association representing the third-party logistics industry. Reinke is an attorney and a former executive at CSX Transportation. She lives in Alexandria, VA.

1998

Christopher K. Behm was named to Business North Carolina's 2021 Legal Elite for construction law and to the 2021 North Carolina Super Lawyers list for construction litigation. He is a partner at Block, Crouch, Keeter, Behm & Sayed LLP in Wilmington, NC.

Julie Leon Caperton was named head of Wells Fargo Private Bank, a division of Wells Fargo Wealth & Investment Management (WIM). She continues as head of the Banking, Lending & Trust Center of Excellence for WIM. She has been with Wells Fargo and its predecessor organizations for almost 20 years and has been named multiple times to American Banker's list of the "Most Powerful Women in Banking."

Coe W. Ramsey was named a 2021 N.C. Super Lawyer and was recognized by

Chambers USA as one of America's leading lawyers in intellectual property law. He is a partner at Brooks Pierce in Raleigh.

Matt Schad was elected to the board of directors for BIFMA, a nonprofit trade association for business and institutional furniture manufacturers. He is CEO of Nucraft Furniture Company near Grand Rapids, MI.

1999

Jill Mahonchak Andersen was named to the board of directors for the Girl Scouts of North New Jersey. She is general counsel and chief compliance officer for Oyster Point Pharma Inc. She was an assistant U.S. attorney in New Jersey and held leadership roles at major life sciences companies, including Novartis, Celgene Corporation and Bristol Myers Squibb.

James B. Black IV was named to the 2021 edition of The Best Lawyers in America in workers' compensation law. He is an attorney at Cranfill Sumner & Hartzog LLP in Raleigh.

2000

P. Kevin Berger was elected by his fellow commissioners as Vice Chair of the Rockingham County (NC) Board of Commissioners. An attorney in Madison (NC) with the Berger Law Firm PC, he was first elected as a county commissioner in 2016 and is a past board chair.

Jason R. Harris was recognized as one of the Best Lawyers in America and named a 2021 N.C. Super Lawyer for transportation & maritime law. He is a partner at Cranfill Sumner & Hartzog LLP in Wilmington, NC.

Donald R. Pocock was appointed to the North Carolina Bar Association Judicial Independence & Integrity Committee. He

is a partner at Nelson Mullins law firm in Winston-Salem. His practice areas include banking and financial services, insurance and construction law.

Ben Sharkey was elevated to managing principal of the Jacksonville, FL, office of the national law firm Jackson Lewis PC. He has more than 20 years of experience representing management in all facets of employment litigation.

2001

Wes Schollander was appointed to complete an unexpired term in the North Carolina House of Representatives until last November's election. He was also appointed a trustee in United States Bankruptcy Court, where he focuses on Chapter 11 bankruptcy filings in the Middle District of North Carolina. He lives in Winston-Salem, where he practices law and lives with his wife and 6-year-old twins.

Elise Morgan Whitley was named a fellow of the American Academy of Matrimonial Lawyers (AAML). She is one of only 35 AAML fellows in North Carolina. Whitley is a partner at Kurtz Evans Whitley Guy & Simos PLLC in Winston-Salem and an adjunct professor of family law at Wake Forest School of Law.

2002

Danielle De Angelis has joined Advocate Family Law Group in Lexington, NC. She has practiced family law in North Carolina since 2002.

Jill Peters Kaess was named to Business North Carolina's 2021 Legal Elite for tax/estate planning law and to the 2021 North Carolina Super Lawyers list for estate planning & probate. She is a partner at Lee Kaess PLLC in Wilmington, NC.



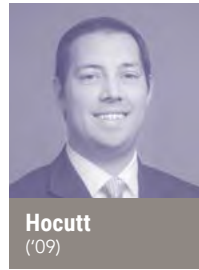
Brown
(‘03)



Hefferan
(‘03)



Johnson
(‘05)



Hocutt
(‘09)



Pendleton
(‘10)

Todd King was named to the 2021 edition of The Best Lawyers in America in personal injury litigation. He is an attorney at Cranfill Sumner & Hartzog LLP in Charlotte.

