

# WAKE FOREST JURIST

THE MAGAZINE OF WAKE FOREST LAW

2020

A portrait of Dean Jane Aiken, a woman with long, wavy brown hair, smiling warmly. She is wearing a dark blue blazer over a yellow ribbed top and a black and gold patterned scarf. Her arms are crossed. The background is a blurred bookshelf filled with books.

## THE REAL DEAL

Meet Dean Jane Aiken



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## WAKE FOREST JURIST

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2020 Volume 50

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Jane Aiken, Dean of Wake Forest University School of Law

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# WAKE FOREST JURIST



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## DRAWING ON OUR STRENGTHS, OUR RESILIENCE, AND OUR HOPE

When the dust settles, we will likely be looking back on 2020 as a generation-defining year for our communities, our country, and our world. But perhaps it need not be because of the limitations that the virus suddenly imposed upon us, but because of the resilience, ingenuity, speed, and commitment with which we are adapting and rising to meet the momentous challenge being thrust upon us.

This issue of the *Wake Forest Jurist* was being conceived to be much different back in the Spring than the version you are about to read now. While we were always planning on highlighting the outstanding work of our students and faculty, and the exciting achievements of our alumni that are the hallmark of our Class Notes section, their work took on a heightened significance in a world in which so many of the problems we as lawyers work to resolve have risen to prominence.

Over the summer, the disparities in economic and racial justice came to the forefront once again with a backdrop of a country mired in isolation and confusion. Our communities were being forced to deal with these big questions while we also faced a frightening new pathogen that continues to claim the lives of many of our people at alarming rates. The work being done by our faculty shifted some to issues ranging from analyzing potential breaches of civil liberties including the deleterious effects from unchecked police brutality upon our society, the legitimacy of public health initiatives like quarantine, curfews, and mask requirements to the consequent economic impact of policies designed to address the pandemic.

We have become adept at teleconferencing via Zoom, Webex, and other technologies. We have become accustomed to—though not necessarily fully adapted to—interacting with each other behind masks. We have even become well-versed in terms like *parts-per-million*, *contact-tracing*, and *social distancing* that were once the purview of epidemiologists studying how to prevent the spread of a disease. We have enhanced our focus on leadership and character, developing more effective methods to teach problem-solving skills, communicating across differences, and seeing through others' eyes. Despite the difficulties we face today, we have continued our work, perhaps more determined than ever before, to provide a world-class, relevant legal education to some of our country's brightest minds.

It has been a trying year, but one that has only clarified and strengthened our vision: that our graduates will leave our law school prepared to meet the challenges of the future, with a broad range of practical and technological skills and a commitment to acting with compassion and integrity. Wake Forest Law grads have, and will continue to have, a measurable impact at the local, state, and national levels, and make a lasting difference in their communities anywhere they choose to practice.

So I call upon you, my wonderful Wake Forest Law community, to continue to be the problem-solvers the world needs right now. Let's become the bridges upon which our communities will begin to rebuild the trust necessary to flourish once again. Let's continue our work in all aspects of life in which the access to and advancement of justice matters. Because now more than ever, our work does matter.

With my warmest regards,



*Dean of Wake Forest Law*



THE  
REAL  
DEAL



# Jane Aiken’s path from fearless attorney to visionary educator has seen her influence and transform legal education. As our Dean, she is poised to usher Wake Forest Law into the future.

The story began, perhaps, with a subway stop. Jane Aiken was a community organizer in Washington, D.C., when the Metro system put in a new station in north-west D.C., then a struggling part of the city. Almost immediately, the rents began to rise and the evictions increased. “I’ll never forget my first experience in the neighborhood. As I was walking down the sidewalk, I looked up and saw a U.S. Marshal throwing furniture out of a fifth floor window. Someone’s personal possessions came crashing down and splintered on the sidewalk like so much trash. I was stunned and saddened,” Aiken recalls.

As the community organizing group coped with mass evictions, Aiken began working with women who were victims of domestic violence. “At the time, judges were not awarding these women protection orders unless they had six stitches or a broken bone. If you didn’t have that degree of physical harm, then your only remaining choice was to file for divorce. These women couldn’t afford attorneys for the protection orders. How were they supposed to find representation for an expensive divorce proceeding?”

At that point, Aiken realized that lawyers had the keys to the courthouse, and that their problem-solving abilities had the potential to make a huge impact that could be truly felt in people’s lives. She also saw the gaping social divide between those who could afford legal representation and those who

wandered through a world of random justice. Jane Aiken knew she needed to become a lawyer. She wanted to develop the skills that would allow her to make an impact locally and at the state level, already envisioning how they could be of use nationally across socio-economic strata.

Those who have worked or studied with Jane Aiken describe her as “visionary,” “courageous,” “brilliant,” “leader.” “She is absolutely a fighter in every sense of the word—a leader, a fighter, and an advocate, but all with such extraordinary grace,” said Kristin Henning, law professor and director of the Juvenile Justice Center at Georgetown Law Center, who worked with Aiken for 13 years.

Georgetown Law Dean Bill Treanor adds, “I think, more than anybody, Jane has really thought through what legal education should be, and how you make that vision a reality. She’s a major figure in legal education, well-known through her work on the Council of Legal Education, and very prominent in shaping policy with the ABA.”

Vicki Arroyo, Executive Director of the Georgetown Climate Center, continues, “Jane is a force of nature. She accomplishes so much and she cares so much. And she manages to do that while supporting people who work for her and for the broader community more than anyone I’ve ever met. She is the real deal.”

# Early Years

Growing up in Greenville, South Carolina, Aiken witnessed the transformative years of the Civil Rights Movement and the shift in thinking about gender. “I grew up in a conservative southern family during the 60s. It was a hostile environment around the issues of race, and it was a time when women didn’t have many choices beyond being a wife and a mother.” Aiken adds, “My politics were different from the worldview of my family and neighbors.”

It would be a landmark legal action that would leave a lasting impression on a young Jane Aiken. A U.S. Supreme Court ruling in 1968 forced Greenville schools to fully integrate, but the plan would not take effect until September 1970, 16 years after *Brown v. Board of Education*. Black parents and the NAACP legal fund pushed to integrate immediately, and the U.S. Fourth Circuit agreed.

Because of desegregation, Aiken’s parents moved her from public to private school.

“The new private school had not even been built. We spent that first year at the YMCA. The second year, they opened up the textile hall and put up screens to delineate make-shift classrooms,” Aiken said. “It really affected me to see that so much was happening in the world, and that my home community had such a narrow view. My political science teacher threw me out of class for suggesting that communism might have some approaches that were better than the capitalist approach.”



Jane Aiken served as a member of the Gender Equity Committee at University of South Carolina.

Even as Jane was beginning to seriously question issues around race, gender, and social structures, family pressure channeled her to Hollins College, a traditional southern institution for women. At Hollins, Aiken found much conservative thinking, but the college professors presented interesting horizons in psychology, sociology and political philosophy. For her capstone work, Aiken spent time in Berkeley, California, and then wrote her thesis on the social and political impact of people’s perceptions of gender norms.

## Amendments & Activism

“

My politics were different from the worldview of my family and neighbors.

After Hollins, Aiken moved to Washington, D.C., without a job, but with the vision of making a difference. After asking her state representative for a position, Aiken says she ended up in the Senate mailroom. “It was full of machines that folded letters. We’d catch them, stack them, put them in a box, and then put the box up. I was the first woman they ever hired because I could lift the heavy boxes over my head.”

One of her housemates was working as a congressional fellow with the Senate Subcommittee on Investigations. He encouraged her to seek a fellowship herself. She found one working with Senator Charles Percy (R-Ill.), who was minority leader at the time. His fo-

cus on health and safety led him to sponsor a bill to stop the spraying of the herbicide paraquat on Mexican marijuana. “When marijuana from Mexico came over the border illegally into the U.S., it was coated in this chemical that caused serious lung damage. At the time, Mexico was the source of more than half of all the marijuana smoked in the United States,” Aiken explains. After only five months with Senator Percy’s office, Aiken wrote what eventually was passed as the 1978 amendment to the Security Assistance Act blocking use of the harmful herbicide.

After her fellowship ended, Aiken became that community organizer whose work with battered women led her to law school.

# Public Interest & Professorships

Jane entered New York University (NYU) law school with the Root-Tilden Scholarship. The scholarship (now Root-Tilden-Kern) is awarded to students who intend to pursue public interest law careers after graduation. The program supported how she saw herself as a lawyer and connected her to the public interest law community.

Going to New York for law school became an important step in her life. While she had been an outlier in her politics and worldview in her family and college circle, she found no such limitations in her chosen law school. “In New York you really had to think about yourself, think about your identity, and think about how you wanted to be in the world, because there were so many unique, motivated people there.”



NYU School ID

During her years at NYU, Aiken worked with attorney Liz Fink and paralegal/investigator Frank “Big Black” Smith, who is well-known for his role in the Attica Brothers Legal Defense Committee. Together they brought a civil lawsuit from inmates involved in the 1971 uprising at Attica Correctional Facility in New York. It was a critical moment in the movement for prisoners’ rights. Smith, a former inmate, was among the most brutally injured in the reprisals that followed the uprising. The event ended with 43 people dead and more than 80 wounded. The New York Times called the uprising and the subsequent

26-year civil lawsuit “one of the longest and ugliest chapters in criminal justice history.”

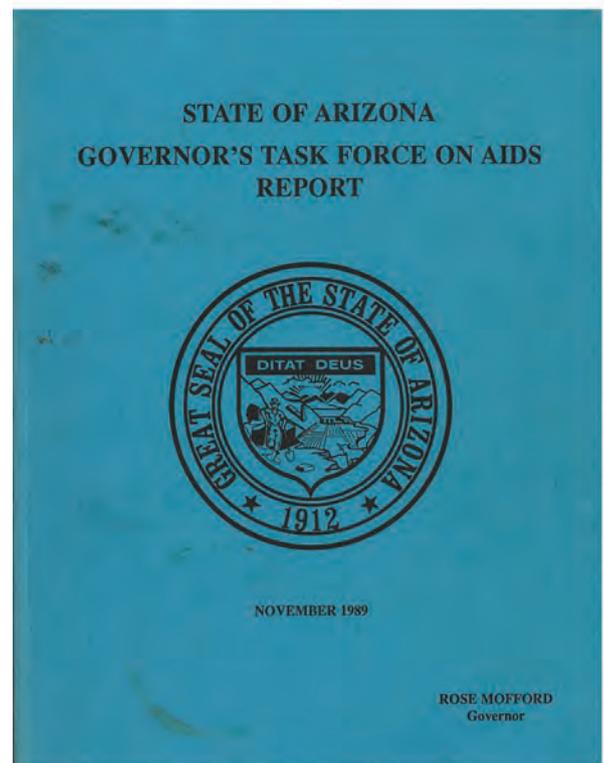
“I learned an enormous amount about being an effective lawyer from this experience. The two of them were a single firm and they did almost all political criminal cases in Federal District Court,” Aiken said.

With policy and criminal law experience under her belt, Aiken moved back to Washington to start a position as a clinical fellow at Georgetown Law School in the Center for Applied Legal Studies. Her plan was to get experience with consumer cases related to Social Security Disability regulation, something she hoped would help her decide what she wanted to do in terms of practicing law.

“And then the teaching bug basically took over,” Aiken said. “It felt like community organizing again, where the goal is to make people feel empowered by working together to make a difference in their lives. When you teach, you teach students how to understand what power they have and to recognize the responsibility that comes from that to do important and good things in the world.”

Seeking a place where she could further develop her teaching, Aiken found Arizona State University School of Law offered a uniquely supportive environment for law professors on the tenure track. This became her next stop. “Their attitude of ‘we will work with you to get you where you need to be’ created the kind of situation that has informed how I am as a faculty member.”

Aiken taught at Arizona State from 1985 to 1991 as a classroom professor. She also helped establish the HIV Legal Clinic “This was early in the epidemic. The clinic served people who had been fired from their jobs for being HIV positive, or had been evicted from their houses. At that time, people with AIDS often became very sick, very fast, only to find that their partners were prevented from visiting them in the hospital because they were not ‘relatives.’ Our clients were newly deprived of the privileges they had come to expect.” They vividly described the harms they were experiencing. Of course these harms were part of the daily lives of the clinic’s other clients, poor, LatinX women who students assisted with many of the same benefits matters. This contrast created opportunities for significant lessons for students and reinforced for Aiken the power of clinical education. Through their service to clients with AIDS, they be-



While on Arizona, Dean Aiken chaired the Governor’s Task Force on AIDS. Her 174 page comprehensive report resulted in the passage of an omnibus AIDS bill.

came even more articulate in advocating for their poor, less privileged clients.

Returning to South Carolina for her youngest sister's high school graduation, Aiken encountered another significant event on that trip home — a blind date set up by a friend. "It was one of those dates where you go to dinner at seven and you still haven't ordered by quarter to 10 because you're so busy talking."

Her date, Thomas Hagerty, earned his JD from the University of South Carolina School of Law in 1982. His background also included Harvard College, the Marine Corps, and investment banking on Wall Street. A month later, Aiken traveled to the North Carolina mountains to work on a book, where the dates with Thomas Hagerty resumed. "He

asked me to marry him after only 20 dates, and I said yes. I can usually make decisions pretty quickly, but this was a doozy. We'll be married 30 years in January."

Professorships at the University of South Carolina School of Law from 1992-97 and Washington University in St. Louis School of Law from 1997-2007 followed, as Aiken developed clinics, taught courses in Evidence and Torts, and won multiple awards for her teaching and scholarship. At Washington University, she was Director of the Civil Justice Clinic and became the inaugural William Van Cleve Professor of Law from 2004-07. During her tenure at Washington University in St. Louis, Aiken served as a Fulbright Scholar to teach at Tribhuvan Law School in Kathmandu, Nepal. She also spent time in Ethiopia working with lawyers and activists

“

In recent decades people have thought about traditional legal education and clinical legal education. Jane really conceptualized a vision that's much more holistic.

—William Treanor



there on women's issues as a State Department senior specialist.

While building her career as a professor, Aiken had three children. She said motherhood was always part of her plan, but like many working mothers, she had to juggle myriad obligations. "I worked full time, and there was no maternity leave. I remember with my last child I was teaching two classes. Three days after a C-section, I was sitting in a chair, teaching. I had a beeper for when I needed to go home and nurse. I guess it's not surprising that my latest article is entitled 'Motherhood as Misogyny.'"

Aiken's three children are now adults. Her oldest daughter is in her second year at Columbia University studying urban planning; her son is starting his residency in pediatrics at Mount Sinai Hospital in New York; and her youngest child is an organizer in Chicago.

*Dean Aiken with family and friends at the Fulbright House in Kathmandu, Nepal.*



*Aiken delivering the inaugural Bloom Professorship address at her Chair installation.*

# Experiential Education

In 2007, Georgetown University Law Center asked Aiken to return as a professor. Aiken said it was a hard decision, because her academic and professional life was full and active, and her family had been happy in St. Louis.

“Georgetown said to me, come here and do whatever you want, you can create any clinic you want, you can teach whatever you want. How could I turn that down? I also felt as though Washington, D.C., would be a dynamic place for my children, even though they would have to change schools,” Aiken said.

As one of her first projects at Georgetown, Aiken established the Community Justice Project. “Her primary focus, particularly in initiating that project was to serve women, and in particular, women in the criminal legal system,” said Henning, law professor at Georgetown Law.

“Every student took on a traditional litigation case, combined with another matter that you

worked on in groups where you were encouraged to take a non-traditional look at how to be an effective advocate,” said Brian Reichart, who earned his JD in 2012 and is now a staff attorney with the Massachusetts Law Reform Institute. Reichart was one of the first students in the Community Justice Clinic. His nontraditional case? Patty Prewitt, a Missouri woman serving life in prison for the murder of her husband. Prewitt maintains that an intruder committed the crime and assaulted her. (Read more about this case on pg. 12.)

“Jane was very much convinced that Patty was innocent and her case was really about confining women to the ‘proper’ gender roles,” Henning said.

Reichart and students in the clinic prepared a clemency petition for Prewitt, and presented it to the new Missouri governor. Several governors later, that petition is still in play. And so is Reichart. He kept working on the case while at Georgetown, and took it with

him after graduation, becoming Prewitt’s attorney of record.

“I believe in the cause. It’s something wrong that needs to be corrected,” Reichart said. “A big reason why I feel that way, so invested, was Jane’s style. The way she ran that clinic, the way she taught you. She gave us the tools to be effective advocates, but also gave us the encouragement young lawyers need to have the courage of their convictions.”

“It seems to be that every single professional discipline, doctors, architects, school teachers, they all have a component of their education that is deeply practical,” Aiken said. “When I started teaching it was not an expectation that there would be clinics. The ABA didn’t require them. It took awhile for us to shift our thinking that this was a critical component of legal education.”

Treanor credits Jane Aiken with leading Georgetown Law’s strong clinical program and creating 19 centers and institutes that provide hands on training and policy for law students. During her time at Georgetown, she served as associate dean of experiential education, associate dean for academic affairs, and vice dean. Along the way she made it her mission to diversify the clinical faculty. “I was pretty aggressive about hiring people of color in leadership roles,” Aiken said.

“In recent decades people have thought about traditional legal education and clinical legal education. Jane really conceptualized a vision that’s much more holistic. It’s focused on, how do you prepare a lawyer? what are the learning outcomes you want to advance? And then, how do you achieve these in a multitude of ways? She is really incredibly deep and thoughtful and creative about pedagogical goals and how you realize them,” Treanor said.

# The Health Justice Alliance

Many of her former colleagues describe Jane Aiken as a persistent partner, a force of nature, a collaborator who works tirelessly to effect change. “She is both so strong and firm in her own beliefs, but also diplomatic and highly personable,” said Georgetown Chief of Staff Alison Spada. “She finds a way to get people to compromise and arrive at a place where everyone feels really good about the decision. That’s a real skill.” A good example of this ability to build consensus and get results is the creation of the Health Justice Alliance.

The Health Justice Alliance is a medical-legal partnership (MLP) between the Georgetown Law and Medical Centers. The MLP

improves the health and well-being of D.C. children and families with law students offering free legal services to low-income patients at MedStar Georgetown health clinics, often working on teams with Georgetown medical students. Founding Co-Director and Professor of Law Vicki Girard says she had been toiling away on the idea since about 2014, and presented on the topic at an Association of American Law Schools (AALS) conference.

An audience member asked Girard if the concept was so great, why didn’t Georgetown have one? “I looked into the audience and there was Vice Dean Jane Aiken marching up to the microphone. She said, ‘Oh, Georgetown will have one. We are in the process of

establishing a medical legal partnership.’ And until that moment, I didn’t quite believe it was going to happen, but when Jane championed the project, I knew it would.”

The Health Justice Alliance became a fact less than a year later, and it is training the next generation of leaders in medicine and law to work together to improve the lives of children and families living in poverty, according to its website. While service is one component of the clinic’s mission, it offers medical and law school students the ability to further their education and gain practical experience.

*Describing the clinical program to accepted students*



## Clinical Education

From very early in her teaching career, Jane Aiken focused on clinical education, which gives law students the opportunity to learn how to practice the law in a safe and supervised environment. This allows students to use their creativity to apply the legal theories learned in the classroom. Jane Aiken wrote the book on clinical education, literally. She co-wrote *The Clinic Seminar and Teaching the Clinic Seminar*, both published in 2014 so that other professors could combine legal education in a clinical setting. Additionally, Aiken co-authored *Putting the “Real World” into Traditional Classroom Teaching*, published by Cambridge University Press in 2016, along with other scholarly articles on clinical education.

“Dewey, who is one of the premiere educational theorists said many years ago, the best way to learn is to do. I believe that, but traditional legal education hadn’t changed in 150 years,” Aiken said. “Since 95 percent of our students go on to practice law, and not become law

professors, they need the practical skills. No one is going to hand a new lawyer a rubric or a syllabus. They must exercise responsibility and judgment and communicate clearly and crisply both in written form and verbally.”

Aiken’s work on the ABA Council for Legal Education between 2011 and 2017 has helped make experiential education the norm for all accredited law schools. “When I was on the Council we moved it from two credits of experience learning to six credits,” she said. “The focus is on education rather than service. Our robust pro bono program gives them service opportunities. We need experiences where students can feel responsible and deal with clients and handle situations. We need to create situations in which students can exercise judgment, take risks and even fail in a safe environment where someone’s watching to make sure the client isn’t harmed and you don’t lose your job. That’s when you can reflect on your decisions and learn.”

# The “Low-Bono Model”

According to Treanor, one of the crises in the provision of legal services are the people who earn a little bit too much to qualify for free legal services, but don't make enough to pay for a lawyer. He credits Aiken with being the driving force behind the D.C. Affordable Law Firm (DCALF) modeled after the residency doctors go through after medical school. In an op-ed in the Washington Post, the pair described the “low-bono” model that led to DCALF. Georgetown Law offers six fellowships, in partnership with area firms to provide salaries, space, support, training, and mentorship for the new lawyers.

“Part of the money for their salary comes from philanthropy, part of it comes from the fees the clients pay,” Treanor explained. The result is a tremendous training ground for public interest lawyers. “She’s a leader who listens, builds agreement, and moves things forward.”