Jason Michael Peltz (‘02) was appointed to a three-year term on the Real Property Section Council of the North Carolina Bar Association. He is a managing partner at Worley & Peltz PLLC in Asheville, NC.

Gina Russo was appointed Franklin County (OH) Municipal Court judge by Gov. Mike DeWine. She previously was a judge on the Franklin County Court of Common Pleas, an assistant prosecuting attorney in the Franklin County Prosecutor’s Office and an attorney in the private sector.

2003

T.L. Brown received Wells Fargo’s Golden Spoke Award, given to the top 1% of sales and service performers. He is a senior fiduciary risk consultant at Wells Fargo in Winston-Salem. He serves on the board of Novant Health Forsyth Medical Center Foundation and the board of visitors for the Wake Forest School of Law.

Jim Hefferan Jr. serves on the city council and is mayor pro team in Belmont, NC. He is an attorney at Kilpatrick Townsend in Winston-Salem.

Robert “Robby” Lawson is a partner in the Raleigh office of Williams Mullen and chair of the law firm’s Diversity and Inclusion Committee. He joined the firm in 2010 and focuses on commercial real estate. He was named to Business North Carolina’s Legal Elite Hall of Fame in 2013.

2004

Gregory Wall joined Hunton Andrews Kurth LLP as counsel in the law firm’s Rich-

mond, VA, office. He spent the previous 11 years as counsel at the Environmental Protection Agency, earning a reputation as a top Superfund lawyer. He continues to focus on environmental regulatory issues at Hunton and is an adjunct professor at William & Mary Law School.

2005

Kerry E. Johnson was named to Crain’s Chicago Business’ list of the 2020 Notable Women in Law. She is a partner in the finance practice and co-chair of the real estate sector at DLA Piper in Chicago.

Michael Snizek was named managing partner at Buckley & Snizek PA, formerly Buckley Law Group, with offices in New York City, Dallas, Los Angeles and Florida. He is based in the New York office.

2006

Helen Tarokic was named to the 2021 North Carolina Super Lawyers list for immigration law. She is manager attorney at Helen Tarokic Law PLLC in Wilmington, NC, which specializes in immigration and nationalization law.

2007

Linda Baugher Malone joined the law office of Howard, Stallings, From, Atkins, Angell & Davis PA as an attorney in the New Bern, NC, office. She lives in Trent Woods, NC, with her husband, Dennis, and their three children.

Heather Trostle Smith was re-elected to a three-year term on the Allegheny County (PA) Bar Association’s Judiciary Committee. She is a partner in the Pittsburgh family law firm Pollock Begg.

2008

Dyan Kozaczka joined Siegel & Kaufman PC as a partner in the law firm’s Stamford, CT, office. She was named in 2016 to the Westchester & Fairfield County (CT) Business Journals’ “40 Under 40” list.

Kelsey Hendry Mayo is serving as outside director of regulatory policy for the American Retirement Association (ARA). She is a partner in the Raleigh and Charlotte law offices of Poyner Spruill LLP, where she focuses on employee benefits and executive compensation. She has been with Poyner Spruill since 2008.

Clint Morse was named a 2021 Rising Star for business litigation by N.C. Super Lawyers and was named to Business North Carolina’s 2021 Legal Elite for bankruptcy law. He is an attorney at Brooks Pierce in Greensboro, NC.

Michael Oliverio joined the law firm Vorys, Sater, Seymour & Pease LLP as a partner in its Pittsburgh office. He has more than a decade of experience representing clients in complex litigation matters, particularly in the fossil fuel, technology and securities industries.

Jeff Wolfe is special counsel at Schell Bray PLLC in the law firm’s corporate practice group. He splits time between offices in Chapel Hill, Winston-Salem and Greensboro, NC.

2009

Adam Hocutt was named managing partner at Dozier Miller Law Group in Charlotte, where he practices as a civil litigation and personal injury attorney.