For their work on DCALF, Jane Aiken, William Treanor, and Peter Edelman of Georgetown were recognized among the Top 25 Most Influential People in Legal Education by National Jurist Magazine.



*Dean Aiken working with International Students during her Human Rights Simulation Course at Georgetown Law.*

“

Dewey, who is one of the premiere educational theorists said, many years ago, that the best way to learn is to do. I believe that, but traditional legal education hadn't changed in 150 years. Since 95 percent of our students go on to practice law, and not become law professors, they need the practical skills.

—Dean Aiken

## Externship Program

Kennisha Austin worked with Aiken to expand Georgetown Law's JD externship program, where Austin is director and assistant dean of experiential education. “It's one of the largest externship programs in the nation,” Austin said. “Jane worked closely with me on a complete revision of the curriculum. We added a required one credit letter-graded seminar and Jane was instrumental in making that all come about.”

Rachel Taylor is currently the managing director of ideas42, after 12 years at Georgetown Law. “By the time I left, a quarter of Georgetown Law's curriculum was experiential. Jane just kept building things out and in a very thoughtful way,” Taylor said. “She created the Delaney postgraduate program which was an opportunity for some of our postgraduate students or graduates who were interested in public interest to get professional development instruction tied to the Law Center while they were doing their postgraduate work.”

# 3 NOTABLE CASES

As a lawyer, professor, clinician, administrator, and dean, Jane Aiken has worked on many cases with justice in mind. Here are three cases that she considers important milestones.

## Susan Rosenberg

“A coalition of people and I managed to get President Bill Clinton to give clemency to Susan Rosenberg who was serving a 58-year service for a first offense that other people got 18 months for because she was considered a political activist,” Aiken said. Susan Rosenberg spent 16 years of her sentence in prison for possession of weapons and explosives. Her lawyers maintained that a more usual sentence for the same offense is about five years.

President Clinton commuted Rosenberg’s sentence to time served on his last day in office—January 20, 2001. The pardon was one of 140 granted on Clinton’s last day in office, and politically controversial due to Rosenberg’s identity as a political prisoner.

## Gaining the Release of the Oldest Woman in Missouri Prison System

Shirley Lute was convicted of helping her son kill her husband, who had been abusing her. “She had been told that if she didn’t plead guilty, the prosecutor would seek the death penalty for her son.” Sentenced to life without the possibility of parole for at least 50 years, Lute was 77 when she was released from prison in 2007—the oldest female inmate in the Missouri Department of Corrections at the time. Her case was prosecuted in 1978 when spousal abuse wasn’t considered a mitigating factor. “She had been in prison for 32 years when the clemency petition I drafted was granted,” Aiken said. Aiken’s work on the case began when a group of Mis-

souri law professors formed the Missouri Clemency Coalition. Aiken and her students in the Washington University Civil Justice Clinic worked with the Governor to commute her sentence, but the State Parole Board denied her parole. Next step, the State Supreme Court which ordered her release.

“The most telling thing she said to me was that she finally felt free after a lifetime of abuse,” said Aiken. “And her children called me to tell me that she tucks them in at night, even though they are adults in their 30s. She was imprisoned when they were babies and had missed that maternal life.”

## Patty Prewitt: Wrongly Convicted

Jane Aiken became acquainted with the case of Patty Prewitt while at Washington University School of Law in St. Louis in 2004. Prewitt has steadfastly maintained her innocence despite being charged with and convicted of her husband’s death in 1984. Aiken brought the case to students in the new Community Justice Project she started at Georgetown Law. Brian Reichart was in her first group of clinic students.

Reichart said the autonomy Jane Aiken provided to students working on the cases inspired him to use a broad approach to gain Prewitt’s release.

“Jane worked with her students to draft a clemency request to the governor and spearheaded a media campaign about the eco-

nomic and social costs of keeping a woman like Patty in prison until the age of 86, which is when she would have first been eligible for parole,” Kristin Henning said. “That’s the kind of work that Jane does. She seeks justice.”

“We did submit a clemency petition,” Reichart recalled. “Within a few days we were invited to present it to the Board of Parole in Missouri, the body that recommends whether or not to grant it to the governor. That had never happened before, despite other similar petitions being submitted in the past.”

The semester ended, and Reichart asked to remain involved in the case. After graduation in 2012 Reichart took the case with him, becoming Prewitt’s attorney of record. He has tried creative approaches, such as a geriatric

parole bill, religious support of a petition, and working with legislators to create bipartisan support for clemency.

“It’s almost 10 years later and we are still working on a clemency petition,” Reichart said. “Believe it or not, the clemency petition we submitted back in December 2010 is the petition that remains pending with the governor, even though we are now on governor number three.”

While that may sound daunting, Reichart remains optimistic. “During this time, hundreds of petitions have been rejected, but Patty’s hasn’t. Jane continues to be a tremendous mentor to me on this specific case and in my law career.”



“

Many women stay as second in command because it's natural to support someone. As women, we have learned that so well. It's hard to take yourself seriously to become number one. I think you just have to make the decision to do it and draw on all your talents and take the leap.

— *Dean Aiken*

*Dean Jane Aiken and Dean Emerita Suzanne Reynolds (JD '77), Wake Forest Law welcome event.*

# Welcome to Wake Forest

Aiken served as vice dean from 2015-18 at Georgetown Law. “Many women stay as second in command because it’s natural to support someone. As women, we have learned that so well. It’s hard to take yourself seriously to become number one. I think you just have to make the decision to do it and draw on all your talents and take the leap.”

As Aiken pondered that leap, Wake Forest University reached out during its nationwide search for the new dean of Wake Forest Law. And for the first time, Aiken said, she heard from a law school that really captured her attention.

“A lot of schools were very interested in Jane

becoming dean,” Treanor said. “Wake Forest was the school that she was interested in because it spoke to her at every level with a strong feeling of community, academic excellence and concern for practice. I wasn’t happy she was leaving, but it was an opportunity that really made sense for her. She’s a gifted educator and administrator.”

“She’s a confident leader,” Austin said. “She leads by example and excels at everything she does.”

Aiken said the rising number of women deans is not surprising because women have traditionally worked hard in that number two role, handling everything from adminis-

tration to fundraising to academics and leadership. “When we finally become dean candidates, we look really good compared to our male counterparts who may raise their hands earlier without quite as much experience,” she said. “Talking about that with career advisors was an eye-opener for me about how much women hold themselves back and how much we haven’t learned to self-promote.”

“It’s a hard line to walk, because it’s important to be authoritative and respected, and also to be kind and accessible and service-oriented,” Arroyo said. “I think Jane is really one of the few people of either gender that I’ve seen pull that off.”



*Dean Jane Aiken speaks with students after her “Conversation With” event in Fall 2019.*

As the interview process intensified, Aiken said she realized that Wake Forest felt like home. And then her family shared the reason—deep ties to Wake Forest Law. “It turns out that my grandfather, Henry Russell Harris, Jr. (LLB ’30) graduated from Wake Forest Law. And his father, my great-grandfather, Henry Harris Sr., graduated from Wake Forest College in 1903.”

“Jane Aiken’s distinguished career as an attorney, an advocate, and a teacher-scholar—particularly in the areas of legal education, women’s rights, and evidence—makes her exceptionally well-qualified to lead the Wake Forest University School of Law,” said Wake Forest President Nathan Hatch in the April 2019 announcement. “Her leadership, vision, and energy are exactly what we need to develop the brightest legal minds in the tireless pursuit of justice.”

Aiken began her deanship on July 1, 2019. Her first order of business: one-on-one appointments with every faculty and staff member who wanted to meet to talk about how they experienced Wake Forest Law. From this listening tour,

Jane Aiken sought opportunities to understand the community and look for strengths and challenges in the institution.

Determined to ensure Wake Forest Law was more integrated with the main University, Aiken secured a seat on the Cabinet and volunteered to serve as the head of the COVID-19 Academic Planning Committee. “This committee looks at academic decisions for the whole University. I’m excited to be in this role, because we can focus on not just making undergraduate academic decisions, but choices for the graduate and professional schools,” Aiken said. “Through the Cabinet, I’ve gotten to know so many talented administrators, and learn so much about budgets across the University so I can help the law school gain the recognition it deserves.”



*Given by Wake Forest Law School to Dean Aiken’s grandfather, Class of 30.*

Her Georgetown colleagues universally noted Aiken’s ability and interest in getting to action, describing her as a force, persistent, supportive, and available. “I love making things happen, thinking creatively, and thinking about how to empower students, how to make

Dean Jane Aiken talks with Wake Forest University Provost Rogan Kersh.



Jane Aiken’s distinguished career as an attorney, an advocate, and a teacher-scholar—particularly in the areas of legal education, women’s rights, and evidence—makes her exceptionally well-qualified to lead the Wake Forest University School of Law. Her leadership, vision, and energy are exactly what we need to develop the brightest legal minds in the tireless pursuit of justice.

—President Nathan O. Hatch

them realize how talented they are, how important their work is, and how much difference they can make,” Aiken said.

Creative ideas Aiken planned for Wake Forest Law in her first year include increasing JD dual degree offerings, establishing a cohort of six Leadership and Character Scholars, refreshing clinical education offerings, expanding executive education, exploring the law school’s role in Charlotte, creating a medical-legal partnership, and embarking on a listening tour around North Carolina, New York, Washington D.C., and other cities to meet with law alumni.

About halfway into her first year as Dean, the COVID-19 pandemic hit. “It has been incredibly frustrating. It’s frustrating for everybody,” Aiken said. “How do we handle this? It’s difficult to make plans when things are so unpredictable, there are so many unknowns, and things change regularly.”

But frustration and unpredictability haven’t stopped Jane Aiken yet. The pandemic is no exception.

Dean Jane Aiken teaches evidence during Spring 2020.





# EFFECTIVE IMMEDIATELY

When law school goes online

# OVERNIGHT

**SUNDAY, MARCH 15, 2020 6:48PM**

Dear Wake Forest Law students,

I write to give you some sense of how we will be proceeding in going forward in light of the COVID-19 social distancing restrictions. Please know that student health and safety is our top priority, followed closely by your education...

It's the email no dean wants to write or send, coming on the heels of Wake Forest University's decision to close campus during Spring Break to keep students, staff, and faculty safe as the COVID-19 pandemic escalated. For Dean Jane Aiken and other leaders, both at Wake Forest and across the nation, the crisis caused by the COVID-19 pandemic can be summed up in one word no one wants to hear anymore—unprecedented.

## PIVOT

“We have extensive experience in online teaching and we are small and nimble,” Aiken said in that email. “Indeed, we are spending time thinking not only about how we meet these challenges but also how we can create even more learning as we face this pandemic together.”

Wake Forest Law's years of experience with the fully online Master of Studies in Law (MSL) program allowed faculty and staff to more quickly pivot to remote education for all law students. Scaling up systems and software already used for online education, training sessions for faculty members who had exclusively taught in-person helped them convert the second half of the semester. Furthermore, the personal relationships the professors, students, and staff had already developed allowed them to weather the abrupt change as best as possible.

“We had a fully immersed first semester and we had a fully immersed first half of the second semester. We had already gotten the brief out of the way, and we had already established relationships and friendships,” said Darrien Jones, (JD '22). “I think if I hadn't had that first semester and the first half of the second semester, I think it would have been a much harder experience.”

With a mixture of synchronous and asynchronous classes, students faced midterms and then finals, attending classes in their bedrooms, dens, or kitchen tables. “In my section, we

missed being in class and missed each other, but we could still see each other online. We could joke and have our inside jokes and still have those ties we made in person,” Jones continued.

Professors used their virtual office hours, class sessions, and email to check in with students and offer their encouragement and support. They also recorded video encouragement for exams to help students get through it.

Aiken credits a Law School Board of Visitors (LBOV) meeting just before the campus shut down with helping to lay the groundwork for the transition to remote education. Kellogg's Vice Chairman of Corporate Development and Chief Legal Officer Gary Pilnick led a session on crisis management that addressed the short decision times, high stakes, need for decisive action, and cross-functional issues arising in a crisis. “Many of us had been through crisis planning before, but this session allowed us to switch into high gear quickly at Wake Forest Law,” Aiken said. “At the end of the presentation, we talked about how to use a crisis as an opportunity to do something better going forward. That resonated with me.”



*President Hatch meets with University leaders following the closure of campus due to COVID-19.*

# PROACTIVE

As Aiken laid out in her first email to students, faculty, and staff, Wake Forest Law would not just weather the pandemic, but use this time away from campus to proactively plan for the future.

Associate Dean for Strategic Initiatives Ellen Murphy (JD '02) and MSL Adjunct Professor Bryan Arkwright quickly updated their successful telehealth executive education program with new information directly related to COVID-19. In partnership with physician-services company Curi, the four-week course offered both Continuing Legal Education (CLE) and Continuing Medical Education (CME) credits beginning on April 1, 2020.

“We pivoted quickly. Within two weeks we had the coursework updated and opened for registration,” Murphy said. “With the pandemic requiring new systems like telehealth to be widely used, we knew we needed to help educate the advisors who would be implementing telemedicine to treat patients.”

Also in April, Wake Forest Law launched a fully online self-paced symposium. *Isolated by the Law* features 18 nationally recognized experts who examine domestic and global health policy from different perspectives, and all related to the COVID-19 pandemic. It is an update of the 2018 symposium presented by the Wake Forest Journal of Law and Policy that explored the legal and ethical implications surrounding quarantine during public health emergencies.

“We couldn’t know then how critically important the work we began in the 2018 symposium would become,” said Professor Chris Coughlin (JD '90), who led *Isolated by the Law*. “In just two weeks we reached out to former speakers and new experts, created a website, and launched this symposium in a new online format. Hav-

ing such a great response from these experts at a time when the pandemic was creating havoc shows how vital the collaboration between scientists, lawyers, and public health professionals remains.”

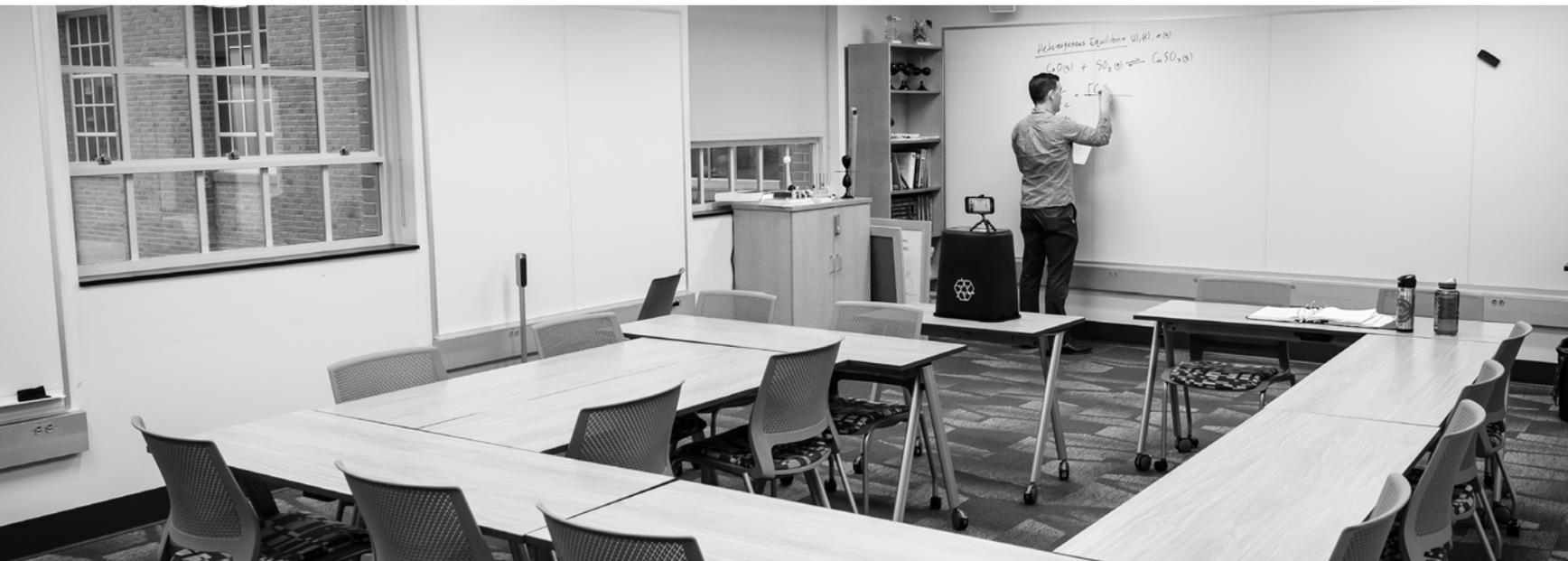
As law students, professors, and staff members adjusted to virtual classes in Zoom or Webex, such as remembering when to mute and unmute during discussions, and the value of breakout rooms, Dean Aiken and the leadership team focused on important upcoming milestones: graduation and summer employment.

While an in-person Hooding Ceremony and Commencement could not be held in May, plans for a virtual celebration moved forward. Mirroring Wake Forest University’s plans, a celebratory video was created, featuring School of Law faculty, students, and staff describing the Class of 2020, wishing them well, and celebrating their accomplishments. Unlike the University, the School of Law was able to read the names of the graduating JD, SJD, LL.M., and MSL students with class honors noted. ([You can watch the video here.](#))

As the Class of 2020 was honored, rising 2L and 3L JD students faced displacement from their summer employment. While some organizations converted internships and other employment to remote positions, others canceled those summer plans.

“I was supposed to be at a naval base outside Seattle,” remembers Dakota Baccus (JD '21), who plans to join the Navy Judge Advocate General Corps after he graduates. “At first I hoped I might be switched to another base. Then I had to face the unknown—am I the only person who’s not going to have an internship? But I heard about ways I could still get great experience over the summer.”

*A professor records himself teaching in an empty classroom during the COVID-19 campus closure.*





*Wait Chapel on an empty, foggy day during the COVID-19 campus shutdown.*

Dean Aiken worked to create five one-week, one-credit courses called Summer Intensives that would provide Wake Forest Law students with real-world experience in distinct practice areas of the law. The courses in business litigation skills, leadership and adversity, business negotiation in a time of crisis, transactional practice skills, and artificial intelligence and the practice of law were taught by law school faculty or Wake Forest Law alumni. Discounted tuition was offered due to generous donors. Additionally, students who registered for three courses were eligible for financial aid.

“I took leadership and adversity with Professor Townsend, his lineup of guest speakers included U.S. Senator Cory Booker and other people with amazing trajectories after law school,” Baccus said. “The business negotiations course was also super beneficial.”

Baccus also registered for three courses in the Summer Practice Series, developed by Dean Aiken and the Office of Career and Professional Development (OCPD). Held on Thursdays from the end of May through the beginning of August, these virtual 2-4 hour classes offered practical skills at no charge. The training by Wake Forest Law faculty and alumni we provided this not for credit training. Students who completed three of the workshops received a certificate.

“We wanted to offer our students an educational opportunity that would give them the kinds of experiences they would gain if they were working at a law firm or at another organization,” Aiken said. “Both the Summer Intensives and Summer Practice Series gave them experiences they could later discuss with employ-

ers to show they took action even if the pandemic interfered with their summer plans.”

“It’s already helped me. When I sent my resume to my placement this fall, he was impressed that I had lined up an internship, and when that fell through, I took the intensives and the seminars which he said showed real initiative,” Baccus said.

The Pro Bono Project also created learning opportunities for students over the summer. Working under the supervision of their professors, a team of Wake Forest Law students offered guidance and consultation to North Carolina residents who had questions about unemployment insurance, furloughs, and federal supplements as part of the Pro Bono Unemployment Project.

“We answered more than 200 questions over the summer,” said Professor Marie-Amélie George, who served as one of the faculty advisors. “Our students researched answers to questions such as going back to work after furlough, options for self-employed or independent contractors, and how long benefits might last and what information did the state need to help qualify them for assistance.”

“Supporting our students with these opportunities to enhance their resumes and further their legal education is something I’m very proud of,” Aiken said. “It’s a bright spot in the midst of the pandemic.”



Students in the JD Class of 2023 watch Foundations Week presentations in a modified classroom.

## PREPARATION

During the watchful waiting months of summer, Wake Forest Law's building remained empty with just Officer John Long standing sentinel, but its community was active and planning for the start of the fall semester — no matter how it looked.

“Wake Forest Law has always prided itself on its teaching,” said Executive Associate Dean of Academic Affairs Wendy Parker. “We engaged experts in digital learning to ensure our faculty had the best guidance in developing and presenting their courses whether they are in front of a newly-configured classroom or teaching online.”

Wake Forest Law welcomed new faculty members whose experience will enhance courses and clinics in areas ranging from health justice, to environmental issues, to reproductive rights, and legal writing.

Parker, who chaired the COVID-19 Task Force for the law school, explained that all faculty members were enrolled in a course on technology and pedagogy, met weekly in June for lessons on the same, and also received 40 hours of personalized training in July and August to prepare for the fall semester.

“It’s hard to make plans when things are so unpredictable, when there are so many unknowns, and when things change regularly,” Aiken said. “Much of the work is invisible, but our students will be the beneficiaries of all the heavy lifting that has been done on their behalf.”

Under Aiken’s leadership, a plan to redefine clinical education for Wake Forest Law students took shape. “It’s important that all our clinics focus on education first,” Aiken said. “The practice-ready skills students learn from working with clients in a safe environment under supervision of an attorney are a vital piece of their legal education.”

Part of this change is the formation of a medical-legal partnership. Professor Emily Benfer is working with School of Law and School of Medicine students to define the issues in Winston-Salem and Forsyth County. (*More about the medical-legal partnership on p.46.*)

The preparations wouldn’t be complete without a plan for starting the fall semester. As Wake Forest University’s task force prepared to

reopen the Reynolda campus, the School of Law became the vanguard for the effort.

Aiken and Chief Administrative Officer Aurora Edenhart-Pepe created the plan to de-densify Worrell Professional Center—from classrooms to courtrooms to the Commons. In many cases, the two of them physically moved tables and chairs to create the required six-foot distance between people.

“We got everything started because we were the only two people who had access to the building over the summer,” Edenhart-Pepe said. “It gave us the chance to rework some of our office spaces and make changes like moving admissions, academic affairs, and other student-facing teams to the first floor to be more convenient for our students.”

“We welcomed our 1L JD students for Foundations Week on August 10 and LLM students on August 12, two weeks before undergraduate students returned to Wake Forest,” Aiken said. “About 75 percent of the 1L JD coursework is in-person instruction, with all students and faculty members required to wear masks during class sessions and anytime they are inside the building.”

Wearing masks inside, even in a one-person study room, became part of the Code of Conduct, and Aiken and other faculty members found the students didn’t require many reminders to take safety precautions. As everyone keeps a watchful eye on the coronavirus dashboard, the “new normal” campus operating status remained steady, even as other schools sent students home just a few days into the semester.

*Students interacting mask-to-mask during the first day of 1L Foundations Week.*



*Students talk in the Commons during the first day of 1L Foundations Week.*



*Bronze Demon Deacon statue wearing a Wake Forest mask in front of McCreary Tower during the COVID-19 pandemic.*



# The Summer that COVID-19 Made

By **Brenda D. Gibson**

Associate Professor of Legal Writing

No one could have imagined the present circumstances in which academia finds itself. Undoubtedly, the COVID-19 pandemic has brought out the best and worst in us all.

I posit more best than worst.

This summer, after proverbially “flying by the seat of our pants” as we made the pivot to online teaching in a week or two (but what seemed like a moment), we all came together to determine how to do a better job under less than perfect circumstances. The Legal Writing community, of which I am a member, started discussing the topic. As we always do, we started developing new materials, sharing those materials, and wondering what the next academic year would bring. We recognized that many of us had done an awesome job of teaching online on the fly, but as the Legal Writing Community often does, we wanted to put together some strategies to support everyone to be better. In lieu of our larger, in-person conferences, we put together some smaller, virtual conferences; we had virtual front porches; we formed informal writing circles to support our scholarship—we had a little bit of it all and there was something for everyone.

“To be clear, I had not lost my excitement about teaching, but the fatigue of online teaching had taken away my edge. Many of us were so tired, we just didn’t want to try anything new. The learning community helped us to get that back.”

In that same vein, Wake Forest University School of Law put together learning communities to support our faculty in improving the delivery of materials in the COVID-19 “new normal.” We needed to prepare for a return to the classroom teaching with masks with limited physical contact, online teaching without any physical contact with our students, and anything in between. We needed to figure out how to give our students a quality education regardless of the unusual circumstances under which we were living.

Wake Forest Law embraced this idea of learning communities and it became, for me who was new to the law school, a wonderful entrance to the Wake Forest Way. My learning community was composed of clinical and legal writing faculty. We were a collegial group that really bonded over the task of making this academic year better than the end of the last one—better for our students and for us. Not only did I learn some really cool technology stuff, but I also began to feel supported and included, despite still being at home in Wake County, North Carolina. We spoke candidly and a bit self-deprecatingly about our struggle to embrace all that was happening. We spoke about the toll it was taking on us, but we spoke even more about the toll it must be taking on our students. We were willing to work to make it better.

In cognitive science, there are the concepts of growth mindset and fixed mindset. These are concepts about which I often speak with my students. Without boring the reader, I will just say that during our summer learning community, I discovered that the stress of the spring 2020 semester had moved me (and perhaps some of my colleagues) back to a fixed mindset. And it had happened while we were doing our best to make the spring semester palatable for our students. In our earnest attempt to make things better for our students, we had unknowingly lost something, our growth mindset—our ability to manage our expectations, to turn failure into oppor-



*Brenda Gibson teaches an in-person class during Foundations Week.*

tunities to do better the next time, to be excited about the new and unexpected things that life throws at you.

To be clear, I had not lost my excitement about teaching, but the fatigue of online teaching had taken away my edge. Many of us were so tired, we just didn't want to try anything new. The learning community helped us to get that back.

When the LAWR I (first year, first semester legal writing course) team got together, we were able to do so with a clearer purpose. We were ready to embrace the fact that we would lose some four weeks of instruction, class meeting times were going from 80 to 60 minutes, social distancing would prevent us from conferencing in our offices with our students, as well as many other things. We put our heads together and determined to put a plan into action that would work for us and our students. First, we would need to adjust the number of assignments. While we needed to maintain the rigor of the course, we needed to acknowledge that less class/instruction time necessitated fewer graded assignments. Next, with fewer min-

utes in the classroom and with the mandate of social distancing, we had to modify some of our teaching techniques and delivery of our in-class exercises. For those professors like me who were teaching mask-to-mask, we could still not do traditional group work or pair and share work. For others who were teaching online, though Zoom breakout rooms were a great option, there were exercises that required physical manipulation of items to complete certain exercises. Based on what we had learned from our Legal Writing community at large and our Wake Forest Law learning community, we quickly and cooperatively made a plan. We adjusted our syllabi, our teaching notes, and the assignments that we would give to our students. Was it easy? No, but with the assistance of the tools and the resilience of the human spirit, we did it. It is almost mid-semester and we are all tired, but the students see the effort and appreciate it.

Planning for the spring, with its continued unknowns has begun, but the Wake Forest LAWR Program is ready to make whatever adjustments necessary to make it a good one for our students. It's the Wake Forest Way—pro humanitate.



# PANDEMIC PRO TEMPORE

**Our entire world has been upended by COVID-19. In the following pages, Wake Forest Law faculty delve deeply into the many ways in which the pandemic is causing us to rethink everything from death care rituals, to courtroom proceedings; civil liberties, to public health; down to what it means to be a lawyer-leader of character and compassion during this transformative time.**

# Death Care Rituals Become Pandemic Public Health Threats

By Tanya D. Marsh  
Professor of Law

It should not be surprising that a pandemic that has caused at least 170,000 deaths (at the time of this writing) would have an impact on my area of study—Funeral and Cemetery Law. The sudden and sustained increase in deaths due to COVID-19 had localized impacts as well as systemic impacts felt in affected communities throughout the United States.

The first community severely impacted in the United States was New York City, where it became immediately apparent that the system was not flexible enough to deal with a sudden and sustained increase in deaths. I spoke to New York funeral directors and cemeteries in April for my podcast *Death, et seq.* They reported that bodies were literally piled up in funeral homes and cemetery chapels. There were estimates of 1,000 to 3,000 human bodies stockpiled in the city. Crematories were running 16-20 hours per day, the maximum that the antiquated equipment could handle without breaking down, but it wasn't enough.

The COVID-19 deaths in New York City revealed a number of problems caused or exacerbated by laws and regulations. The cremation authorization forms used in New York require the next of kin to specify which crematory will be used and to sign the form in person. When the five crematories in New York City began to schedule cremations weeks in advance due to the backlog, overburdened funeral directors had difficulty helping families change the authorization form to allow cremation in one of the upstate crematories with excess capacity because it would have required a meeting in person with the decedent's family, many of whom were quarantined.

A big part of the reason that the crematories, even running 16-20 hours per day, were so stressed is that New York is one of only five states that require crematories to be located in cemeteries. It is not surprising that in a city as expensive as New York, there are few remaining cemeteries with the capacity to hold a crematory. In addition, New York is one of a handful of states that requires cemeteries (and also, therefore, crematories) to be owned by non-profit entities. The result is that New York state, and to a more pronounced degree, New York City, already had a crematory shortage, as illustrated by the highest ratio of deaths to crematories in the country. The pandemic turned that imbalance into a crisis that rippled throughout the death care industry and grief-stricken families.

Other impacts of COVID-19 are being felt more broadly throughout impacted communities in the United States as our most widespread death care rituals have become public health threats.

The most common death care ritual in the United States, although perhaps no longer practiced by a majority of Americans,

involves embalming human remains, which are then cosmetized and dressed, and displayed in an open casket for gathered family and friends. Following a religious or secular service, the remains are then buried, entombed, or cremated. After news broke that human remains could transmit COVID-19, funeral directors in some areas of the country began treating all remains as presumptively positive. That meant that embalming was reduced or eliminated, as were open casket viewings. Limitations on the size of gatherings and social distancing requirements also limited funeral rituals to close family (assuming that they were not in quarantine themselves). Graveside services were conducted by a funeral director or religious leader, with the family looking on from their cars.

The question now is — will these changes in death care practices necessitated by the pandemic have a long-term impact? American preferences were already in the midst of significant change. Cremation has been practiced in the United States since the 1870s, but a century later, only 5 percent of all deaths in the United States were followed by cremation. In 2016, the percentage finally hit 50 percent. By 2035, the National Funeral Directors Association predicts the number will be nearly 80 percent.

Growing interest in cremation is driven by a number of factors, including a more mobile population less tied to their ancestral homes, concerns about cost, and an increasing interest in what consumers perceive to be “greener” options. The 2020 Consumer Preferences and Awareness Survey conducted by the National Funeral Directors Association found that nearly 62 percent of respondents were interested in “green” funeral options. One of those options is green burial, which involves the burial of human remains without embalming, a casket, or a vault. One emerging option is aquamation, or “water cremation” in which pressure and a base solution are used instead of flame to reduce human remains to an inert powdery substance. Another is recomposition or accelerated natural decomposition of human remains, which was recently legalized in Washington and is being evaluated by state legislatures in California, New York, and Colorado. (It should be noted that Wake Forest students in several of my Funeral and Cemetery Law classes conducted the initial legal research which laid the foundation for the legalization of recomposition.)

The pandemic is not over yet, and certainly the impact of it will continue to be felt in death care practices in the United States. I look forward to examining these trends, and the long-term impacts, with students in Funeral and Cemetery Law in the spring.

# Locked Down in London: A Sabbatical Detour

**By Sidney A. Shapiro**

Frank U. Fletcher Chair in Law

On March 16, my sabbatical abruptly came to a halt as the British government started a lockdown that did not completely end until early June to fend off the novel coronavirus. I had been a Visiting Scholar at Corpus Christi College, Oxford University, and then like millions of others, I tried to work as best that I could remotely. At the same time, I had a front row seat to watch another government deal with COVID-19. As a professor who teaches about government and regulation, it was an opportunity not only to learn more about government in the U.K., but to think about lessons for the government in the U.S.

The concept of a sabbatical may seem somewhat strange to many readers. After all, law firms and businesses do not invite employees to take six months (or even a year) leave and then pay them to undertake a project that relates to the firm or business. For academics, however, a sabbatical offers an opportunity every seven or eight years to step back from day-to-day teaching and immerse yourself in research and study, and when possible to do so at a different university, which is an opportunity to meet and interact with new colleagues. In this regard, Oxford University was a stimulating and exciting venue, which I described to my colleagues at the time as “an intellectual Disneyland,” chock full of challenging lectures, workshops, and professors who would challenge and deepen my research project. And we were able to live in London, truly one of the world’s most diverse and exciting cities. It is true, as Samuel Johnson once said, “When a man is tired of London, he is tired of life.”

Then our world shrank to the flat we were living in, a permitted 30 minutes of outdoor exercise, and sitting outside on the asphalt “mews” outside of our “flat.” A “flat” is a house and a “mews” is an “alleyway.” Not for nothing Winston Churchill observed that “England and the United States are two countries separated by a common language.”

Unfortunately, the British government was slow to lock down the country and the result was the highest number of cases and deaths in Europe. London rivaled New York as a hot spot—a contest that

no one wants to win. The dire threat the virus posed to all of us was dramatized after the Prime Minister, Boris Johnson, caught the virus, was hospitalized, and according to some reports almost died. But once the English government acted, the entire country came under lockdown, and Wales and Scotland, which have independent domestic governing authority, did likewise. Unlike in the U.S., there was little or no regional variation.

The U.K. was also relatively cautious in coming out of the lockdown. As in the movies, for example, the pub remains an important institution in British day-to-day life, but the government kept the pubs closed until July 4 when the threat to the country was relatively low. The government also had in place a testing and tracing system, which was criticized as being incomplete and disorganized, but the national government understood that this approach was essential to heading off another outbreak.

Soon after the lockdown started, my spouse Joyce and I could hear clapping, shouting, and the banging of pots and pans outside of our window. It turns out that this was the first of a weekly Thursday 8 p.m. event, organized spontaneously by several people, to honor the work and sacrifice of the National Health Services (NHS) workers. Millions came out of their homes to make noise and signal their appreciation, and we joined in subsequent weeks. And on our walk during our 30 minutes outdoors, we would see signs in windows, created by the children at home, honoring (or honouring in the U.K.) the work done by these health care workers. The work done by US health care workers is widely admired here, but there has been no national, similar public outpouring of support to honor their brave and essential efforts.

The difference relates to the role of the NHS in British society. The creation of the NHS by a Labor (or Labour) party government in 1948 was one of several fundamental changes made in the British society and economy to reduce the impact of class-based British society. Ever since U.K. citizens have not needed to worry about losing their job and health insurance or paying for treatment that might be too expensive. It is true that the NHS has its problems, in part caused by budget cutting by Conservative party governments, a point that was highlighted many times in the newspapers and on TV during the lockdown. While the NHS for a time struggled to keep up with the patient load, they were still able to fulfill the understanding health care is a fundamental right in the U.K., unlike the U.S.

# PANDEMIC PRO TEMPORE

Then there are the masks. When the U.K. finally came out of lockdown, the government recommended wearing a mask, but compliance was uneven. Since the lockdown was not eased until the number of cases had been significantly reduced, people, being people, assumed things were back to normal and acted accordingly by not wearing a mask. But when the virus began again to spike in different locations, the government made wearing a mask mandatory and imposed a \$300 fine if you did not comply on the subway (tube) and in shops. The Labor party fully supported the government's efforts. Indeed, it was the loudest critic that the government was not doing enough to protect the British people. Another difference between us and them.

What then did I learn then about the U.K. and the U.S. from this experience? Leadership matters. So does science and understanding the capability of civil servants to respond to national emergencies if you enable them to do so. The U.K. response was not as effective as elsewhere in Europe, but there was no science denial, the Prime Minister warned the country that many, many families would suffer from the virus, and that Britons had to be patient in the lockdown.

And people by and large appeared to respond. There were op-eds comparing the support and compliance in London to how Londoners stoically existed during the German blitz that leveled many parts of the city. As in the blitz, as one observer noted, you could be certain people would die from the virus (as in the bombing), but you could not say who. That was not entirely true. As in the U.S., minority and marginalized communities fared the worst even with the NHS. Still, there was a "we're in this together" spirit that was more prevalent than in the U.S.

As all of these differences suggest, the nature of government in a country, let alone its response to a calamity, such as this one, reflects the national social and political culture. It is not only that the U.K. has a parliamentary government, its history and the relationship of people to the government is different. There are TV cameras, for example, covering about

everywhere in London, and people are watched constantly, an invasion of privacy that seems unlikely to occur in the U.S. at least not with a substantial fight. Or, whereas Americans compete to get to the front of the line, Londoners automatically join a queue (line) for a bus or anywhere that there is a crowd trying to obtain service. Individualism is prized but not to the extent that it has influenced in the U.S.

Some of these differences may have made it easier for the U.K. government to respond to the virus, but the British were still puzzled and sad that the U.S. has failed so miserably to reduce the carnage of the virus. This failure became part of the overall impression that the U.S. had lost its way as an effective leader in world affairs.

Great Britain has its problems and its limitations, just like the U.S., and aspects of British life do not fit readily with the political and social culture of the U.S. Still, one cannot escape the conclusion that, despite these differences, we should have done better, and if this is not truly possible, perhaps the British impression that the country will no longer be an effective and prominent world leader will come to pass. It's nice to be home, but after returning in early July, that question has been on my mind. How did we get ourselves into this situation, and how can we prevent it next from happening the next time around? Comparing other countries might help us answer that question.



*A view of London's Big Ben clock tower and the Thames River.*

# Civil Liberties, Curfews, and COVID-19

**By Mark Hall**

Fred D. and Elizabeth L. Turnage Professor of Law  
Director of Health Law & Policy Program

Every public health crisis poses unique legal and ethical challenges, but none more so in modern times than the novel coronavirus pandemic. Urgent responses to the pandemic halted movement and work and dramatically changed daily routines for most of our population in ways entirely unprecedented. Most states and many localities ordered people to stay at home when able and to practice physical distancing when they are out and about. Schools and churches closed, businesses shuttered, court proceedings were delayed, and even small gatherings have been banned.

Although this sweeping initial response has abated, it likely will become necessary to reimpose some or all of these restrictions. Doing so obviously challenges a host of civil liberties that state and federal statutes and constitutions protect alike. It should come as no surprise, then, that several dozen lawsuits have been filed, but even without overt legal challenges, public health officials are reminded by political leaders to be well attuned to the need to respect civil liberties in setting appropriate policies.

Accordingly, there is a pressing need for principles to guide not just the imposing of COVID restrictions, but also for relaxing and re-imposing them. When the risk of spread first became serious, the need for these restrictions became obvious, and thus restrictions initially were accepted fairly broadly. But, the public's patience ran thin soon enough as economic pressures built, along with a strong desire for a return to normalcy. Yet we lack any clear standards for tightening and loosening these restrictions.

The difficulty we face is that all of our previous guideposts are designed for much different situations. The nature and behavior of earlier infectious dis-

eases was such that coercive public health measures could be targeted based on individual risk such as whether a person might have, or might have been exposed to, the disease. The numbers of such people might be large, but still it was feasible to identify, isolate, quarantine, and contact-trace them. Classic infectious diseases have more obvious symptoms or are more difficult to spread, and so, in modern times, community-wide crack-downs on fundamental civil liberties have not been needed, until now.

The way that the novel coronavirus presents, spreads, infects, and affects people, however, has required more blanket restrictions without regard to specific exposure or signs of infection. As a result, the principles of procedural due process and individual risk assessment that underlie conventional quarantine policy have little relevance to COVID-19's restrictions based on broadly shared community risk.

This contrast between individual quarantine and community-wide shelter-in-place orders mirrors the basic legal distinction between

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# PANDEMIC PRO TEMPORE

adjudicative facts and legislative facts. As we learned in law school, adjudicative facts are those specific to individuals whereas legislative facts are those that apply more broadly to society. In general, the adjudication required by procedural due process is designed to resolve person-specific issues, whereas legislative and regulatory proceedings are best suited for more purely social issues. In the legislative arena the primary constitutional protection is equal protection. If social policies apply evenhandedly, we assume that they are well-enough justified, since they apply to the law-makers themselves. Or, if social policies are ill-considered, a primary protection is simply political—to vote out those in charge, or to pressure them to change the law.

Due process still has some relevance to broad social policy, but only in the limited fashion known as “substantive” due process. The substantive principles in existing quarantine law are important, but they primarily address only individual risk. Therefore, we can instead look to curfew law as a better source of guidance—the limited and extraordinary forms of curfew imposed during civil unrest or natural disasters, rather than any low-level on-going curfew laws that, similar to truancy laws, apply only to juveniles. Broad curfews, like stay-at-home and social distancing orders, apply to communities across the board, regardless of individual circumstances, in order to guard against a shared public risk.

When curfew laws are challenged, courts analyze them in terms of substantive rather than procedural rights. Substantively, curfews threaten the freedom of assembly protected by the First Amendment, and what’s referred to as the “right to travel”—a substantive form of liberty interest protected by the 5th and 14th Amendments. In adjudicating these challenges, courts give broad deference to

government authorities, recognizing that more exacting scrutiny could place undue demands on officials who must respond quickly to dire emergencies with only limited information.

Thus, courts almost never find that emergency curfews are illegal. Instead, in upholding curfews, courts usually note simply that a serious threat to public safety or order existed. Sometimes, courts will also point to a curfew’s limited and graduated nature, such as lasting only a brief period, and being relaxed or narrowed as conditions improve. But, above all, curfew law highlights the substantial leeway that courts give the government in exigent circumstances.

Viewing COVID restrictions, then, as much more a public policy than a legal question, the focus becomes not so much what will courts sustain or strike down, but instead what makes good sense to the public and is supported by solid science. Space does not allow full development of various approaches. But a consensus has emerged among various experts and thoughtful analysts that the key to appropriately balancing civil liberties with public health protections is much more widespread testing—both to determine who has the disease, and also to determine who has recovered from it and therefore is either immune or at greatly reduced risk, at least for some period of time.