Kristen M. Kirby was named a “Young Gun” by Business North Carolina on its



Simmons
(’10)



Choi
(’11)



Bell
(’12)



Erwin
(’12)



Murdock
(’12)

2021 Legal Elite list. She is a partner at McGuireWoods LLP in Raleigh.

Douglas E. Kingston is a partner in the Philadelphia law office of Morgan, Lewis & Bockius LLP. He specializes in business law, including mergers and acquisitions, venture capital and financing transactions.

2010

Sam Metzler was promoted to senior vice president at Quality Oil Company in Winston-Salem, where he’s worked since 2014. He serves on the boards of Forsyth County Veterans Treatment Court, Leadership Winston-Salem, Dress for Success Winston-Salem and Sawtooth School for Visual Art. He served in the U.S. Army’s Judge Advocate General’s (JAG) Corps.

Mark Pendleton was promoted to shareholder at Dallas-based law firm Hallett & Perrin PC. He is a member of the firm’s corporate section and focuses primarily on the energy industry. He joined the firm in 2013.

Emile C. Thompson was confirmed as commissioner for the Public Service Commission of the District of Columbia, which regulates electric, natural gas and telecom companies. He is an assistant U.S. attorney general for the District of Columbia, where he lives with his wife and children.

Jerri Simmons was named a 2021 Rising Star for workers’ compensation by North Carolina Super Lawyers. She is a partner at Cranfill Sumner & Hartzog LLP in Charlotte.

2011

Jason Benetti signed a multiyear broadcasting contract extension with ESPN. He has worked as a play-by-play announcer for college football and basketball games and Major League Baseball games since

2011. He is also the play-by-play announcer for the Chicago White Sox.

Meggan Bushee is general counsel and chief compliance officer at Crossroads Treatment Centers, a national leader in the treatment of opioid abuse and addiction. She has worked in health care law for nearly a decade, previously at Elite Surgical Affiliates. She lives in Charlotte.

Erin Tanner Choi was named to the 2021 edition of “Best Lawyers: Ones to Watch,” an inaugural list recognizing top U.S. lawyers who have been in private practice less than 10 years. She was also named a 2021 Texas Rising Star for litigation by Super Lawyers. She is an associate in the Dallas office of the international law firm Weil, Gotshal & Manges LLP.

Emily Yandle Rottmann was elected partner at McGuireWoods LLP in Jacksonville, FL. She joined the law firm in 2011, focusing on commercial and class action litigation.

2012

Stephen J. Bell was named a 2021 Rising Star for business litigation by North Carolina Super Lawyers. He is an associate at Cranfill Sumner & Hartzog LLP in Wilmington, NC.

Miles S. Bruder was elected partner in the Raleigh office of Williams Mullen. He has been with the law firm since 2012 and practices corporate law.

Scott M. Douglass was elected shareholder at Patterson Intellectual Property Law. He practices in the firm’s offices in Nashville and Memphis, TN, focusing on trademarks, copyrights and data privacy law. He has worked at the firm since 2012.

Brodie D. Erwin joined the Raleigh office of Kilpatrick Townsend & Stockton LLP as counsel on the labor & employment team. He previously was with Ogletree Deak-

ins. He is a former member of the Wake County Bar Association’s board of directors and served as president of the bar association’s Young Lawyers Division. He is a board member and active fundraiser for the Boys & Girls Clubs of Wake County.

Daniel Murdock was promoted to assistant general counsel for Indivior Inc., a global specialty pharmaceutical company based in Richmond, VA.

Davis Roach was named to the 2021 edition of “Best Lawyers: Ones to Watch,” an inaugural list recognizing top U.S. lawyers who have been in private practice less than 10 years. He is an attorney at Smith Anderson in Raleigh, where he focuses on commercial, construction and corporate law.

Heath Tripp was named to the 2021 edition of “Best Lawyers: Ones to Watch,” an inaugural list recognizing top U.S. lawyers who have been in private practice less than 10 years. He is an attorney at Smith Anderson in Raleigh, where he focuses on corporate law, finance and mergers & acquisitions.