To be sure, some people will find testing itself to be an intrusion, but considering this pandemic’s magnitude, required or strongly encouraged testing could reduce or prevent the need for much greater intrusions. Graduated unwinding and, if needed, re-imposition of restrictions inevitably entails compromises between disease control and protection of civil liberties. Approaches that, in ordinary times, would be beyond the pale, today, seem like a fair price to pay for safely and equitably resuming a semblance of normal life.



*An empty city and street during the COVID-19 pandemic*

# Criminal Courts in Disruptive Times

**By Ronald F. Wright**

Associate Dean for Research and Academic Programs  
Needham Yancey Gulley Professor of Criminal Law

The criminal courts and all the legal actors who work there are prepared for normal (and even difficult) times. They are not, however, prepared for 2020. This year brought COVID-19 to institutions that normally crowd many people into small places such as patrol cars, courtrooms, jury deliberation rooms, conference rooms, and prisons. And at the same time, protests over racial injustice—prompted by widely-viewed recordings of police officers shooting Black suspects—have led many people to lose patience with the ordinary ways that criminal courts operate. These two disruptions, taken together, are overwhelming. Think of an earthquake happening during a hurricane.

In some situations, emergency adaptation to these twin disruptions is the best we can hope for. But some of the improvisations that the courts have created in 2020 might have staying power. These changes could show us how to achieve more just results without spending more money or compromising public safety.

One disruptive force in the criminal courts comes from changes in the crimes that people commit while they spend more time at home

and less time at work, or restaurants, or other social gatherings. We remain in the dark, for now, about most crime trends. Unlike the public health statistics that offer daily and weekly trend analysis, our crime reporting systems are designed to produce reports many months after the events they analyze. As far as official crime reports are concerned, we don't know for sure which crimes are going up or going down, and we won't know with any confidence for a year or more.

But unofficial reports, such as those compiled by University of Pennsylvania law professor David Abrams, suggest that crime rates overall dropped in major urban areas, while a few crimes happened more often. Domestic violence rose in some places. Residential burglaries declined, while office burglaries and car thefts increased. Homicides and shootings increased in some cities (back up to levels from the mid-2010s), but total violent crimes went down. Altogether, the unofficial reports suggest that crimes (both violent and non-violent) dropped significantly during 2020, despite the televised violence that accompanied some of the protest marches against racial injustice in a few cities.

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Just as overall crimes decreased, so the overall level of police activity dropped. In most places, stops and arrests declined. It will bear watching, in the long run, the effects on community safety as different cities experiment with new responsibilities for their police departments. Some local governments will give duties, such as mental health intake and services for the homeless, to government agents with more specialized training—duties that are often dumped, without thinking, on police departments as a matter of last resort. The stresses of 2020 made these experiments possible.

## PANDEMIC PRO TEMPORE

Pretrial release practices also changed during the pandemic. Prosecutors, defense attorneys, and judges all recognized that pretrial confinement in the close quarters of a jail population could spread the coronavirus quickly. As a result, they adopted new ways to economize on the use of jail cells. Judges set lower bail amounts or waived bail entirely, and prosecutors requested detention in fewer cases. Overall, jail populations dropped significantly in most places around the country. Fewer defendants failed to appear when their hearings were conducted online. The interesting question going forward is whether local governments will find it sustainable to continue operating their jails at lower population levels, even after pandemic conditions lift.

Criminal trials almost came to a standstill during the pandemic. But a few jurisdictions experimented with different courtroom configurations to conduct trials in a socially-distanced manner. Texas, among other states, experimented with remote jury trials. Each juror occupied a box in a Zoom meeting, while the remote attorneys and witnesses made their presentations to the judge and jurors. Imagine the many, many Confrontation Clause and Right

to Jury Trial challenges that could arise from such trials! Most of these challenges, however, will never arrive in the appellate courts, because defendants—desperate to take their shot at freedom from potential illness in jail—waived their potential legal challenges to these unorthodox trial conditions.

Finally, one piece of the machinery in the criminal legal system that has not changed much is the prison. Early releases from sentences of incarceration have not increased dramatically. Unfortunately, lists of COVID-19 “hot spots” routinely include prisons near the top of the list.

Proposed changes in the criminal courts typically do not happen because some of the full-time actors—judges, prosecutors, defense attorneys, police, corrections officials, and others—can imagine potential trouble ahead. When major disruptions force enormous changes on everyone, we no longer have to imagine what might happen. We can see for ourselves which new practices are harmless, or even beneficial, and which we can happily leave behind at the first opportunity. Disruptions give us the chance to learn.



*Person behind bars.*

# How the AIDS Crisis Will Help Speed a COVID-19 Vaccine

**By Marie-Amélie George**  
Assistant Professor of Law

Demands for COVID-19 treatments are growing louder as the death toll from the pandemic rises. The Federal Drug Administration (FDA) is well-positioned to help promising drugs get to patients faster because of changes they approved during a previous pandemic: the AIDS crisis.

In 1982, accounts surfaced of a mysterious and deadly new disease affecting gay men. Within five years, more than 4,000 Americans had perished from the virus, which weakened its victims' immune systems. Infected people typically developed skin tumors, had difficulty breathing, suffered chronic diarrhea, and wasted away from malnourishment. With limited treatment options, and only one approved drug more than half a decade into the epidemic, AIDS activists were enraged. They directed their fury at the government agency that held up medical testing through a morass of arcane regulations.

On October 11, 1988, the group that would become the AIDS Coalition to Unleash Power (ACT UP) converged on the FDA in Rockville, M.D. Holding signs that read “the FDA has blood on its hands,” protestors chanted “FDA, don't delay, 52 will die today” as hundreds of scientists looked askance through the building's windows. In nearby Bethesda, at the National Institute of Health (NIH) campus, activists waved banners that read “Stop Killing Us!” and “NIH Wake Up!” One of those watching from his office above was Anthony Fauci, the director of the National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases, who today is the scientist leading the government's COVID-19 response. In 1988, Fauci was the face of the federal government's effort to combat AIDS.

The protestors demanded more drugs—and faster access to them. New medications go through three phases of testing. The first involves a small group to ensure the drug is safe. The second focuses on efficacy, using a larger sample of patients, while the third provides more evidence as to both safety and efficacy in an even larger population.

Protestors wanted people with AIDS to have immediate access to drugs that had made it through the first phase because these experimental medications were all that was available—the only alternative was to wait to die. Protestors also derided the idea that testing had to take years, particularly since other countries approved drugs in a fraction of that time. People with AIDS, who only had a few months to live, did not have the luxury of waiting.

Scientists worried about a conflict between drug access and scientific research. Unrestricted access to experimental treatments might hamper the ability to conduct trials since patients had little incentive to enroll in a controlled study when they could have the medicine anyway. AIDS activists explained that existing policies actually undermined studies since patients frequently bribed or lied their way onto studies and mixed drugs to reduce the risk associated with being on a placebo. Patients also mixed drugs in the hope of finding something that worked, which muddled the test results. Finally, most people with AIDS did not qualify for the clinical trials because they were also taking medications to treat diseases that would be fatal to them because of their HIV status, like pneumonia.

To increase access to medication, ACT UP activists proposed a “parallel track” program, under which people with AIDS who were unwilling or unable to participate in clinical trials would receive free drugs that were undergoing Phase II clinical trials. The program expanded the FDA's compassionate use policy, which allowed doctors to request experimental drugs undergoing Phase III trials for their patients suffering from life-threatening diseases, where there were no satisfactory alternatives available. At the time, the request process took doctors so long that few even tried to get the FDA's approval, which it granted on a case-by-case basis.

The parallel track, which supplemented the compassionate use exception, provided patients easier access to drugs at an earlier point in time. Fauci quickly endorsed the parallel track program, which



*Vaccines and syringe*

ultimately proved that scientists' concerns had been unfounded, as patients continued to enroll in clinical trials. The FDA has since streamlined compassionate use and combined it with the parallel track program under the heading of "expanded access."

Activists also urged the FDA to complete their review more quickly through an expedited approval process. Drug testing took years, in part because of the standards that clinical trials had to meet. Where a drug claimed to reduce the likelihood of death from AIDS, companies were required to submit long-term studies that compared patients taking the drug with a control group.

Activists urged the FDA to use a "surrogate marker," meaning a measure that correlated with the drug's hoped-for-benefit, to evaluate a medication's efficacy. For AIDS, that surrogate marker was the drug's effect on T cells. HIV, the virus that causes AIDS, reduced T cells, which are white blood cells that fight infection. When T cell

counts dropped below a certain level, a person was diagnosed with AIDS. Given that T cell depletion was the hallmark of AIDS, it was likely that a drug's positive effect on the cell count would translate into improved patient outcomes, as patients would have stronger immune systems to fight off things like pneumonia.

The FDA was hesitant to approve drugs based on a surrogate marker because doing so introduced greater uncertainty about a drug's effects. No one could be sure that the surrogate was an adequate stand-in for the medication's ultimate goal. The drug might improve a patient's T cell count, while not improving the person's ultimate prognosis. Given that people with AIDS were unlikely to live long enough for the drugs to reach the market, activists insisted that patients had the right to take a chance on medications that might help them.

To resolve the tension between scientific standards and compassion for patients, activists promoted a conditional ap-

proval plan. Under this framework, the FDA could revoke a drug's license if later studies failed to prove that it did what researchers claimed. In 1991, the FDA agreed to use T cell counts as a surrogate marker and conditionally licensed the first of several new AIDS treatments. The FDA now grants conditional approval pursuant to an accelerated approval program. The agency also designates certain drugs as "fast track," which provides access to accelerated approval and priority review.

AIDS was a merciless and lethal disease until the FDA's new programs made drugs easier to test and more widely available. These changes to FDA policy did not just change the course of the AIDS epidemic, but have reshaped the process for approving today's COVID-19 treatments.

COVID-19 is not the same as HIV, which was much deadlier. However, the FDA is balancing similar concerns as to scientific integrity, patient safety, and compassionate care today as it was in the 1980s.

# The COVID-19 Pandemic and Public Health

**By Chris Coughlin (JD '90)**

Professor of Law

The devastation associated with COVID-19 and the global pandemic requires us to rethink all public health measures and mechanisms from identifying novel pathogens, to strengthening international health regulations and global cooperation, to funding state and local health departments. The list is long. Perhaps fueled by a presidential election year and increasing divisiveness, partisan politics and a fragmented public health structure appear to have frustrated efforts to bring a unified front to bear to combat the virus.

As of this writing, there have been more than 225,000 COVID-19 related deaths in the United States and unemployment has skyrocketed with more than 31 million people receiving some form of unemployment benefits. Public health consequences and economic fallout resulting from COVID-19 have ignited an urgent need for safe and effective treatments and vaccines. On this front, pharmaceuticals and vaccine developers are working around the clock to develop treatments and vaccines. This rush has subjected the Food and Drug Administration (FDA) to intense political pressures to approve—or at the very least make available—investigational drugs where proof of safety and efficacy have not been established through laboratory/animal testing and randomized, controlled clinical trials. Political pressure is nothing new for FDA—the agency has frequently come under fire as its pendulum has swung between safety of and access to investigational drugs. However, the pandemic has brought out an alarming intensity of partisan attacks on science, the FDA, and its decision-making process.

Historically, the FDA has shown a history of responsiveness to social and political concerns. Indeed, modern regulation of the investigational drugs process began in 1937 when approximately 100 people died after ingesting a liquid antibacterial drug to which diethylene glycol had been added to sweeten the taste. In 1962, despite significant pressure from the drug manufacturer, FDA pharmacologist and physician Frances Oldham Kelsey refused to approve an application for Thalidomide, a drug marketed in Europe to alleviate morning sickness during pregnancy. Soon thereafter researchers in Europe linked the drug to severe birth defects. As a result, Congress passed the Kefauver-Harris Drug Amendment of

1962 which created a more lengthy, complex, and regulated clinical trial process designed to ensure safety.

The FDA has also adapted to improve access to new drugs and vaccines. For instance, the FDA has implemented Priority Review, Breakthrough Therapy, Accelerated Approval, and Fast Track pathways that work with manufacturers to get certain treatment for serious diseases to market much more quickly. And as Wake Forest Law Professor Marie-Amélie George discusses in her recent Washington Post editorial (and essay on page 32), the FDA reformed its “expanded access” pathway to investigational drugs for patients with a serious or life-threatening disease for which there is no alternative therapy in response to the AIDS epidemic.

Following the September 11 terrorist attacks and the anthrax attacks, the FDA can now issue an Emergency Use Authorization (EUA) whereby investigational medical products can be made available to patients in certain public health emergencies before the rigorous premarket approval process is completed. The FDA will only issue EUAs where it is “reasonable to believe” that a treatment “may be effective” and the known benefits outweigh the risks.

While the FDA has issued multiple EUAs since the beginning of the COVID-19 pandemic, political controversy ensued after the FDA first granted (based on what some argued was inappropriate political pressure), and then subsequently revoked, an EUA that allowed for chloroquine phosphate and hydroxychloroquine sulfate to be used to treat some hospitalized COVID-19 patients. More recently, the FDA issued an EUA for investigational convalescent plasma to treat COVID-19, prominently posting on its website from a statement from Health and Human Services (HHS) Secretary Alex Azar, which reads that “[t]he Trump Administration recognized the potential of convalescent plasma early on.” National Institute of Health (NIH) Director Francis Collins and the National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases Director (NIAID) Anthony Fauci, however, reportedly consider the data on convalescent plasma “weak.”

## PANDEMIC PRO TEMPORE

As manufacturers race to come up with treatments and vaccines, scientists and scholars continue to raise the alarm about the level of political influence on decision-making that needs to be made on the basis of sound science. Currently, there are concerns that prematurely introducing a vaccine before sufficient data is generated could lead to safety consequences or a vaccine which is not effective for all. Given the lack of trust that already exists with vaccines, this may also lead to massive vaccination refusal which may diminish our ability to achieve herd immunity. The public needs to be able to trust that the decisions made by FDA are based on science and free from political bias.

That does not mean that politics can't play a role in public health. Government agencies and departments are an important com-

ponent of our governmental and political structure. What they shouldn't be is partisan. Partisan decisions on behalf of the FDA undermine public trust—as does overt partisan pressure on the FDA. A bipartisan group of former FDA Commissioners, along with a recent report by Public Health Law Watch, suggests that Congress should reorganize the FDA to move it out of the control of HHS and reconfigure it as an independent agency, like the Federal Reserve. This idea has significant merit and would enable the FDA to operate in more apolitical space.

The fallout associated with COVID-19 will likely shift our public health landscape dramatically. Changes should be made to enable the FDA to make decisions based on the best scientific data and keep it further insulated from partisan politics.



*Woman wearing face covering.*

# Leadership and Character in the Law

**By Kenneth Townsend**  
Scholar in Residence

In America and across the globe, we are facing a crisis of leadership. Trust in institutions and the professionals who lead them is at a near-historic low, and in the context of COVID-19, a collapsing job market, and ongoing revelations of racial injustice, the importance of principled and effective leadership has only become more apparent.

This crisis of leadership reflects, in part, a crisis of character. Once trusted to promote the public good, many professions, including law, are increasingly seen as captured by narrower concerns of self-interest and self-preservation, and character is often overlooked as we focus on acquiring the knowledge and skills needed to serve our clients with zeal. Law schools, for our part, are criticized for turning idealistic young people into cynical, even if knowledgeable and competent, seekers of mammon and status rather than guardians of the public good.

By some accounts, our capacity to provide principled leadership is declining at the exact moment when broad-based leadership is most needed. What is it about the training and experience of lawyers that is most needed at a time like this? And are we still up to the task of leading?

During times of crisis, it is tempting to turn inward, to grasp for certainty by forcing the complexity of the world into neat and sometimes ideologically driven narratives, or to fall into despair when confronting the pain, injustice, and death in our midst. Lawyers, by contrast, are taught to appreciate the relevance as well as the messiness of facts, to take seriously different perspectives, and to approach seemingly intractable problems with equanimity and analytical precision.

These instincts and practices help make us good lawyers but are not enough, on their own, to make us the sorts of leaders the world needs.

In June, I taught a new summer intensive course “Leadership and Adversity,” in which my students interacted with eleven highly accomplished lawyer-leaders from a range of backgrounds, and one recurring theme from our conversations has concerned the importance of values in leadership.

To justify our role in leadership positions and to provide the sort of broad-based leadership needed in our profession and in the world, lawyer-leaders must attend to skills, knowledge, as well as to character.

Lawyer-leaders must practice the sort of intellectual empathy that makes intelligible different perspectives while also cultivating a humane form of empathy that enables compassion. Lawyer-leaders must be able to distinguish right from wrong as well as the courage to act on that awareness. Lawyer-leaders must not only have the knowledge needed to predict legal consequences but also the wisdom to counsel clients in a holistic way on their goals and needs.

**To justify our role in leadership positions and to provide the sort of broad-based leadership needed in our profession and in the world, lawyer-leaders must attend to skills, knowledge, as well as to character. Lawyer-leaders must practice the sort of intellectual empathy that makes intelligible different perspectives while also cultivating a humane form of empathy that enables compassion.**

## PANDEMIC PRO TEMPORE

Given the cultural, financial, and institutional pressures that lawyers face, how might one go about cultivating the habits and dispositions needed to practice the virtues of a lawyer-leader?

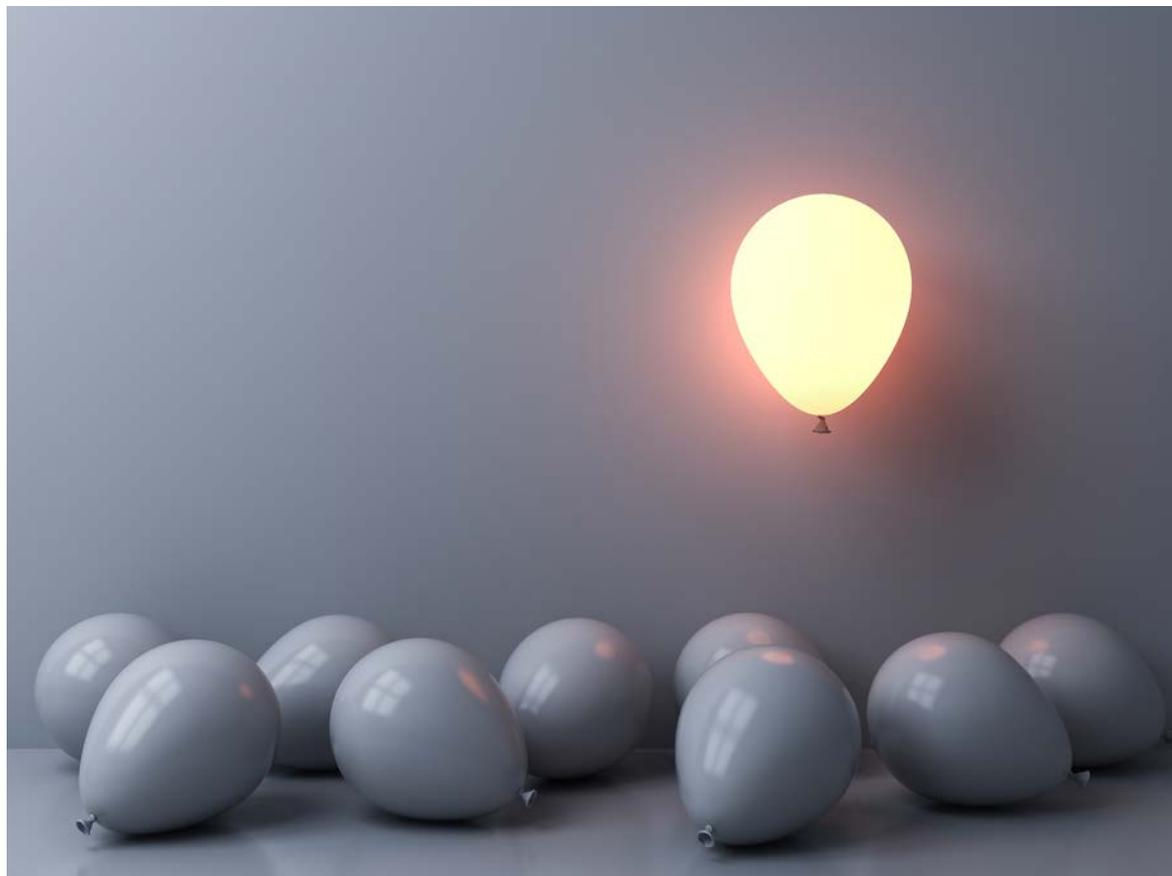
Over the last year, as I have been teaching students in the School of Law and working with the Program for Leadership and Character at Wake Forest, I have found myself reflecting with my students on two relatively simple questions that are as useful for students as for practicing lawyers.

First, Why do I want to be a lawyer? Many practicing lawyers haven't had an occasion to return to this question since completing that law school personal statement many years ago, but reflecting on our purposes is extraordinarily valuable. Doing so forces us to consider the values we hold dear and the people we aim to be. Contemplating our purposes—as lawyers and as human beings—helps reveal occasional gaps between who we are and what we are doing and who we aspire to be. It prompts us to understand our work and our lives in the broader context of the world beyond ourselves. Considering our purposes can also help interrupt the occasionally rigid separation between our work and our values, a norm that contributes to lawyers' struggles with wellbeing, including high levels of depression, substance abuse, and job dissatisfaction.

Second, we can ask, Who are my role models? Study after study has shown that exemplar-based interventions are more likely to inspire ethical behavior and character development than simply teaching abstract theories and expecting people to fall in line. We all have known lawyers who embody the best of the profession, leaders whose wisdom, honesty, and commitment to justice have inspired us and others to enter the field. When aspiring to practice the virtues of lawyer-leaders, we need not start from scratch. Just as the common law builds upon past precedents, we as lawyers have the opportunity to

develop our work, our lives, and our character on the foundations of those who have come before.

The first time I ever walked through the doors of Worrell, I recall being struck by the public display celebrating integrity, honesty, and justice in the lives of Wake Forest lawyers featured on the western wall of the Law Commons. Over the last year, as Wake Forest Law has increasingly partnered with the Program for Leadership



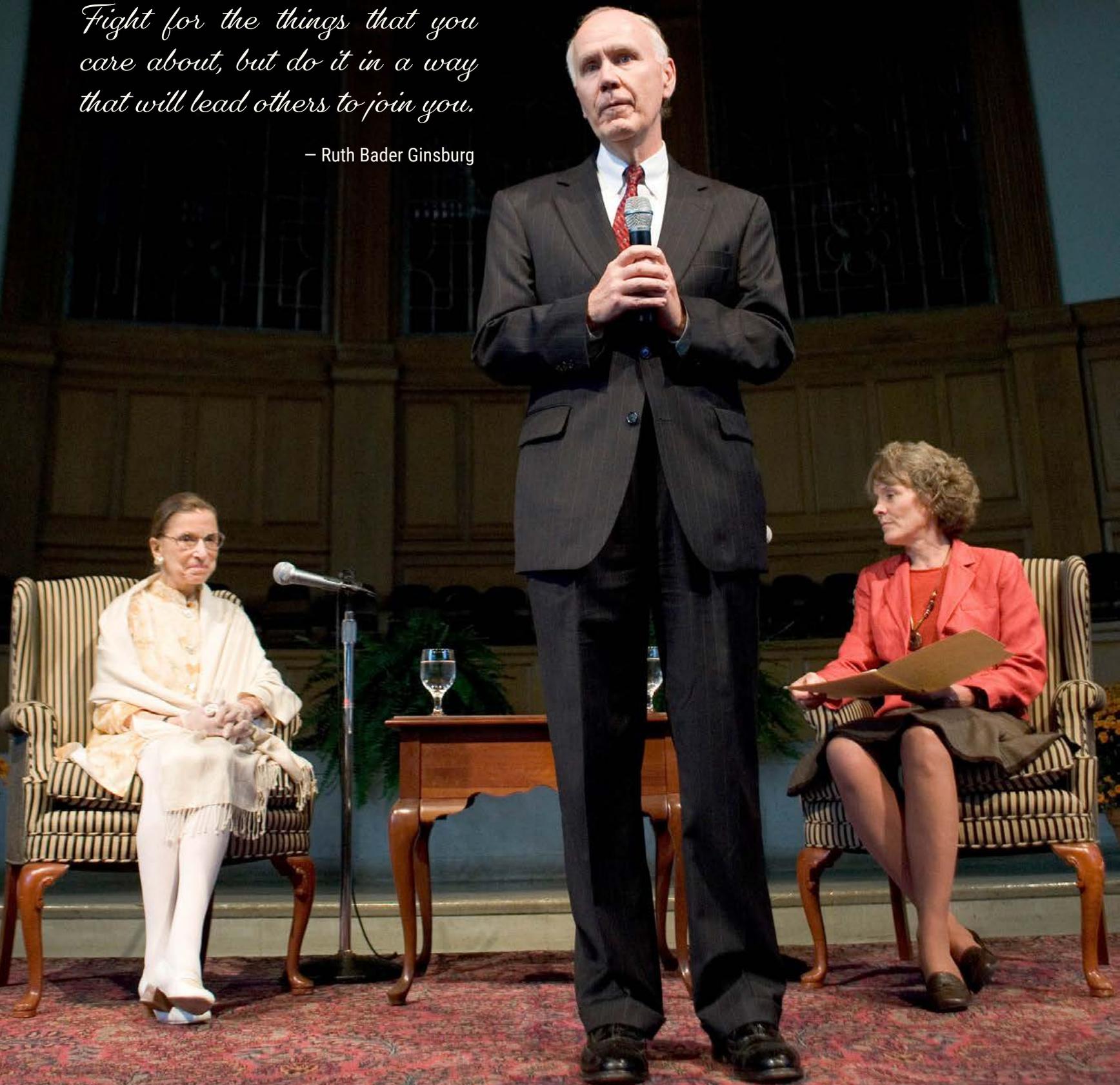
and Character, I have been encouraged time and again by the institutional support as well as the student interest in embracing meaningful, innovative, and character-oriented strategies for navigating a world in the midst of such radical change.

The status of lawyers as leaders in our society is not inevitable or particularly secure, but I am heartened by what I see at Wake Forest.

# A FOND FAREWELL

*Fight for the things that you care about, but do it in a way that will lead others to join you.*

— Ruth Bader Ginsburg





*Students and faculty in Vienna with U.S. Supreme Court Justice Ruth Bader Ginsburg in 2012*

The death of Supreme Court Justice Ruth Bader Ginsburg in September set off a national period of mourning. Admired for her fierce dedication to gender equality and the architect of the fight for women's rights, Justice Ginsburg was also an unlikely pop culture icon, hailed as the "Notorious R.B.G." with her likeness on T-shirts, tote bags, and posters.

She was also a close friend to many at Wake Forest Law, a special relationship developed over years of contact at the Supreme Court, on the Reynolda campus, and overseas.

Wake Forest Law's unique relationship with Supreme Court Justice Ruth Bader Ginsburg began three deans ago, when Dean Bob Walsh started the tradition of taking law alumni to the Supreme Court to be sworn-in.

"He was one of the first law school deans to begin this wonderful tradition, and we started taking a group of alumni every year," said Dean Emerita Suzanne Reynolds (JD '77). "Ruth Bader Ginsburg was the only justice who joined every law alumni group at the reception. She saw that as one of her responsibilities. It was also her choice because Ruth Bader Ginsburg loved lawyers."

Reynolds explained that Dean Walsh asked Justice Ginsburg to visit Wake Forest every time he saw her at these receptions. "It was maybe just this side of badger-

ing her. He said you must come to Wake Forest. You'll love Wake Forest. You already do love Wake Forest. So come join us at Wake Forest."

In 2005, she did just that. As a distinguished guest of the "Conversation With" series, Ginsburg took the stage with then-professor Reynolds to share stories about her life and career to a packed audience in Wait Chapel. "As the conversation started the rest of the room just melted away and it was just the two of us talking like we were in her living room," Reynolds recalled. "At the end, we just stood up and walked across the little stage and hugged each other. Our friendship started there."

Two years later, Reynolds was able to chat with Justice Ginsburg again, this time at a North Carolina Association of Women Attorneys in Asheville, N.C. As part of the event planning, Reynolds asked Justice Ginsburg if she'd like to invite any special guests to dinner. The Justice mentioned former clients who lived in and around the area.

"They were clients from when she was litigating in the 1970s," Reynolds said. "She had stayed in touch with them and had all their contact information. So I wrote and invited them to dinner. We had Sharron Frontiero from *Frontiero v. Richardson* and Stephen Wiesenfeld of *Weinberger v. Wiesenfeld* fame. My husband Hoppy Elliott (JD '77) was there for dinner as well, so there we

were, eating with people who became the cases we had studied as Wake Forest Law students.”

Wake Forest Law students had the opportunity to learn from Justice Ginsburg directly when she and her husband Marty served as guest lecturers in the 2008 Venice Study Abroad Program. She taught Personal Autonomy and Equality in a Comparative Perspective with Professor Reynolds while Marty, who was then a professor at Georgetown University Law Center, taught Comparative Tax Systems with Joel Newman, now Professor Emeritus.

Professor Newman shared a story about that summer abroad program. He and his wife Jane arrived a few days before the session began, and made plans to help the students who would be arriving jet-lagged on a Sunday and who also would be hard-pressed to find a restaurant or a grocery store.

“Jane suggested we throw a pizza party for the students. But what about the Ginsburgs who were also arriving Sunday afternoon? Surely, one of us needed to greet them—but should we invite them out for drinks or dinner?” Newman recalled. “We had never met them before.”

The Newmans decided to invite the Ginsburgs to the pizza party, expecting to receive a polite refusal, but knowing they had made the hospitable gesture. “Obviously, Supreme Court Justices and their spouses don’t attend pizza parties,” Newman said. “I went to their hotel and invited them to the pizza party and they accepted. I went back to Casa Artom to break the news to Jane that we’d be hosting the Ginsburgs, all the students, Professor Suzanne Reynolds and her husband, and other assorted dignitaries for a pizza party.”

As Newman tells the story, they began opening the windows in Casa Artom for fresh air as it had been closed up for some time, but a sudden rainstorm came before they could close them all. He remembers standing water in the kitchen and dining room as the law students began arriving for the party.

“The men were wearing a range of clothing, but the women were all dressed in their very best outfits because they were about to meet a Supreme Court Justice. And yet, there they were, busily mopping the floors,” Newman recalled. “By the time I arrived with the Ginsburgs, things were in pretty good shape. Our pizza party turned out to be the beginning of an unlikely and unusual friendship with the Ginsburgs.”

“The students and I were blown away by having classes in Venice with Justice Ginsburg,” recalled Dean Emerita Suzanne Reynolds. “The consummate teacher, she made constitutional law come alive with the people whose names became the famous cases in the students’ con law books.”

Reynolds remembers that Justice Ginsburg taught constitutional law in the mornings, and the two of them would sight-see in the afternoons while Marty rested so the couple could have dinner and attend operas in the evenings. It was a time when he was battling the illness that took his life just a few years later.

“Doors opened for her that would not have opened for me,” Reynolds said. “So I got to visit villas and have the joy of spending more time with Ruth Bader Ginsburg.”

In 2010, Justice Ginsburg dedicated more time to the Wake Forest Study Abroad Program. This time she traveled to Vienna, where she once again lectured and worked closely with students and faculty. The trip, too, would inspire another life-long friendship — this time with Professor Dick Schneider.

“Justice Ginsburg was profoundly inspirational to me and to our students,” says Professor Schneider, who is also the associate dean for international affairs. “Her passion and integrity in terms of getting things right and advancing the cause of equal protection were unparalleled.”

In 2012, Justice Ginsburg contributed to the Wake Forest Journal of Law & Policy symposium, “Gender and the Legal Profession: The Rise of Female Lawyers.” As the virtual keynote speaker, she spoke about the types of discrimination that female attorneys, jurors, and clients have experienced in the court system. She also talked about the work that had been done to reverse this trend.



*Justice Ginsburg leans in to speak to Professor Dick Schneider during the mock appeal of Shylock at the U.S. Library of Congress.*



Justice Ruth Bader Ginsburg visits Wake Forest Law alumni who were sworn into the Supreme Court Bar in 2019.

“Anything you think you can do, yes you can,” Ginsburg said. “Today there are no artificial barriers in your way. Find out what is your passion and work to achieve what you can.”

Later that year, she returned to Vienna with Wake Forest. As had become tradition, Justice Ginsburg shared meals with students and faculty, developing cherished friendships and memories with those in the program. “What I treasure most about spending time

“One of the most touching moments I ever had with Justice Ginsburg happened in the classroom in Casa Artom in Venice,” says Professor Schneider. “I had asked the students to prepare good questions for a Q&A. One of the students asked Justice Ginsburg what she considered her greatest achievement. She immediately responded that her greatest achievement was her long and loving relationship with her husband, Marty. I think everyone almost started crying.”

“

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— Professor Dick Schneider

with Justice Ginsburg was discovering what a wonderful person she was,” says Professor Tanya Marsh, who taught in the Vienna Summer Program in 2012. “She was not just an icon, but a kind, funny, incredibly thoughtful, and generous person. I am inspired by the memory of a woman who accomplished so much but retained such warmth, empathy, and humanity.”

In 2016, Justice Ginsburg contributed to the Venice Study Abroad Program for what would be her fourth and final trip abroad with Wake Forest Law. Professor Schneider recalls the poignancy of the stories she shared that summer.

Her love story with Marty was a topic of conversation when Ginsburg last met with Wake Forest Law alumni at the U.S. Supreme Court in February 2019. The newly admitted members of the Supreme Court Bar Association listened as she talked about her son James, and the recent column he had written about his parents for Valentine’s Day in the Hollywood Reporter.

“I was on the faculty with Marty. He was a remarkable man who really, all of his life, was such a giving human being, and he was so proud of Ruth,” said Dean Jane Aiken of Wake Forest Law of her time at Georgetown Law. “They were quite a couple because he was an incredibly powerful lawyer in tax. They are an inspiration for all of us in our partnerships.”

Reflecting on her friendship with Justice Ginsburg, Reynolds said, “She has inspired me to try to be a better person. One thing I try to remember is when she told me just don’t deal in anger. Do not be angry, it’s not constructive. Spend all your life doing things that advance your passions. Do something to make the world a better place. And if you get angry, it simply gets in the way.”

# 2 GIVING AND GETTING 2nd Chances



**W**ake Forest Law students are applying what they learn in the classroom with hands-on experience in the community. The Pro Bono Project's Expungement Clinic has traditionally held events twice a month, meeting in Winston-Salem venues with clients who have been convicted of a misdemeanor or a felony.

Katherine Eschels (JD '21) says the pro bono opportunities like the expungement clinic led her to Wake Forest Law. She's been involved with the clinic since her 1L year. "It's just such important work. There are so many people who have something like a weed possession charge from when they were 18 and it's keeping them from getting a job when they're 45," she said. "The work we're doing helps break the cycle of poverty, racism, and systemic discrepancies."

At the clinic events, Wake Forest Law students meet with clients, instruct them about eligibility, and help them start the expungement process with the appropriate forms. "It's a chance for our law students to work with clients and help them remove old criminal records that stand in the way of jobs, housing, and public benefits," said Hazel Mack.

Mack, who led the Pro Bono Project at Wake Forest Law as director of outreach from 2016 until her retirement in May 2020, is proud of the work law students are doing through the project's expungement clinic. Law students learn how to interact with clients, explain legal concepts, and complete legal documentation.

"I've learned how to talk with clients and work with the law in a very hands-on way," Eschels said. "It has set me apart from other people because I'm able to say I've already had that one-on-one client communication and experience."

The expungement law these students are using in their pro bono work has deep ties to Wake Forest Law. Alumnus and former Representative Leo Daughtry (BA '62, JD '65) sponsored the bill that would allow adults to expunge non-violent offenses 15 years after they've been released if they can show no other convictions. Traffic violations would not be considered as impediments to expungement. The bill was signed into law in 2012 by Gov. Bev Purdue.

N.C. Justice Center General Counsel Bill Rowe said, "It was not an easy thing to get accomplished, and Rep. Daughtry got all the stakeholders to agree to the bill, including the North Carolina Conference of District Attorneys, the North Carolina Sheriff's Associa-

tion, and the state's business community."

According to Rowe, Daughtry reached across the aisle to garner support from both fellow Republicans and Democrats in the General Assembly, building a remarkable coalition. "People need a second chance if they do the right thing. They shouldn't have a criminal record hung around their neck for the rest of their lives, which is what we had in North Carolina for a long time," Daughtry said.

Parts of the bill are still in use today, and expungement relief has broadened since Daughtry helped it become law. Eight years later, Gov. Roy Cooper signed the Second Chance Act in June 2020, which builds on Daughtry's original aims to provide relief. Sen. Phil Berger (JD '82) helped enact the new law which reduces the waiting period to seven years with no new charges, sentences served, and fines paid, among other provisions.

"The consequences for mistakes made by young men and women, many of whom come from tough circumstances, shouldn't last a lifetime. But before the North Carolina legislature passed criminal justice reform, that's exactly what happened: people couldn't access quality housing or qualify for a decent job because of mistakes made as teenagers under extraordinarily challenging circumstances," Sen. Berger said.



*Hazel Mack, former director of outreach and leader of the Wake Forest Pro Bono Project.*

The Second Chance Act passed unanimously in both the N.C. House and Senate and was supported by conservative and liberal organizations in the state. “We can give people who make amends for past mistakes the opportunity to clear their records. This bill offers that opportunity and a path to good jobs and a brighter future,” Gov. Cooper wrote in a statement.

Daughtry, who served in the North Carolina General Assembly for more than 25 years, was pleased to see the new law take effect. “The best thing you can do for someone to get them on the right path is for them to get a job and get to work. And expungements have been shown to help people do that.”

Working under the supervision of an attorney, the Wake Forest Law students attend a training and usually partner with a student who has previous experience with the expungement clinics. They meet with clients and help them fill out the paperwork to get the process started. Background checks help fill in any gaps. But sometimes clients find out they aren’t eligible for expungement along the way.

“Being able to help someone is so rewarding, but I also learned how to deal with clients who are facing disappointment,” said Darrien Jones (JD ’21). “You have to get savvy because you’re dealing with real people who’ve been carrying this around for ten-plus years thinking this is the day that’ll change, and you have to tell them it’s not.”

As clinic coordinators, Eschels and Jones meet with Judge Denise Hartsfield (JD ’91) of Forsyth District Court every few weeks to review the applications for expungement. Then the applications are filed and work through the court system until expungement is granted. Currently, they are working with Judge Hartsfield to ensure the clinic can continue to help clients even in the midst of the COVID-19 pandemic.



I think it’s a good thing, and it represents what makes Wake Forest. It’s such a good law school to attend because these students care about their fellow man. Helping people who’ve had trouble in their past who’ve overcome that is great, in my opinion.

— Leo Daughtry (BA ’62, JD ’65)



You can listen to Daughtry introduce the bill on June 24, 2020 and the floor debate in this audio from the NC General Assembly. Daughtry begins at 1:18:10.



The North Carolina Business Court courtroom at Wake Forest School of Law was named the Namon Leon Daughtry Courtroom in October 2018.



**1L Trial Bar Competition.** Rebecca Paulus (JD '22) was named the champion of the 2019 1L Trial Bar Competition. Jacqueline Kasemsri (JD '22) earned second place. Judge Michael Robinson and Professor Marie-Amélie George judged the competition in the North Carolina Business Court at Wake Forest Law.

**Wake Forest remains among the nation's best for trial advocacy.** The National Trial Team ended its 2019 campaign as one of the top teams in the country after another historical performance at the National Board of Trial Advocacy (NBTA) Tournament of Champions (TOC). The team of students, which was coached by Mark Boynton (JD '97), included Zachary Harris (JD '20), Phillip Jester (JD '20), Danielle Kunkel (JD '21), and Andrew Shortt (JD '20).

The team ended the preliminary rounds with a 3-1 record, tying with Drexel, Loyola-Chicago, Harvard, Syracuse, Akron, and Berkeley, but fell short of capturing enough ballots to move on to the final four rounds. Kunkel was unanimously named Best Advocate by the judges for her winning performance over the University of California Berkeley.

**Transactional Law Competition.** The Transactional Law Board named Caitlin Becker (JD '21), Ryan Madden (JD '21), and Olivia Rojas (JD '21) overall team champions of the 2019 Transactional Law Competition.

**Stanley Moot Court Competition.** Elliott Riches (JD '21) was named the champion of the 2019 Stanley Moot Court Competition. Alexandria Montgomery (JD '21) earned second place. Judges

Richard Dietz (JD '02), Joi Elizabeth Peake, and Michael L. Robinson presided over the arguments. Sarah Traynor (JD '21) was named Best Oralist of the competition and Marisa Mariencheck (JD '21) earned the Best Brief award.

**Appellate Advocacy.** Agustin Martinez (JD '20) and Melissa Malone (JD '20) argued before the Fourth Circuit Court of Appeals on behalf of Professor John Korzen and the Wake Forest Appellate Advocacy Clinic in the case of Wilborn and Wardell v. Mansukhani. The case involved claims of vagueness regarding certain Bureau of Prisons policies.

**National Trial Team was named Region 5 champions of the Texas Young Lawyers Association (TYLA) National Trial Competition.** The team of students was coached by Mark Boynton (JD '97), included Dani Kunkel (JD '21), Dakota Baccus (JD '21), and Amanda Manzano (JD '21). They did not lose a single ballot and swept every round to the finals. The national championships were scheduled to be held in April in Fort Worth but were canceled due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

**Zeliff Trial Bar Competition.** Blake Svendsen (JD '21) and Kelsey Rector (JD '22) were named champions of the 2020 Zeliff Trial Bar Competition. Agustin Martinez (JD '20) and Scott Harvey (JD '20) were named runner-up of the competition. Judge David Hall, Superior Court Judge of Forsyth County, presided over the final round of the competition.