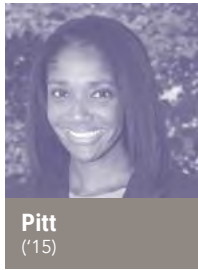
2013

Dana Brinkley Bell was named pre-award coordinator and part of the leadership team in UNC Wilmington’s Office of Sponsored Programs and Research Compliance. Bell came to UNCW in January as a proposal development specialist after working in research administration at the Medical University of South Carolina.

Robert Y. Bennett Jr. was named a senior associate in the New York law office of Ropes & Gray LLP, where he concentrates on corporate finance and restructuring matters. He was previously an associate at Paul, Weiss, Rifkind, Wharton & Garrison LLP in New York.



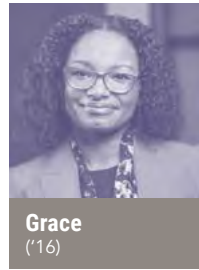
Griffin
(‘15)



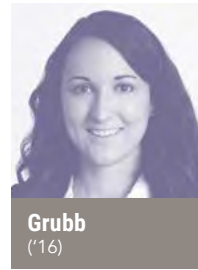
Pitt
(‘15)



Bowie
(‘16)



Grace
(‘16)



Grubb
(‘16)

Kelley Chan Gass was named one of the Secured Finance Network’s 40 Under 40 for 2020 in legal services. Gass is an associate in the commercial finance practice at Parker, Hudson, Rainer & Dobbs LLP in Atlanta.

S. Cooper Hawley joined K&L Gates LLP as an associate attorney. He practices with the mergers and acquisitions group in the firm’s Charleston, SC, office. He was an associate with Paul, Weiss, Rifkind, Wharton & Garrison LLP in New York.

Sam Wellborn was named vice chair of the Diversity Committee of the South Carolina Bar. He is an associate with the law firm Robinson Gray in Columbia.

Douglas Walters is an associate in the Cleveland office of Ohio-based law firm Brouse McDowell, where he specializes in bankruptcy law. He previously was with Joseph D. Carney & Associates LLC.

Melissa Mary Wilson is pursuing a Ph.D. in public policy at UNC Charlotte. She is studying justice policy with a research focus on animal cruelty legislation and enforcement. She is receiving full funding for tuition and a research assistantship. She taught ecological ethics and pre-law courses part-time at UNCC the previous three years.

Meredith FitzGibbon Hamilton has received an AV Rating from Martindale-Hubbell, a peer review rating that reflects an attorney’s ethical standards and professional ability. She is an associate attorney in the Charlotte office of Cranfill Sumner & Hartzog LLP, where she focuses on employment law and defense of municipalities and public entities.

Tim Reading was one of four individuals to receive the 2020 Distinguished Alumni Award from Catawba College. Reading, a 2010 graduate, is managing attorney at Davis & Davis Attorneys at Law PC in Salisbury.

2014

Destin C. Hall is serving his third term in the North Carolina House of Representatives. A Republican from Caldwell County, Hall, 33, is the first millennial to chair the House Rules Committee and is also chair of the Redistricting Committee. He is a partner at the law firm Wilson, Lackey, Rohr & Hall PC in Lenior.

2015

Katy Jobe Griffin was named executive director of the North Carolina Alliance of Public Health Agencies, the North Carolina Association of Local Health Directors and the North Carolina Public Health Association.

Jasmine Pitt was recognized by North Carolina Lawyers Weekly as a Rising Star. She is an associate attorney in the Charlotte office of Cranfill Sumner LLP, where she focuses on employment law and defense of public and private employees.

2016

Alan Bowie Jr. is president of the George W. Crawford Black Bar Association, a volunteer-led organization of attorneys, judges and law students in Connecticut. At age 28, Bowie is one of the youngest presidents to lead the association, which raises a collective voice on issues affecting black attorneys and the community. Bowie is an associate at Carmody Torrance Sandak & Hennessey in his native New Haven, CT.

Joshua P. Bussen was a law clerk to Judge Joseph F. Bianco of the 2nd U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals. Bussen lives in New York City.

Dawnielle Keith Grace was elected to a three-year term on the Winston-Salem Symphony board of directors. She is the founder and owner of en•lign counsel+compliance, a Winston-Salem law firm focusing on corporate and employment law.

Alicha Grubb was named to The Roanoker magazine’s list of “40 Under 40,” which recognizes young leaders in Roanoke, VA. She is a commercial litigation attorney at Gentry Locke Attorneys in Roanoke. She is chair of Roanoke Neighborhood Advocates, a tutor and board member of Blue Ridge Literacy and a graduate of Leadership Roanoke Valley.

2017

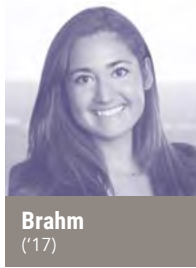
Amanda M. Brahm joined Carlton Fields PA as an associate in the law firm’s labor & employment practice in Hartford, CT.

Joel “Jay” Berly completed his second federal clerkship and joined Butler Snow LLP as an associate in the commercial litigation group in the Charleston, SC, office.

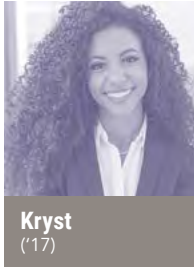
Ashley Barton Chandler joined Fox Rothschild LLP in Greensboro, NC, as an associate in the law firm’s litigation department. She represents clients in various commercial disputes.

Katherine Haddock was named a 2021 Rising Star in immigration law by North Carolina Super Lawyers. She is a senior associate attorney at Helen Tarokic Law PLLC in Wilmington, NC. She made a virtual presentation at the American Immigration Lawyers Association Human Trafficking Seminar in June.

Cheslie Kryst completed her term as Miss USA in November 2020. Because of COVID-19, her term was extended by six months, making her the longest-reigning Miss USA in history. She is now a full-time correspondent for the entertainment news program “Extra” in New York City. Before the Miss USA pageant, she was a civil lit-



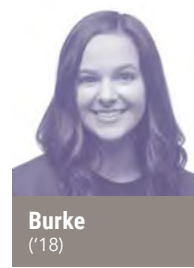
Brahm
(‘17)



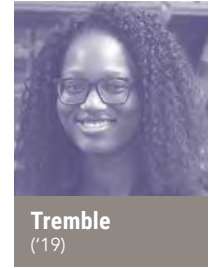
Kryst
(‘17)



Lathrop
(‘17)



Burke
(‘18)



Tremble
(‘19)

igation attorney at Poyner Spruill LLP in Charlotte.

James F. Lathrop joined Robinson+Cole in Wilmington, DE, as an associate in the law firm’s Bankruptcy + Reorganizations group. He previously worked in the New York office of Kirkland & Ellis LLP.

Nicholas Presentato has joined Advocate Family Law Group in Lexington, NC. He practices family law in Davie, Davidson and Forsyth counties.

2018

Emily C. Burke joined Maynard Cooper & Gale LLP as an associate in the financial services litigation practice group. She is based in the law firm’s Birmingham, AL, office.

2019

Shawna M. Abbatiello is an assistant public defender in the Public Defender’s Office in Jacksonville, FL. She previously clerked for Judge Robert J. Humphreys on the Virginia Court of Appeals.

Juliana Vergara Duque is an associate attorney at the Law Offices of James Scott Farrin in Winston-Salem, where she focuses on personal injury law.

Alexis Tremble is an assistant district attorney in Gaston County (NC).

2020

Jordan A. Castroverde joined Shutts & Bowen LLP in Jacksonville, FL, as an associate in the corporate practice group.

Ryan C. Dibilio joined the law firm Robinson Bradshaw as an associate attorney

in the Charlotte office. He was an editor of the Wake Forest Law Review as a law student.

Brandon Larose joined the law firm Robinson Bradshaw as an associate attorney in the Charlotte office. While in law school, he was the overall winner of the Wake Forest Transactional Law Competition, which showcases contract analysis, drafting and negotiation skills.

Caroline Hamilton joined Hahn Loeser & Parks LLP as an associate in the law firm’s Cleveland office.