# PARTNERS in PREVENTION

When healthcare and legal professionals join forces, the resulting medical-legal partnership (MLP) benefits the community in impactful ways. According to the National Center for Medical Legal Partnership, when these forces combine to address social needs, people are admitted to the hospital less often, are more likely to take their medications as prescribed, and report lower stress levels. The group counts 442 health organizations developing MLPs in 48 states.

Soon there will be one more.

Wake Forest Law and Wake Forest School of Medicine have begun laying the foundation for a medical-legal partnership to benefit Forsyth County by the late summer of 2021. “A team of law and medical students are working now to define the problem,” said Wake Forest Law Professor Emily Benfer. “The need in Winston-Salem—the prevalence of poor health connected to social determinants—is overwhelming.”



**THE NEED IN  
WINSTON-SALEM—  
THE PREVALENCE  
OF POOR HEALTH  
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IS OVERWHELMING.**

— Emily Benfer

Benfer said the Wake Forest students will review many facets of the public health problem, from poor housing conditions, to environmental hazards, to food insecurity, to community health needs that include issues such as high rates of cancer, infant mortality, and respiratory disease. “These are all deeply connected to the social issues,” Benfer said. “Which is exactly the type of situation where medical-legal partnerships create the leverage to resolve these problems on a scale that includes both the patient as your client and the population as well.”

Benfer, who created and directed the award-winning MLP between Legal Assistance Foundation, Loyola University Chicago School of Law, and the Erie Family Health Center, has provided advice and supported the development of about three dozen MLPs in urban and rural areas. She said finding the medical champion for an MLP is a critical step in the process. So Benfer is delighted to be working with Dr. Kimberly Montez.

Dr. Montez co-directs the Health Equity Certificate Program and directs the Health Justice Advocacy Certificate Program in conjunction with Wake Forest Law. The MLP will be housed in the Downtown Health Plaza Clinic which opened on Martin Luther King Jr. Drive 20 years ago.

“About 92 percent of our pediatric population has Medicaid and should automatically qualify for services such as evidence-based federal nutrition programs like SNAP and WIC. We know these programs work really well at mitigating food insecurity,” Montez said. “Unfortunately there is a disconnect and our patients may not have these services. As physicians, we may not feel we have the capacity to address that. But having a legal clinic on site will enable these patients to receive the assistance they need to stay healthy.”

Montez explains that MLPs often screen for other problems in society such as intimate partner violence, mental health, transportation, legal needs, and parental stress. “We often get questions about housing, such as eviction or safety. These are complex issues with which we could certainly use legal help.”

While the community benefits from the MLP, both Montez and Benfer point out that the experience the medical and law students receive enhance their professional educations. On the medical side, both students and residents will be involved in the clinical setting. For law students, the multidisciplinary partnership offers new opportunities to work with clients under supervision and gain the practical skills a new lawyer needs.

“Dean Aiken has been the catalyst in forming this partnership. I so appreciate her leadership,” Montez said. “I’ve learned so much from Professor Benfer and her experience in setting up so many MLPs. I’m really looking forward to having a fully integrated medical-legal partnership because it will improve education and positively impact patient care.”

## Three Decades of Service to Our Most Vulnerable

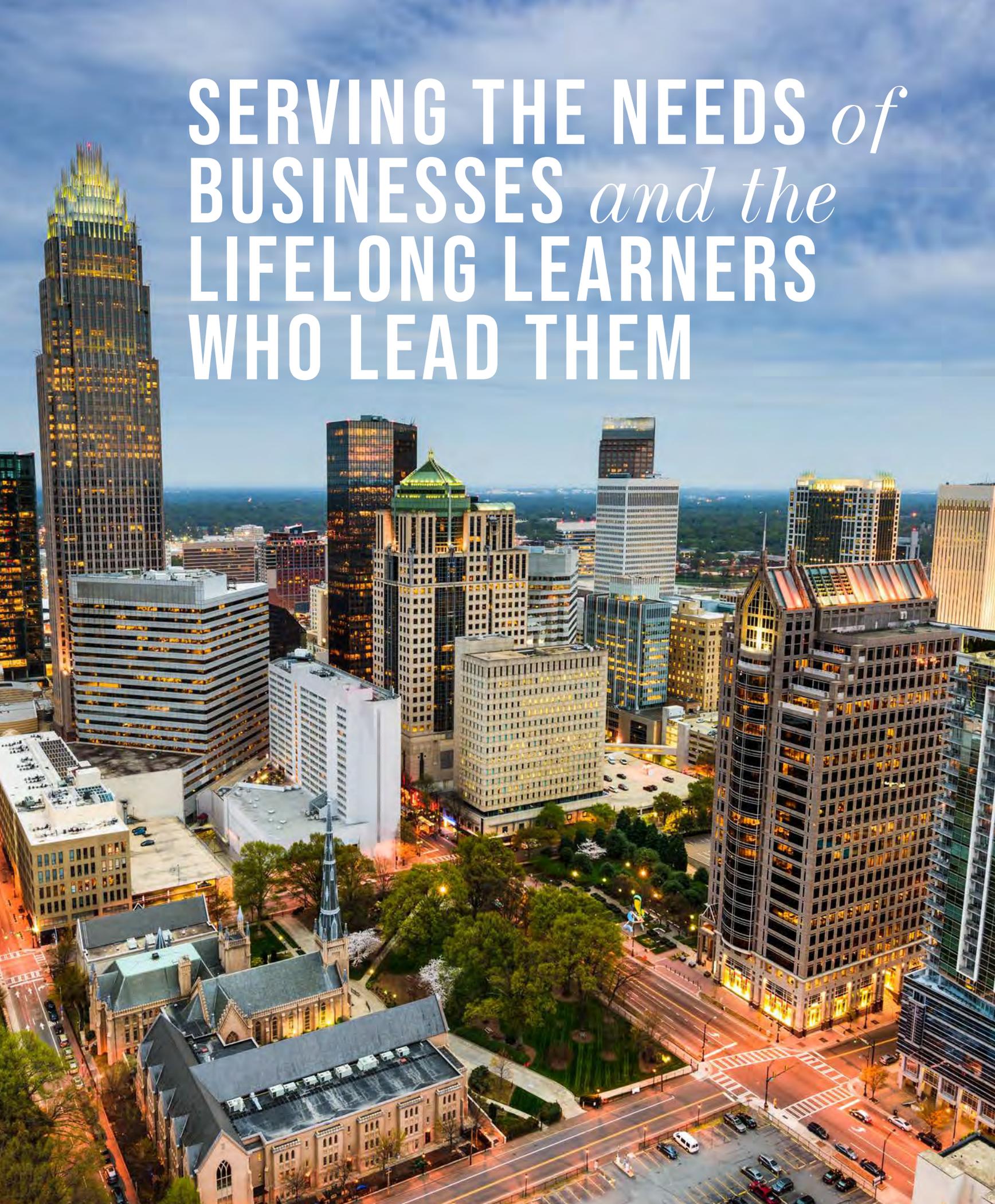


Twenty nine years after creating the Elder Law Clinic at Wake Forest Law, Professor Kate Mewhinney retired in 2020. Hundreds of Wake Forest Law alumni credit her with offering practical experience with clients that helped them in their careers no matter what field they went into. For many alumni, their time in the Elder Law Clinic inspired them to practice in the specialty and identify Mewhinney as a mentor, a resource, and advocate for them.

Reflecting on the changing role of elder law, Mewhinney said it has evolved beyond writing a will and choosing a power of attorney. Now lawyers working in this field help seniors navigate territory their parents never faced as the world has become more complex. Often they play the role of social worker, psychologist, and advocate.

Mewhinney held many certifications and received accolades for her work in elder law. The National Elder Law Foundation and the N.C. State Bar Board of Legal Specialization have certified her as an Elder Law Attorney. She was Chair of the N.C. Bar Association’s Elder Law Section and a Certified Superior Court Mediator with additional certification to mediate guardianship and estate disputes.

SERVING THE NEEDS *of*  
BUSINESSES *and the*  
LIFELONG LEARNERS  
WHO LEAD THEM



# The fast pace of innovation in business and technology is creating the need for more professionals who understand how to navigate complex regulatory frameworks. Wake Forest Law is positioning itself as a leader in Legal Education for Executives.

The complexity of regulation and rapidly changing legal environment in a number of industries has surfaced an increasing need for legal training for a range of professionals. Businesses need employees throughout the organization who can navigate the law and minimize risk. There is also an increased call for lifelong learning opportunities and focus on just-in-time skills.

Wake Forest Law is ideally suited for this work. We have experience and have excelled in training professionals. Our nationally recognized online Master of Studies in Law (MSL) has educated professionals from across the United States, working in a wide range of industries, including health care, finance, education, state and local governments, and insurance, as well as non-profit executives and small business owners. Over 200 students have enrolled in the MSL, and there are many more professionals who could benefit.

To increase accessibility to this training, we are (1) identifying new groups of professionals who might benefit, (2) repackaging limited components of our market-driven MSL to provide short-courses and micro-units to professionals, and (3) offering these directly to businesses and entities to provide directly to their employees.

We have also formed a Task Force of lawyers and business professionals, which will serve as a working group to assist the law school by identifying new groups whose employees need to understand the law to better manage risk.

The Task Force will assist the Wake Forest Law in the following ways:

- By identifying new curricular needs for JD students, such as business acumen, leadership and/or management training, and exploring delivery options.
- By identifying specific non-lawyer professionals and industry groups, such as health care, human resource management, and cyber security, who could benefit from legal training.
- By exploring ways the School of Law can serve the business community through certificate programs that address current business problems and by offering short courses on important topics.

The Task Force will be comprised of leaders from a wide range of business experiences, including business leaders with experience in the law, as well as lawyers with a record of business leadership. Their considerable experience in leading and advising businesses will help the Law School create new revenue opportunities. For example, by identifying new non-lawyer professionals and groups who may benefit from legal training, the Task Force will help the law school achieve the goal of developing short courses or “learning paths” that would be attractive for a range of B2B stakeholders whose employees need to understand the law to better manage risk. The work of the Task Force will begin on November 9, 2020, with a conference call. We anticipate a series of conversations, culminating with a final summary report in March 2021.

# ANNUAL EVENTS

**1** Dean Jane Aiken and Kimberly Stevens (JD '92) were distinguished guests of the Conversation With Series during the 2019-2020 academic year.

**2** Veta Richardson (pictured), president and chief executive officer of the Association of Corporate Counsel (ACC), Ramona Romero, Ramona Romero, general counsel of Princeton University, and Claire DeMatteis, commissioner of the Delaware Department of Corrections, visited Wake Forest Law as distinguished guests of the 2019-2020 Sager Speaker Series.

**3** Kimberly Stevens (JD '92), one of only three capital resource counsel in the U.S., joined Professor Mark Rabil for a "Conversation With" event. She discussed her experiences working as defense counsel in numerous high-profile federal death penalty cases, navigating small-town prejudices, and the lessons she learned while litigating in a biased environment.

**4** 35th Annual Black Law Student Association (BLSA) Scholarship Award Banquet "2020 Vision: Remembering the Past, Treasuring the Future" was organized and led by Katherine Eschels (JD '21). Several students were awarded scholarships, including: Kendra Barr (JD '22), Alexandria Hill (JD '22), Britteny Junious (JD '21), and Nia Doaks (JD '22). Professor Luellen Curry was named the recipient of the Legacy Award.





2

# SPECIAL EVENTS

**1 Students attend American Law Institute advisory meeting.** Gentry Ward (JD '21), Jim Twiddy (JD '21), and Roecker Melick (JD '20)—all research assistants for Professor Jonathan Cardi—traveled to Philadelphia, Pa. with Professor Cardi to attend an advisor's meeting at the American Legal Institute (ALI). Professor Cardi is the associate reporter for the Restatement Third of Torts: Intentional Torts to Persons.

**2 Sarah Koenig of the Serial Podcast Visits Wake Forest Law.** Sarah Koenig visited Wake Forest Law School to talk about storytelling and its impact on the criminal justice system. Professors Kami Chavis and Mark Rabil joined her as panelists where they discussed the roles of the journalist, the prosecutor, and the defense attorney.

**3 Students help detained asylum seekers in Texas.** Raquel Gonzalez-Padron (JD '21), Natalia Nino (JD '22), Kenya Parrish (JD '20), Alejandro Ramirez (JD '21), Jenell Scarborough (LLM '20), and Aaron Walck (JD '21) traveled to Dilley, Texas to help detained mothers prepare for their credible or reasonable fear interviews. Sophia Pappalardo (JD '20), Andrea Schwehr (JD '21), and Raquel Gonzalez-Padron were student leaders who organized this pro bono project.

**4** For the seventh consecutive year, Wake Forest Law has won the law school division of the Legal Feeding Frenzy, collectively raising 14,109 pounds of food local food banks. The win came despite the COVID-19 pandemic restrictions that closed Worrell Professional Center to faculty, staff, and students midway through the competition.



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3

# FACULTY HIGHLIGHTS

**A**s this nation faces the COVID-19 pandemic and its devastating impact on the poor, massive protests all over the nation, and environmental devastation, Wake Forest Law's faculty are speaking and writing about these issues as scholars, advocates and policy makers. The addition of several new faculty has enhanced our impact.

Gaining a deeper understanding of rights and the ways in which rights are abridged is of critical importance to training lawyers for the future. Wake Forest Law has a deep bench in this area.



# MARIE-AMÉLIE GEORGE

George earned her second Dukeminier Award for her Yale Law & Policy Review article, “Bureaucratic Agency: Administering the Transformation of LGBT Rights.” The Dukeminier Award is conferred upon authors of the country’s most influential sexual orientation and gender identity scholarship.



# GREGORY PARKS

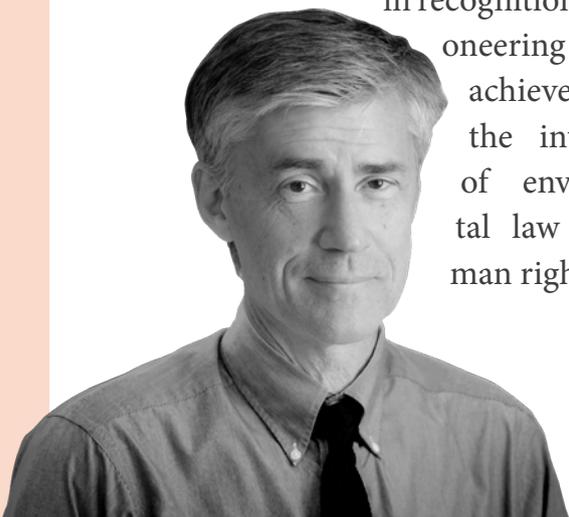
Parks authored a trio of coauthored scholarly works centered on his research into hazing. “Hazing in High School Athletics: An Analysis of Victims,” in Marquette Sports Law Review; “White Boy Wasted: Race, Sex, and Alcohol Use in Fraternity Hazing,” Wisconsin Journal of Law, Gender & Society; and “Hazing, Black Sororities, and Organizational Dynamics,” in Law & Psychology Review.



# JOHN KNOX

Knox, a former U.N. Special Rapporteur on the issue of human rights and the environment, received an honorary doctorate from Ghent University in Belgium

in recognition of his pioneering academic achievements at the intersection of environmental law and human rights law.



# TIM DAVIS

Davis joined the U.S. Anti-Doping Agency (USADA) as its newest board member. Davis is a renowned teacher-scholar whose work focuses on racism in athletics, the NCAA, and professional sports agents.



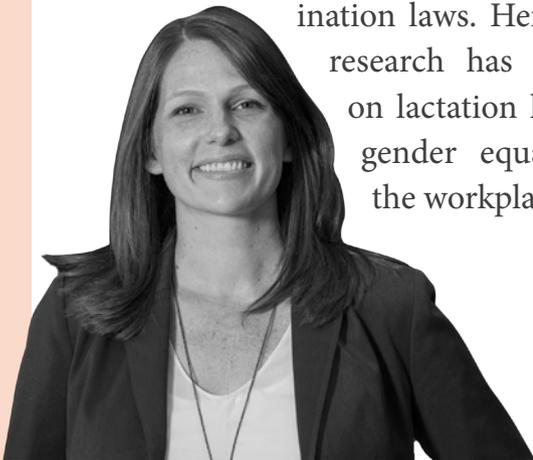
## ELLIE MORALES (JD '10)

Professor Morales is returning to the law school to help us grow our Veteran's Clinic, supervising students who represent veterans as they seek to vindicate their rights. Professor Morales was the first female Judge Advocate General (JAG) officer to be awarded the General Douglas MacArthur Leadership Award.



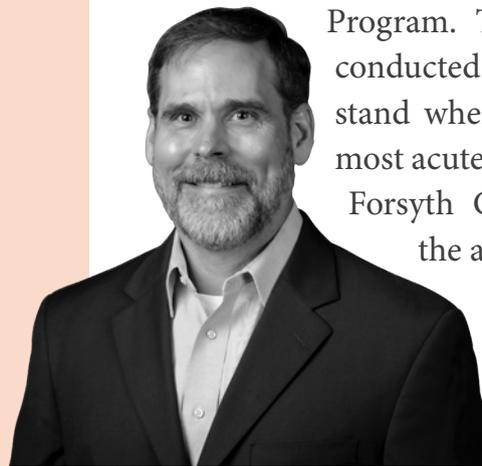
## MEGHAN BOONE

Boone rejoins our faculty to teach family law reproductive rights, sex discrimination, employment discrimination, and civil rights/anti-discrimination laws. Her recent research has focused on lactation law and gender equality in the workplace.



## SCOTT SCHANG

Schang, director of the Wake Forest Law Environmental and Policy Clinic, is leading our new partnership with New America—The Future of Property Rights Program. The initiative has conducted research to understand where housing loss is most acute across the nation. Forsyth County is one of the areas spotlighted.



## EMILY BENFER

Well known in the field of health justice, Benfer is a visiting professor of law who will focus on setting up a medical-legal partnership. Recently she created housing policy scorecards for all 50 states and the District of Columbia in the wake of the COVID-19 pandemic and the restrictions enacted by many states and local communities. Her research was used as the basis for the CDC's decision to order a moratorium on COVID-19 related evictions.





## ALYSE BERENTHAL

As California burns and the gulf coast braces for hurricane after hurricane, Wake Forest Law School has deepened its expertise in environmental law. This year we hired Assistant Professor Bertenthal. Her recent research takes a community view of environmental issues.

## SARAH MORATH

Also hired was Professor Morath who will bring her legal writing, teaching, and focus on agriculture and environmental law as an associate professor of legal writing. Professor Morath is one of the foremost scholars on the impact of plastic on our environment.



## BRENDA GIBSON

Before joining Wake Forest Law, our new legal writing professor Gibson was director of legal writing at NC Central University School of Law. Professor Gibson is an expert on legal writing whose research focuses on the science of pedagogy and its intersections with social science, history, and the law.



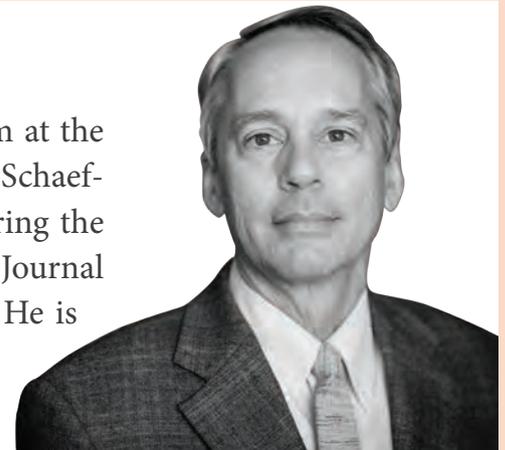
## REBECCA MORROW

Wake Forest law professors translate their deep knowledge into effective teaching. Morrow received the 2020 Joseph Branch Excellence in Teaching Award. The award was established in 1985 to honor Wake Forest alumnus Joseph Branch (LLB '38, LLD '83) for his humanistic and student-centered approach to legal education. Recipients are chosen from the School of Law faculty on the basis of outstanding teaching and service to the legal profession.



## MARK HALL

Hall is a nonresident senior fellow in the Economic Studies program at the Brookings Institution where he contributes to the USC-Brookings Schaeffer Initiative for Health Policy. He coauthored numerous works during the COVID-19 pandemic for the New England Journal of Medicine, the Journal of the American Medical Association, and The Milbank Quarterly. He is also the lead reporter for the American Law Institute's (ALI) medical liability section of the Restatement Third of Torts.



# CLASSES NOTEFES



MCGINN '67



FREEMAN '74



DAVIS JR. '76



TAYLOR '76



REYNOLDS '77

## 1950's

**W. Earl Britt ('58)** received the 2019 North Carolina Award for Public Service, the state's highest civilian honor. He was one of six to win the award, presented by Gov. Roy Cooper. A senior judge of the U.S. District Court for the Eastern District of North Carolina, Britt was instrumental in establishing HOPE (Helping Offenders Pursue Excellence), a program for the rehabilitation of nonviolent offenders.

## 1960's

**Fred Morrison Jr. ('63)** was honored for 50 years of public service by the North Carolina Bar Association and state Supreme Court Chief Justice Cheri Beasley. Morrison has been an administrative law judge for 33 years. He was legal counsel to Govs. Bob Scott and James Holshouser and was the first executive director of the North Carolina Inmate Grievance Commission. He has been active in the Jaycees' growth and role in rehabilitating prisoners. He lives in Raleigh, N.C.

**Dan McGinn ('67)** was named a 2020 N.C. Super Lawyer, one of the Best Lawyers in America, and was recognized by Chambers USA as one of America's leading lawyers for labor & employment law. He was also named a "Labor & Employment Star" in the 2020 edition of Benchmark Litigation. He is an attorney at Brooks Pierce in Greensboro, N.C.

**Ken Moser ('68)** was inducted into the Cabarrus

County (N.C.) Sports Hall of Fame. A retired Winston-Salem attorney, Moser played baseball, football, and basketball at Mount Pleasant High School and played basketball and ran cross country at Wake Forest. He serves on the Wake Forest Alumni Council and is chairman of the Golden Deacs (formerly Half Century Club).

## 1973

**R. Lee Farmer** was appointed vice chair of the North Carolina Disciplinary Hearing Commission by the North Carolina State Bar Council. He is member-manager of the Law Offices of R. Lee Farmer PLLC in Yanceyville, N.C., and a member of the American Board of Trial Advocates.

## 1974

**Roy A. Archbell Jr.** published a book, "Archbell Genealogy: The Descendants of John Archbell of Beaufort County, N.C." The book earned the 2019 Award for Excellence in Publishing for a book on family history from the North Carolina Genealogical Society. He practiced law on the Outer Banks for 40 years until retiring in 2015. He lives outside Roanoke, Va., with his wife, Mary.

**William H. Freeman** was appointed by North Carolina Gov. Roy Cooper as chairman of the North Carolina Ethics Commission, a bipartisan commission that oversees the conduct of more than 7,000 state officeholders and appointees. Freeman

### PANDEMIC LIFE:

#### Kenneth Allen Moser (BA '65, JD '68)

This pandemic has certainly been eventful for me. I have been honored by being named to the North Carolina Bar Association Legal Practice Hall of Fame, one of five lawyers in N.C. to be so honored this year. I am facing, however, the biggest challenge of my life during this pandemic. I have been diagnosed with a chronic lung disease called idiopathic pulmonary fibrosis which has required my wife and me to relocate for up to six months to Durham, NC, for a lung transplant. I have been placed on the national registry for that surgery and as I write this note am awaiting a lung match so that the exceptional, world-class Duke Lung Transplant Team may proceed with one of the greatest blessings of my life. We are truly fortunate to have such great hospitals and medical professionals in our great state and nation. I am also blessed to be a "Double Deacon."

is a retired Superior Court judge who works as a mediator and arbitrator in Winston-Salem.

## 1975

**David D. Ward Sr.** was named to the 2020 edition of The Best Lawyers in America in medical malpractice and personal injury litigation. He is an attorney at Cranfill Sumner & Hartzog LLP in Raleigh, N.C.

**James W. Narron** received the Distinguished Service Award from the North Carolina Bar Association's Estate Planning & Fiduciary Law Section. He is an attorney at Narron Wenzel PA in Smithfield, N.C., and a certified specialist in estate planning and probate law.

**James Paul Weaver** is chief legal counsel-U.S. for Grant International, a London-based corporation handling copyright and trademark infringement matters for various clients involved in worldwide fashion and cosmetics markets, including Chanel, Marc Jacobs, Calvin Klein, and Gucci. His assignments involve import, export, and counterfeit product violation issues in North America and the Caribbean.

## 1976

**Tom Davis Jr.** was presented with a Friend of the Court Award, the North Carolina Supreme Court's highest honor, for his service to the judicial branch and contributions to the Supreme Court's bicentennial celebration. Davis is a partner with Poyner Spruill LLP in Raleigh, N.C., and president of the North Carolina Supreme Court Historical Society. He was instrumental in establishing a portion of the North Carolina Museum of History exhibit "Law and Justice."

**Daniel R. Taylor Jr.** was named to the 2020 edition of The Best Lawyers in America (commercial litigation, banking, and finance litigation). He recently opened a law firm, Taylor & Taylor Attorneys at Law PLLC, in Winston-Salem with his son, E. Winslow Taylor (JD '12). Taylor is also a volunteer counsel in residence at Winston Starts, a business incubator in downtown Winston-Salem.

## 1977

**Suzanne Reynolds** received the Founding Leadership Award from the Children's Law Center of Central North Carolina (CLC), a nonprofit that provides children with quality legal advocacy. Reynolds, professor and dean emerita of Wake Forest's School of Law, has served CLC as an educator, adviser, and leader. She served on CLC's first board of directors and helped foster CLC's partnership with the School of Law, resulting in the Child Advocacy Clinic.

**David G. Singleton Jr.** was elected treasurer of the Eno River Association, a conservation group based in Durham, N.C., charged with protecting the Eno River Basin. Singleton has served on the board of directors since 2017. He is in his 32nd year as in-house counsel at Duke University.

## 1979

**Anthony "Andy" Penry** was appointed as a North Carolina delegate to the Uniform Law Commission by Gov. Roy Cooper. Penry is an adjunct professor at Wake Forest School of Law and a partner at Penry Riemann PLLC in Raleigh, N.C.

**Bob Singer** was named a 2020 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, N.C.

**Don Vaughan** was selected to ring the opening bell at the New York Stock Exchange on Jan. 2, 2020. Vaughan is an attorney in Greensboro, N.C., and a member of the board of directors of Blue Ridge Bank, which was admitted to the stock exchange earlier this year. He is also an adjunct professor at Wake Forest School of Law and a former state senator.

## 1981

**David Jonas** has been named general counsel of the Young Marines, a national nonprofit education and service program for youth. He also serves on the Young Marines board of directors. Jonas is an adjunct professor at Georgetown University Law Center and George Washington University Law School. He previously served as senior adviser to U.S. Secretary of Energy Rick Perry and is a former Marine Corps officer.

**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.

**Julie Manning Shovelin** received the 30th annual Allen H. Sims Award, along with her husband, Wayne (P '99), from the Gaston (N.C.) Community Foundation. The award is given to individuals who exemplify selflessness and make a difference in the community. Shovelin has served as president of six local nonprofit boards, including Hospice, Girl Scouts, and the Salvation Army.

**Ted Smyth** was accepted as a Fellow of the American College of Coverage Counsel

### ALUMNI HIGHLIGHT:

#### W. Leslie Johnson (JD '68)

Johnson was awarded The Order of the Long Leaf Pine, North Carolina's highest honor for state service. The award, which is given to individuals who have made significant contributions to the state and its communities through exemplary service and exceptional accomplishments, was granted by Governor Roy Cooper in 2019. Johnson has practiced law in the state for more than half a century.



## PANDEMIC LIFE:

### Charles "Chuck" Morgan (JD '81)

When NC Supreme Court Chief Justice Cheri Beasley issued her first directive on March 13th, our criminal justice system and my life turned topsy-turvy. My courtroom work has diminished to the point that I began working from home most days. For the past three years I have had the privilege of practicing criminal defense law with my daughter, and she has been able to handle most of my cases that require court appearances. We miss the camaraderie of Bar functions, CLEs, committee meetings, and socials. Of course, virtual platforms such as Go-to-Meeting and Zoom allow the work of the Bar to press on. My wife is on the "front lines" working as a nurse at our local hospital. She is constantly worried about contracting and spreading the virus, despite the protective measures that have been put into place. Early on in the pandemic, we walked around the neighborhood most days. It was rewarding to see parents playing in their yard with their kids, even though they may have lost their jobs, been laid off, or furloughed. Adults dusted off their bikes and the youngsters zipped by us on their bikes, scooters, and skates. We were able to enjoy neighbors' gorgeous flower beds and picked up some great landscaping ideas. Most everyone smiled and waved at each other, but kept their distance when they stopped to talk. In closing, I hope someone invents a face mask that allows lawyers to be heard and understood by judges and soon, juries, and vice versa.

By the way, I was on staff at *The Jurist* when I was a student. My claim to fame was an interview I did of Charlotte Mayor Eddie Knox (JD '63).



SOUSA '81



ROACH '82

to the 2019 edition of *The Best Lawyers in America* for his work in elder law and trust and estates. He is special counsel at Carruthers & Roth in Greensboro, N.C.

**Craig A. Minegar** was named to the 2020 edition of *The Best Lawyers in America* in real estate law. He is an attorney at Winderweedle, Haines, Ward & Woodman PA in Winter Park, FL.

**Jerry T. Myers** was named to the 2020 North Carolina Super Lawyers list for creditor debtor rights. He is managing partner at Smith Debnam in Raleigh, N.C.

**Jim W. Phillips Jr.** was named a 2020 N.C. Super Lawyer and was recognized as one of the state's Top 100 Lawyers. He also was named to Business North Carolina's 2020 Legal Elite and recognized by Chambers USA as one of America's leading lawyers in general commercial law. In addition, he was named a "Local Litigation Star" in the 2020 edition of *Benchmark Litigation*. He is an attorney at Brooks Pierce in Greensboro, N.C.

**John W. Ormand III** was named a "Labor & Employment Star" in the 2020 edition of *Benchmark Litigation*. He practices in the Raleigh, N.C., office of Brooks Pierce.

## 1985

**Vanessa Evans Burton** is a District Court judge for North Carolina's 16B Judicial District (Robeson County). Previously she spent 30 years as assistant district attorney in Robeson County.

(ACCC), an invitation-only organization of senior lawyers who have devoted most of their practice to insurance disputes. Smyth was also named a 2020 N.C. Super Lawyer for insurance law and was recognized as one of the Best Lawyers in America. He is an attorney at Cranfill Sumner & Hartzog LLP in Raleigh, N.C.

**Bettie Kelley Sousa** was named to the 2020 North Carolina Super Lawyers list for business litigation. She is a partner at Smith Debnam in Raleigh, N.C.

## 1982

**Alexandra "Alex" Marina Hightower** was promoted to special deputy attorney general in the Transportation Section of the North Carolina Department of Justice. She is in her 19th year with the department.

**Melissa E. McMorries** was named to Georgia Trend magazine's 2019 Legal Elite for Taxes/Estates/Trusts Law. She is an attorney at Taylor English Duma LLP in Atlanta, Ga.

**Gerald Roach** was recognized in the 2019 Chambers USA guide as a top lawyer in

his practice area of corporate/mergers & acquisitions. He is managing partner at Smith Anderson in Raleigh, N.C., 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, N.C.

## 1983

**Margaret Shea Burnham** received the 2019 Julian Nexsen Pro Bono Lawyer of the Year Award for her work the last 10 years with the Guilford County Teen Court diversion program. She is a commercial real estate attorney with Nexsen Pruet LLC in Greensboro, N.C.

## 1984

**J. Stanley Atwell** was named

## ALUMNI HIGHLIGHT: Chris Swecker (JD '81)

Swecker was appointed to lead an independent review of Fort Hood following the killing of Spc. Vanessa Guillen. Swecker is an attorney & retired assistant director of the FBI's Criminal Investigative Division.



SPENCE '82



BURNHAM '83



ATWELL '84



MINEGAR '84



MYERS '84



BURTON '85

**David D. Daggett** finished first in his age group (55-59) at the Ironman Executive Challenge in Chattanooga, TN, which qualified him for the 2020 Ironman World Championship in Hawaii. Daggett has completed 195 triathlons and 29 Ironman events. He is an injury attorney in Winston-Salem.

## 1986

**M. Joseph Allman** was recognized in the 2019 edition of Best Lawyers in America for real estate law. He is a shareholder and director at Allman Spry Davis Leggett & Crumpler PA in Winston-Salem.

**David M. Eldridge** is chair of the Tennessee Bar Foundation, a philanthropic organization that honors top-performing lawyers and supports law-related public projects. He has been in private practice since 1987 and is with Eldridge & Blakney PC in Knoxville, Tenn.

**Robert Griffin** was named to the 2020 edition of The Best Lawyers in America in insurance litigation. He is an attorney at Cranfill Sumner & Hartzog LLP in Raleigh, N.C.

## 1988

**Bob King** was named a 2020 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 was also named a "Local Litigation Star" in the 2020 edition of Benchmark Litigation. He is an attorney at Brooks Pierce in Greensboro, N.C.

**Rick Sager** was named to the 2019 Georgia Super Lawyers list for personal injury products: defense. He is a partner at Weinberg Wheeler Hudgins Gunn & Dial in Atlanta, Ga.

## 1989

**Mike Mitchell** was recognized in the 2019 Chambers USA guide as a top lawyer in his practice area—litigation: general commercial. He is an attorney at Smith Anderson in Raleigh,

N.C., and co-chair of the firm's business litigation team.

**David Rhoades** was named to the 2020 edition of The Best Lawyers in America in workers' compensation law. He also was named "Lawyer of the Year" in workers' compensation law in Raleigh, N.C., metro area. He is an attorney at Cranfill Sumner & Hartzog LLP in Raleigh.

## 1990

**Bryan Adams** was named by North Carolina Super Lawyers as a Top 100 lawyer for 2019 in his practice area of labor and employment law. He was named a 2020 "Lawyer of the Year" in Charlotte, N.C., by Best Lawyers in America

for employment law—management. He is an attorney with Van Hoy, Reutlinger, Adams & Pierce PLLC in Charlotte, N.C.

**Andy Avram** received a 2019 Leaders in the Law Award from North Carolina Lawyer's Weekly and was named to the 2020 edition of The Best Lawyers in America in workers' compensation law. He is an attorney at Cranfill Sumner & Hartzog LLP in Charlotte, N.C.

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

**Michelle Davis Connell** joined Fox Rothschild LLP in Raleigh, N.C., as a partner in the firm's family law group. She is also a fellow

### PANDEMIC LIFE:

#### David Daggett (JD '85)

We are fortunate during these crazy times that we have been able to adapt and thrive. I have continued to reflect on, and preach, lessons and principles I have learned over many years of working with elite athletes and coaches. There are always challenges and obstacles, and there are always solutions and positive possibilities for those who persevere. Three of those principles are: 1. Create structure in times of chaos. This is the intentionality of controlling circumstances instead of letting them control you. 2. Focus on what we can do, not what we can't do. Then, consistently execute on those areas. Consistent execution over time toward a worthy goal always produces positive results. 3. Pay close attention to your health. These times are very stressful and being fit and healthy is possibly the best medicine. These times are great times for developing a regular (daily) fitness habit and to clean up your diet. Food is fuel, sleep is power, and movement is medicine. Remember, at some point this will come to an end. By following these simple principles not only can we survive and thrive during these times, but moreover we will be prepared to fly on the other side when it is over. Do what is right, what is good, and what is meaningful. Never give up and never lose faith.



Rick Duff Photography

## PANDEMIC LIFE:

### Rhonda K. Amoroso (JD '85)

I never thought I'd have a ... YouTube channel. Once COVID-19 hit and we were in lockdown, I started making "How To" cooking videos and have had a ball making them. My first video was "How To Brew Kombucha." My most popular video to date is "How To Make 6 Ingredient No-Bake Brownie Bites." Check it out below and see all my other videos. I am your resource for healthy alternatives to classic recipes. Check out my website for more creative ideas and if you need a photo, it's there too. Oh, and one last thing, I've made over 40 chocolate chip banana nut breads since March and that's simply insane! Thank you Wake Forest!



[YouTube Video](#)

[rhondakamoroso.com](http://rhondakamoroso.com)



counsel and has worked for the State Bar since 1996. He lives in Atlanta, Ga.

**Nick Valaoras** was named to the 2020 edition of The Best Lawyers in America in workers' compensation law. He is an attorney at Cranfill Sumner & Hartzog LLP in Charlotte, N.C.

## 1993

**J. Gregory Hatcher** was named a 2020 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 family law. He is managing partner of Hatcher Law Group in Charlotte, N.C., and a fellow of the American Academy of Matrimonial Lawyers.

**Mary Sheehan Pollard** was appointed executive director of the North Carolina Office of Indigent Defense Services (IDS). A resident of Raleigh, Pollard's legal career spans 27 years, most of which she spent protecting rights of indigent, incarcerated people. Since 2009, she has served as executive director of N.C. Prisoner Legal Services Inc.

**Mary E. Sharp** received the 2019 Jean Galloway Bissell Award from the South Carolina Women Lawyers Association for her professional accomplishments, trailblazing activities, and public service. Sharp has more than 20 years of experience in trial and appellate proceedings. She achieved a Martindale-Hubbell AV Preeminent Rating, awarded to lawyers with the highest ethical standards and professional ability. She is also a mediator. She lives in Beaufort, S.C.

## 1994

**Rich Kim** is an assistant U.S. attorney for the Central District of Illinois. He is the financial litigation and asset forfeiture coordinator in the Springfield, Ill., office.

**David Knight** was elected to the Raleigh (N.C.) City Council. An environmental advocate and lobbyist, Knight formerly chaired the Raleigh Water Conservation Task Force and the Wake County Water Partnership.

and president-elect of the North Carolina Chapter of the American Academy of Matrimonial Lawyers.

**Chris Coughlin** becomes the sixth Wake Forest faculty member elected to the American Law Institute (ALI).

**Patrick H. Flanagan** was named a 2020 N.C. Super Lawyer for employee litigation, defense, and recognized as one of the Best Lawyers in America. He also was named "Lawyer of the Year" in the Charlotte, N.C., metro area for municipal litigation. He is an attorney at Cranfill Sumner & Hartzog LLP in Charlotte.

**John M. Flynn** was named to the 2019 edition of The Best Lawyers in America for environmental law. He is an attorney with Carruthers & Roth PA in Greensboro, N.C.

**Dana H. Hoffman** completed a two-year term as president of the Trucking Industry Defense Association (TIDA). She previously served on TIDA's board of directors. An attorney at Young Moore in Raleigh, N.C., she is a litigator, adviser, and defender of the transportation, long-term care, and electric industries. She was recognized in the 2020 edition of The Best Lawyers in America for personal injury litigation.

## 1991

**Jeff Malarney** is chair of the North Carolina Real Estate Commission (NCREC), which regulates real estate firms and agents. He operates his own law firm in Manteo, N.C., and is general counsel for Twiddy & Co., a vacation rental management firm. He is also a licensed real estate broker and property insurance agent. Malarney is the third alumnus to chair the NCREC in consecutive years, following Bob Ramseur ('95) in 2017 and Anna Taylor ('99) in 2018.

**Max Rodden** was named to the 2020 North Carolina Super Lawyers list for family law. He is a partner at Smith Debnam LLP in Raleigh, N.C.

## 1992

**Charlie E. Brown** was appointed by North Carolina Gov. Roy Cooper to the Governor's Crime Commission. Brown, who has nearly 30 years of experience in the state court system, is chief district court judge in Rowan County.

**D. Beth Langley** was named a "Labor & Employment Star" in the 2020 edition of Benchmark Litigation. She practices in the Greensboro, N.C., office of Brooks Pierce.

**John J. Shiptenko** received the 2019 Employee of the Year Award from the State Bar of Georgia. He is senior assistant general



HOFFMAN '90



MALARNEY '91



RODDEN '91



VALAORA '92



HATCHER '93



RAMSEUR JR. '95



INABINETT '96

**Matt Lundy** is assistant general counsel at Microsoft, where he leads efforts in cybersecurity enforcement. He lives in the Boston area.

**Lynn Patterson Michael** joined the Winston-Salem law firm Robert D. Hinshaw, Attorney-at-Law, where she concentrates on wills and trusts, estate administration, and business planning. She has been advising individuals, families, and small businesses in the Forsyth County area for more than 25 years.

**R. Bruce Thompson II** was included in the 2020 edition of The Best Lawyers in America for government relations and administrative/regulatory law. He is a partner at Parker Poe LLC and has offices in Raleigh, N.C., and Washington, D.C. He is an adjunct professor at Wake Forest School of Law.

**Jennifer Van Zant** was named a 2020 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 one of the Top 250 Women in Litigation and a "Local Litigation Star" in the 2020 edition of Benchmark Litigation. She is a partner at Brooks Pierce in Greensboro, N.C.

## 1995

**Curtis C. Brewer IV** was named to Business North Carolina's 2020 Legal Elite for business law. He is a partner at Smith Anderson in Raleigh, N.C.

**Coleman Cowan** is a shareholder at the Law Offices of James Scott Farrin in Durham, N.C., where he litigates complex, high-stakes cases in personal injury, product liability, and medical malpractice. Cowan began his career as an attorney, then spent 10 years as a reporter for Business Week and an Emmy-winning producer for "60 Minutes" before resuming his legal career.

**Robert J. Ramseur Jr.** 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 real estate law. He is a partner at Ragsdale Liggett PLLC in Raleigh, N.C.

**Pamela Ventura** is head of benefits at Capital One, the nation's fifth largest consumer bank. She works in the bank's corporate office in Richmond, Va. Previously, she spent 22 years at health-insurance provider Anthem Inc., most recently as director of human resources.

**Edwin L. West III** was named to the 2020 North Carolina Super Lawyers list for criminal defense. He was also named to Business North Carolina's 2020 Legal Elite for criminal law. He is an attorney in the Brooks Pierce offices in Raleigh and Wilmington, N.C.