Timothy P. Misner joined the law firm Robinson Bradshaw as an associate attorney in the Charlotte office. While in law school, he was an editor of the Wake Forest Journal of Business & Intellectual Property Law.

Sarahanne Y. Vaughan joined Bradley Arant Boult Cummings LLP in Birmingham, AL, as an associate in the Labor and Employment Practice Group

WEDDINGS

Alexandria “Alex” Reyes (‘09) and Courtney Schroeder, 11/28/20 in La Jolla, CA. They live in Minneapolis.

Robert Y. Bennett Jr. (‘13) and Kathleen Elizabeth Reilly, 8/22/20 in Beach Haven, NJ. They live in New York City. The wedding party included **Alexander Bennett (‘22)** and **Cooper Hawley (‘13)**.

Madison Kerry Benedict (‘16) and Byron James Wyche, 5/15/21 in San Antonio, TX. They live in Austin, TX.

BIRTHS

Neubia LeChelle Williams Harris (‘10) and Michael Harris, Raleigh: a son, James Preston. 2/18/20

Robert Robine (‘10) and Aggie Robine, Alexandria, VA: a son, Ryan Alexander. 12/8/20. He joins his sister, Emma Katherine (2).

Thomas Sander (‘11) and Kate Lord, Brooklyn, NY: a son, Oliver John. 3/29/20

Matthew Moore Pagett (‘12) and Elizabeth Ann Overcash, Durham, NC: a daughter, Emma Grace. 2/22/20. She joins her brother, Henry Moore (3).

Katharine Yale Barnes (‘16) and William Lee Barnes II, Charlotte: a son, Miles Alexander. 3/11/20

Weston Philip Harty (‘17) and Rachel Raimondi (‘17), Brooklyn, NY: a son, Finneghan Roux Cian Raimhart. 11/5/20

Robert “Ted” Saint Jr. (‘19) and Alexandra Saint, San Diego: a son, Kirklin Arthur. 6/20/20

DEATHS

James N. Martin Sr. (‘43), June 19, 2020, Virginia Beach, VA. He was a World War II veteran. Martin was a career officer with the Navy’s Judge Advocate General Corps and a North Carolina district court judge.

Frederic Hofmann (‘49), Nov. 30, 2020, Jacksonville, FL. He worked for American Title Insurance Company in Miami. He built and lived aboard a 52-foot trimaran.

Perry Whitehead Martin Sr. (‘50), May 28, 2020, Ahoskie, NC. He served in the U.S. Army, practiced law and was a North

Carolina Superior Court judge. He was elected to the N.C. House of Representatives and Senate.

Thomas "Worth" Coltrane Sr. ('51), July 9, 2020, Palm Coast, FL. He served in the U.S. Navy in World War II. He practiced law in Asheboro, NC, and was county attorney for Randolph County (NC). He also chaired the Randolph County Republican Party and was a member of the University of North Carolina board of governors.

Charles Gaston Lee III ('51), March 30, 2021, Asheville, NC. He served in the Merchant Marines and the U.S. Army Signal Corps during World War II. He was a retired attorney and a past chair of the board of directors of Asheville Federal Savings and Loan Association.

Otto K. Pridgen II ('53), June 10, 2020, Wilmington, NC. He practiced law in Wilmington for more than 60 years. Known to his friends as "O.K.," he served five years as chair of the New Hanover County Board of Elections.

Bernard "Bernie" Allen Harrell ('54), June 19, 2020, Raleigh. He served in the U.S. Army's Judge Advocate General's Corps. He practiced law for more than 50 years in the Raleigh area and was a North Carolina assistant attorney general.

Alan Joseph White ('55), June 20, 2021, Milton, GA. He served in the U.S. Navy. He retired in 2003 as an administrative law judge for the Social Security Administration in Atlanta.

Gilbert "Gil" Henry Burnett ('56), Nov. 9, 2020, Wilmington, NC. He served in the U.S. Army Air Corps during World War II. He was retired chief judge of North Carolina's 5th Judicial District in New Hanover and Pender counties. He received a lifetime achievement award from the Wilmington Star-News.

Edward Allen Lassiter ('57), Aug. 13,

2020, Arden, NC. He served in the U.S. Army's Judge Advocate General's Corps for 30 years and earned numerous distinctions, including the Legion of Merit and Bronze Star Medal.

Koy Ellis Dawkins Sr. ('59), Oct. 1, 2020, Monroe, NC. He served in the U.S. Army. He founded Dawkins, Glass and Lee and was the longtime attorney for the Union County (NC) School Board. He helped found the Union County Community Arts Council and received lifetime achievement awards from the arts council and the Union County Bar Association.

Thomas Sampson "Sam" Royster Jr. ('61), Dec. 24, 2020, Oxford, NC. He was a U.S. Army veteran. He worked at his family's law firm in Oxford and later started a land development company. In 1992 he received the Order of the Long Leaf Pine from North Carolina Gov. Jim Martin.

Andrew "Andy" Arthur George Canoutas ('62), Aug. 3, 2020, Wilmington, NC. He was town attorney for Kure Beach, NC, for 57 years. He was a member of the Samuel Wait Legacy Society.

Dewey Blake Yokley ('63), Oct. 5, 2020, Winston-Salem. He was an attorney in private practice and with the Forsyth County District Attorney's Office.

Larry Edwin Harrington ('64), Jan. 16, 2021, Marshville, NC. He practiced law for 55 years and was a county commissioner in Union County (NC).

Alfred J. Onorato ('65), Dec. 10, 2020, New Haven, CT. He was an attorney, public defender and prosecutor in New Haven for 55 years and served in the Connecticut General Assembly from 1979 to 1985 representing the 97th District.

H. Allen Autry Sr. ('66), Nov. 7, 2020, Fort Lauderdale, FL. He was a prominent businessman in South Florida and an author who wrote, "I Am Florida," which became the state poem of Florida and was

later recorded as one of the official state songs.

Carlos "Buddy" William Murray Jr. ('67), July 24, 2020, Williamston, NC. He was a criminal defense attorney in Raleigh and a former district court judge. After retiring, he taught business law at East Carolina University. He was a member of the Samuel Wait Legacy Society.

Kenneth Allen Moser ('68), Jan. 13, 2021, Winston-Salem. He practiced law with Womble Carlyle Sandridge & Rice (now Womble Bond Dickinson) for 43 years, including seven years as managing partner of the Winston-Salem office, before retiring in 2012. He was a former president of the law school's alumni council and a member of the law school's board of visitors; a past chair of Golden Deacs (formerly Half Century Club); and a member of the Wake Forest Alumni Council and the Samuel Wait Legacy Society. Survivors include son John Kenneth Moser ('00).

Lawrence "Nick" Gordon Jr. ('70), May 27, 2020, Winston-Salem. He had a private law practice for more than 45 years and served two years as Forsyth County's Clerk of Superior Court. He was also an adjunct professor at Wake Forest School of Law. He received a lifetime achievement award from the Forsyth County Bar Association.

Max Justice ('70), Jan 31, 2020, Charlotte. After law school, where he was associate editor of the Law Review, he joined the Charlotte law firm of what was then Grier, Parker and Poe (now Parker Poe) and retired after 30 years. He earned many honors in his specialty, environmental law. He served on the law school's Alumni Council and Board of Visitors. He helped establish the North Carolina Guardian ad Litem program in Charlotte, which advocates for abused and neglected children in the courts.

William "Bill" Maddox Cobb Jr. ('72),

July 3, 2020, Bethania, NC. He was a consultant and financial planner in Winston-Salem before opening his own law and consulting practice.

Durwood S. Laughinghouse ('74), Nov. 19, 2020, Raleigh. He retired as resident vice president of Norfolk Southern Corporation after 24 years. He practiced law and was a North Carolina wildlife commissioner. In 2018 Gov. Roy Cooper awarded him the Order of the Long Leaf Pine.

Vessie "Jean" Burkins Cureton ('75), July 13, 2020, Columbia, SC. She practiced governmental law in Wake County (NC) and Columbia.

Nicholas "Nick" John Dombalis II ('75), Oct. 17, 2020, Raleigh. He was a partner in Nicholls & Crampton PA in Raleigh. Survivors include sister Mary D. Winstead ('81).

Rebecca "Becky" J. Ferguson ('75), June 23, 2020, West Alexandria, OH. She was an attorney for the Preble County (OH) prosecutor's office for nearly 30 years and was the first woman elected county prosecutor. She received the Distinguished Service Award from the Ohio State Bar Association in 1998.

Michael Gray Gibson ('75), May 12, 2020, Charlotte. He was a former assistant district attorney for Mecklenburg County (NC) and was a partner at Dean & Gibson Attorneys At Law in Charlotte.

Michael Corbett Stovall Jr. ('76), Feb. 8, 2021, Wilmington, NC. He was president of Genie Oil & Gas Corporation in Tulsa, OK, before retiring and moving to Wrightsville Beach, NC. He also served as president of the Association of Energy Service Companies, a trade organization, and received its highest honor, the "Golden Rod Wrench Award."

Robert Tait ('76), Feb. 12, 2020, Cary, NC. He was a U.S. Army veteran who served in Vietnam in 1969 and 1970 and as provost marshal in the Military Police Corp. He re-

tired in 2000 from the U.S. Security and Exchange Commission. He was a member of the Samuel Wait Legacy Society.

Mary McLaughlin "Mary Mac" Pope ('77), Jan. 25, 2021, Vass, NC. She was the youngest female Superior Court judge in North Carolina history, appointed in 1984 at the age of 33. She retired as a partner of Crockett Oldham Pope and Donadio in Southern Pines, NC.

Victoria "Vikki" Farmer Curtis ('80), Jan. 15, 2021, Richmond, VA. She was an attorney with Virginia Electric & Power Co., now Dominion Energy, for 15 years before becoming a teacher and librarian at Good Shepherd Episcopal School and Trinity Episcopal School in Richmond.

Elizabeth "Betsy" Ross Bare ('81), Sept. 6, 2020, Concord, NC. She was a public-school teacher and attorney.

Michael Lee Roberson ('83), Dec. 6, 2020, Cazenovia, NY. He served in the U.S. Navy and was an attorney for more than 35 years, spending the last 28 of them at Carlisle Companies Inc.

Marjorie Rowe Mann ('85), Nov. 6, 2020, Asheville, NC. She practiced law in Charlotte and Asheville and was the owner of Asheville Gymnastics.

Randall "Randy" David Avram ('86), Jan. 14, 2021, Raleigh. He was a partner at Kilpatrick Townsend & Stockton, where he led the firm's labor and employment team and represented many Fortune 100 companies.

Richard Leo Crouse ('87), Nov. 4, 2020, Bermuda Run, NC. He founded two commercial real estate mortgage companies, including Crouse & Associates, which he owned with his three sons.

Beverly Susan Kirch ('90), Sept. 1, 2020, Hilton Head Island, SC. She was an attorney at Legal Aid of North Carolina and Legal Aid of the Bluegrass in Kentucky.

John Paul Gibson ('96), Dec. 4, 2020, Charlotte. He was a law librarian who had worked at Kilpatrick Townsend & Stockton LLP in Charlotte.

Brian Robert "Rob" Zawrotny ('11), Nov. 16, 2020, Winston-Salem. He was an attorney at Novant Health in Winston-Salem and rose to director and assistant general counsel.

FORMER FACULTY

George D. Newton Jr., Sept. 19, 2020, Winston-Salem. He was an adjunct professor who taught complex civil litigation in the law school for 13 years. Previously he was an attorney in Chicago and deputy general counsel at R.J. Reynolds Tobacco.

David F. Shores, Aug. 9, 2020, Winston-Salem. He was a professor, advisor, and mentor in the law school for 37 years until retiring in 2009. A native of Iowa, he served in the U.S. Army in Korea. He was an attorney with the Federal Trade Commission and in private practice in Columbus, OH, before joining the law school faculty in 1972. He was a member of the Samuel Wait Legacy Society.



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