## 1996

**Williette Waring Berry** was named one of three 2020 Educators of the Year at Orangeburg-Calhoun Technical College in Orangeburg, S.C. She was named outstanding administrator. Berry, a member of the South

Carolina Bar, is an instructor and assistant vice president of academic affairs.

**Patricia W. Goodson** was named a "Labor & Employment Star" in the 2020 edition of Benchmark Litigation and was recognized by Chambers USA as one of America's leading lawyers for labor & employment law. She practices in the Raleigh, N.C., office of Brooks Pierce.

**David E. Inabinett** was named to the 2020 edition of The Best Lawyers in America for elder law, trust, and estates. He is the managing member of Brinkley Walser Stoner PLLC, working in the firm's offices in Greensboro and Lexington, N.C.

**Henry "Hal" L. Kitchin Jr.** was elected chair of the UNC Wilmington Board of Trustees. He is a partner at McGuireWoods LLP, practicing in its Raleigh and Wilmington, N.C., offices.

**Allison Overbay Mullins** was inducted into the American College of Trial Lawyers, an invitation-only legal association composed

### ALUMNI HIGHLIGHT:

Karen S. Marston (JD '98)  
Anuraag Singhal (JD '89)

In 2019, Karen S. Marston was sworn in as United States District Judge for the Eastern District of Pennsylvania and Judge Anuraag Singhal was sworn in as United States District Judge for the Southern District of Florida.



of the top trial lawyers in North America. Mullins is a partner at Turning Point Litigation/Mullins Duncan PLLC, a firm she co-founded in Greensboro, N.C.

**Eric A. Richardson** is president of the Greensboro (N.C.) Bar Association for 2019-2020. He is the founder of Richardson Law PLLC, a Greensboro-based firm that litigates personal injury, family law, nursing home negligence, medical malpractice, and criminal defense cases.

## 1997

**Russell "Rusty" DeMent III** was named to the 2020 edition of The Best Lawyers in America in criminal defense: general practice and DUI/DWI defense. He is a managing partner at DeMent Askew & Johnson in Raleigh, N.C.

**Susan S. Jackson** was named managing partner of the Charlotte, N.C., office of Nelson Mullins Riley & Scarborough LLP. She leads more than 70 attorneys and staff members. She is a partner in the intellectual property group and focuses her practice on patents, trademarks, copyrights, and unfair competition.

**Dan Katzenbach** was named to the 2020 edition of The Best Lawyers in America in construction law, professional malpractice law, and product liability litigation. He is an attorney at Cranfill Sumner & Hartzog LLP in Raleigh, N.C.

**Norman F. Klick Jr.** was named to the 2019 edition of The Best Lawyers in America for litigation – health care, medical malpractice – defendants and the 2019 N.C. Super Lawyers list. He is an attorney at Carruthers & Roth PA in Greensboro, N.C.

**Michael V. Lee** was appointed to the Board of Trustees at the University of North Carolina Wilmington. He is a former North Carolina state senator and has his own law practice, Lee Law Firm PLLC, in Wilmington.

## 1998

**Richard O. Bolton** was named to the 2019 edition of The Best Lawyers in America for commercial real estate. He is a partner at Ragsdale Liggett PLLC in Raleigh, N.C.

**Karen S. Marston** was confirmed as a U.S.

District Court judge for the Eastern District of Pennsylvania. She was previously an assistant U.S. attorney in the district and oversaw the Narcotics and Organized Crime section.

**Coe W. Ramsey** was named a 2020 N.C. Super Lawyer and was recognized by Chambers USA as one of America's leading lawyers in intellectual property law. He is an attorney at Brooks Pierce in Raleigh, N.C.

**Jennifer Jane Rhodes** was appointed general counsel and senior vice president of Angion Biomedica Corp., a late-stage biopharmaceutical company based in San Francisco. Rhodes will also serve as chief compliance officer and corporate secretary for the company. She brings a wealth of biopharmaceutical legal experience to Angion, having previously served as general counsel and corporate secretary for Adamas Pharmaceuticals.

## 1999

**James B. Black IV** was named to the 2020 edition of The Best Lawyers in America in workers' compensation law. He is an attorney at Cranfill Sumner & Hartzog LLP in Raleigh, N.C.

**Christopher Galla** was promoted to vice president and general counsel at Genuine Parts Co., an Atlanta, Ga.-based global distributor of automotive replacement parts.



JACKSON '97



KLICK '97

Galla has worked there for 15 years and was previously assistant general counsel.

**Shana Eagle Hurt** is a new member of the Alumni Council. She is a financial adviser with Morgan Stanley in Winston-Salem. Her husband, Adam Hurt (MAEd '99), is president-elect of WAKE WinstonSalem.

## 2000

**Jason R. Harris** was named to the 2020 edition of The Best Lawyers in America in admiralty and maritime law and personal injury litigation. He is an attorney at Cranfill Sumner & Hartzog LLP in Wilmington, N.C.

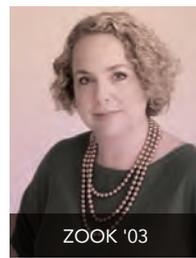
**Matthew Krause** is director of the Future Concepts Directorate (FCD) at the U.S. Army JAG Corps' Legal Center and School in Charlottesville, Va. FCD studies the law of future conflict and is the JAG Corps' doctrine development organization. A lieutenant colonel, he is also cohost of the podcast Battlefield Next, and he writes on international humanitarian law and national security law.

## PANDEMIC LIFE:

### David Johnson (JD '90)

I practiced law in California from 1990 to 2007. I am now a Special Education Director and coach in Chandler, Arizona. One of the things I coach is Mock Trial. Due to COVID-19, the mock trial meetings and competitions are virtual this year. But the students are enthusiastic as we have 62 members in our mock trial club. I'm sharing the last picture of our Top Team in early March 2020 in Maricopa County Courthouse in Phoenix, just before COVID-19 hit. I am on the far right of the picture. My friend Scott Cohen, an attorney at Engelman Berger in Phoenix, is on the left. Most of the students in the picture are still part of our current team, and they are getting good at using Microsoft Teams and Zoom and similar online platforms to do their studies and activities.





**Charles E. Raynal IV** was elected to the board of governors for the North Carolina Bar Association, which serves more than 20,000 law professionals across the state. He will also serve on the board of directors and executive committee of the N.C. Bar Foundation. Raynal is a partner at Parker Poe Adams & Bernstein LLP in Raleigh, N.C., and is on the Wake Forest School of Law board of visitors.

**Christopher J. Welch** was appointed a district court judge by North Carolina Gov. Roy Cooper. Welch will preside in Judicial District 4, which consists of Duplin, Jones, Onslow, and Sampson counties. Welch was a partner at Welch and Avery in Jacksonville, N.C.

## 2001

**Sally Wallace** is an administrative law judge with the Michigan Office of Administrative Hearings and Rules. She specializes in adjudicating utility matters for the Michigan Public Service Commission.

## 2002

**Todd King** was named to the 2020 edition of The Best Lawyers in America in personal injury litigation. He is an attorney at Cranfill Sumner & Hartzog LLP in Charlotte, N.C.

**Roberta King Latham** opened King Latham Law PLLC in Winston-Salem, practicing in the areas of civil, business, employment, personal injury, and workers' compensation law. She was named a 2020 N.C. Super Lawyer for personal injury law and is a member of the N.C. Bar Association Board of Governors and the N.C. Bar Foundation Board of Directors.

**Jessica Robinson** is vice president of client services at Casepoint, a leading legal technology company based in Tysons, Va. She is an attorney who previously worked for some of the top law firms in the country.

**Adam Vanek** was appointed CEO of Mothers Against Drunk Driving (MADD). Vanek served as national general counsel for MADD from 2011–2017 and national general counsel and

corporate secretary of The Susan G. Komen Breast Cancer Foundation.

**Jason Wenzel** was recognized as a board-certified specialist in commercial real property by the North Carolina State Bar. Wenzel is a partner with Narron Wenzel PA in the firm's Smithfield, N.C., office. His practice focuses on commercial and residential real estate as well as corporate, business and estate transactions.

## 2003

**Wesley P. Gelb** joined Fox Rothschild LLP in Raleigh, N.C., as a partner in the family law group.

**David Ruppert** graduated with distinction from the Thunderbird School of Global Management at Arizona State University with a Master of Global Management degree. He was inducted into Beta Gamma Sigma (the International Business Honor Society) and Pi Sigma Alpha (the National Political Science Honorary Society). A veteran of the U.S. Marines Corp, he is an international lawyer at Lockheed Martin in Scottsdale, Ariz.

**Elizabeth Jester Zook** was recognized in the 2019 edition of The Best Lawyers in America for real estate law. She is a director at Carruthers & Roth PA in Greensboro, N.C.

## 2004

**John D. Bosco** has joined Dallas, Texas-based law firm Bailey Brauer PLLC as a partner. His practice area focuses on labor and employment law as well as ADA accessibility issues. He previously was with the Dallas office of Miami-based León Cosgrove and is a former vice president and assistant general counsel for JPMorgan Chase Bank.

**Brad R. Branham** is city attorney for Asheville, N.C., where he lives with his wife, Erin Freeman Branham ('02, MA '04). Previously, he was senior assistant city attorney for Charlotte, N.C. His areas of expertise include affordable housing, transit, complex redevelopment of city-owned land, and other municipal law matters.

**Wes Camden** was named partner and associate at the law firm Williams Mullen in Raleigh, N.C. Camden was named in 2019 to Business North Carolina's Legal Elite Hall of Fame for criminal law and is listed in North Carolina Super Lawyers 2015-2019. He is listed in Best Lawyers in America 2018-present.

**Lindsey Camp Edelmann** joined the law office of Holland & Knight as an associate in the firm's Atlanta, Ga. office. She is focused on ERISA (Employee Retirement Income Security Act) and employee stock ownership plan (ESOP) litigation, as well as labor and employment law.

### PANDEMIC LIFE:

T.L. Brown ('99, JD '03, MBA '08)

My major challenge has been feeling isolated while working from home, as a single individual, while my parents and other close family are hours away. Yet, this time has allowed me to reflect on my blessings: I've created a list of life's blessings that I posted on my bathroom mirror for everyday view. I also began a journal of "2020 blessings" that I hope to reflect back on years from now, and I've written out a prayer to regularly refer back to. My tip for others that #WakeFromHome is to create and stick to a daily routine throughout the work week. My daily routine includes prayer, scripture, and exercising before I begin my work day, along with designated snack times and outdoor breaks throughout the day.

## PANDEMIC LIFE:

Bonita Brown ('94, JD '97)

I just built a new house and never imagined that it would become my office too!! Here's how I #WakeFromHome!



consumer & retail group. BlackArch is a leading middle-market investment bank headquartered in Charlotte, N.C.

## 2006

**Saad Gul** was honored as a "Leader in the Law" by North Carolina Lawyers Weekly. The award recognizes influential lawyers who have gone above and beyond in their profession and community. Gul is a partner in the Raleigh, N.C., office of Poyner Spruill LLP, where he focuses on appellate and regulatory litigation and co-chairs the firm's privacy and cybersecurity team.

**D.J. O'Brien** was named a "Labor & Employment Star" in the 2020 edition of Benchmark Litigation. He practices in the Raleigh and Greensboro, N.C., offices of Brooks Pierce.

**Robert J. Penta** was named a 2020 Rising Star by Kentucky Super Lawyers, a recognition given to no more than 2.5% of young attorneys in the state. He practices business and corporate law at Wyatt, Tarrant & Combs LLP in Louisville, KY.

## 2007

**Brendan Cox** joined the Boston-based law firm Laredo & Smith as of counsel. Cox is a trial attorney who focuses on business and employment law and criminal defense.

**Christopher Greco** was named to Law360's 2019 list of Rising Stars for attorneys under 40. A partner at Kirkland & Ellis LLP in New York, Greco was one of only five bankruptcy attorneys named a Rising Star.

**Jessica Mering Hardin** was elected to the North Carolina Humanities Council's Board of Trustees. She is an attorney at Robinson Bradshaw in Charlotte, N.C., and was named to the 2020 edition of The Best Lawyers in America for litigation — trusts and estates.

**Linda Baugher Malone** was named a 2019 Rising Star by North Carolina Super Lawyers for estate planning and probate. She is an attorney at the Vernon Law Firm in Burlington, N.C.

**Kelsey Mayo** was honored as a "Leader in the Law" by North Carolina Lawyers Weekly. The award recognizes influential lawyers who have gone above and beyond in their profession and community. Mayo is a partner in the Raleigh and Charlotte, N.C., offices of Poyner

**Jonathan H. Kim** was promoted to partner at the Charlotte, N.C., office of Hunton Andrews Kurth LLP. He focuses on securities and capital markets law, serving as counsel to financial institutions and other market participants.

**Amy Lanning** was elected shareholder at Blanco Tackabery law firm in Winston-Salem, where she focuses on business, municipal, renewable energy, and commercial real estate law.

**Cassandra Rich** joined the Rochester, NY, office of Barclay Damon LLP as special counsel and a member of the law firm's real estate practice area.

**Bryan Gregory Scott** was named chair of the Construction Law Section of the North Carolina Bar Association. He is a partner at Akerman LLP in Winston-Salem, focusing on construction law and business litigation.

& Bernstein LLP as special counsel with the health care industry team. She has more than a decade of experience advising hospitals, physicians, insurance companies, and health care providers. She previously was at Wall Babcock LLP in Winston-Salem. She is on the board of the YWCA of Winston-Salem, was president of the Forsyth County Women Attorneys Association, and served on the SECU Family House board.

**Ryan Dings** was named executive vice president and general counsel of Greentown Labs, a startup incubator in Massachusetts with a 100,000-square-foot campus billed as the largest clean technology startup in North America. Dings, a Boston Business Journal "40 Under 40" honoree, also serves as board chair for the Social Innovation Forum, a Boston community for social impact engagement and connection. He previously was chief operating officer and general counsel of Sunwealth, a startup that powered more than \$25 million in solar installations in 10 states.

**Karen Neely Louis** was named associate general counsel for LendingPoint LLC, a financial technology lender headquartered in the Atlanta, Ga. area. She specializes in consumer regulatory compliance at LendingPoint, which was recognized by Inc. Magazine as the fastest-growing lender in the United States.

**Will Pittman** has joined BlackArch Partners as managing director and co-head of the

## 2005

**Sharon Baldasare** was named partner at Haynes and Boone LLP. She is a member of the firm's Real Estate Practice Group in the New York office, focusing on commercial leasing/corporate facilities.

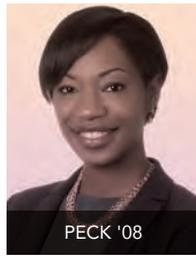
**Sarah Beth Spisich Crofts** joined the Charlotte, N.C., office of Parker Poe Adams



KIM '04



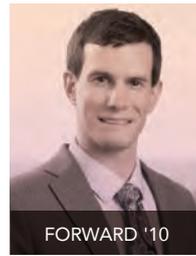
COX '07



PECK '08



MUNROE '09



FORWARD '10



CHOI '11



PAYNE '11

Spruill LLP, where she focuses on employee benefits and executive compensation.

## 2008

**Amber Bureson Duncan** was recognized by the American Bar Association (ABA) as one of “100 Women Who Inspire Us.” She was honored at the 2019 ABA Women in Litigation Joint CLE Conference in Chicago. Duncan is an attorney at the Raleigh, N.C., law firm Williams Mullen.

**Ryan T. Kinder** was named partner at Bradley Arant Boult Cummings LLP in the Houston, Texas, office. He focuses on general and commercial litigation with a special emphasis on energy disputes.

**Clint Morse** was named a 2020 Rising Star for business litigation by North Carolina Super Lawyers. He was also named to Business North Carolina’s 2020 Legal Elite list for bankruptcy law. He is an attorney at Brooks Pierce in Greensboro, N.C.

**Toni Peck** was named a 2019 Rising Star by North Carolina Lawyers Weekly. The honor recognizes lawyers who have been out of law school 10 years or less and have made a significant impact in the legal community. Peck

is a partner at Nelson Mullins in Raleigh, N.C., and specializes in health care law.

## 2009

**Will Miller** joined Brinkley Walser Stoner PLLC as an associate in the Lexington, N.C., office. Miller, who is blind, lost his eyesight 20 years ago while undergoing treatment for leukemia. As a result, he is well versed in the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA). He is usually accompanied in the courtroom by his guide dog, a yellow lab named Anja.

**Anna Warburton Munroe** was named to the 2020 North Carolina Super Lawyers list and recognized in The Best Lawyers in America for family law. She is a shareholder and director at Allman Spry Davis Leggett & Crumpler PA in Winston-Salem.

## 2010

**Zach Forward** was named partner at Barclay Damon LLP in Syracuse, N.Y. He is a member of the firm’s Corporate and Tax Practice Group as well as its Cannabis Team, which counsels clients on cannabis-related issues.

**Dan Kingsley** was promoted to partner at Swift Currie law firm in Atlanta, Ga. He focuses

on general liability counsel and civil litigation.

**Tiffani D. Otey** has joined Kilpatrick Townsend as an associate in the firm’s Winston-Salem office, focusing on trademark protection and copyright law.

## 2011

**Jason Benetti** was named to The Big Lead’s list of the 40 top sports media talents under 40 years old. Benetti, 36, is the voice of the Chicago White Sox and a football and basketball announcer for ESPN. The sports website wrote that he has “an incredible amount of upside (and) will be a candidate for many high-profile jobs in the near future, whether that is in baseball, college football, college basketball, or a sport he has yet to pick up.” (Link)

**Erin Tanner Choi** was named a 2020 Texas Rising Star for litigation by Super Lawyers. She is an associate in the Dallas, Texas office of Weil, Gotshal & Manges LLP.

**Christopher Jackson** was elected partner at the Greensboro, N.C., office of Ellis & Winters LLP. Jackson, who joined the firm in 2011, focuses on business disputes, medical malpractice, and general liability claims. He was named a Rising Star by North Carolina Super Lawyers for the last four years and recognized by Business North Carolina’s Legal Elite as a “Young Gun.”

**Ronald Payne II** was named a 2019 Rising Star by North Carolina Lawyers Weekly. The honor recognizes lawyers who have been out of law school 10 years or less and have made a significant impact in the legal community. Payne is the co-founder and co-managing partner of Apple Payne Law in Kernersville, N.C.

**Julie M. Watson** was elected to the Certified Licensing Professionals Board of Governors. She is special counsel at Marshall, Gerstein & Borun LLP in Chicago, Ill., where she focuses

### PANDEMIC LIFE:

#### Michael Grippaldi (JD '12, MA '12)

Like most Wake Forest alumni during the pandemic, I’ve revived old hobbies and used technology to stay connected with friends. Roughly once a week, I have a “virtual” drawing session with a friend in Puerto Rico. In something of a paradox, I’ve found that the stay-at-home orders and self-isolation have given me the time to be social and maintain friendships that otherwise would have waned. Pictured is “Mabel” (oil pastels).



## PANDEMIC LIFE:

### Professor Emeritus Joel Newman

When the pandemic hit, some of my former students, Sunny Wu (LLM '01, MSA '04), Katie Feng (LLM '02), and Joy Huang (LLM '02), sent medical supplies to us from China. I called Dr. Trujillo at the Salem Center, who said he and a doctor in Charlotte could really use them. He's since told me how grateful he was to receive the masks from my Chinese students, which I've shared with them. Here's a photo Sunny sent me of all three of them taken in October 2019.



SCOTT '12



BELL '12

attorney general/acting assistant prosecutor in the Essex County (N.J. Prosecutor's Office.

**Zachary Underwood** was promoted to litigation partner in the Raleigh, N.C., office of Cordell & Cordell, an international domestic litigation firm that focuses on representing men in family law cases.

## 2015

**Ashley Quaranta Barebo** was named a 2019 Rising Star by West Virginia Super Lawyers (business law). She is an attorney at Nelson Mullins LLP in Huntington, W.Va.

**Bahati Mutisya** was appointed to the board of commissioners for the Raleigh Housing Authority. She is an associate attorney at Parker Poe LLP in Raleigh, N.C.

**Jasmine Pitt** was named a 2019 Rising Star by North Carolina Lawyers Weekly. The honor recognizes lawyers who have been out of law school 10 years or less and have made a significant impact on the legal community. Pitt is an attorney with Bennett Guthrie Latham PLLC in Winston-Salem.

## 2016

**Michael Grace Jr.** has joined Kilpatrick Townsend & Stockton as an associate in the firm's Winston-Salem office. He is a member of the mergers & acquisitions and securities team in the firm's corporate, finance, and real estate department.

on intellectual property transactions and technology startups. Prior to joining the law firm, Watson was director of intellectual property and legal counsel at the Wake Forest Institute for Regenerative Medicine.

## 2012

**Stephen J. Bell** received an AV® Rating from Martindale-Hubbell, a peer review rating to reflect an attorney's ethical standards and ability. He is an associate in the Wilmington, N.C., office of Cranfill Sumner & Hartzog LLP, where he focuses on civil litigation.

**David R. Scott** was elected to a membership at his law firm, Kang Haggerty & Fetbroyt in Philadelphia, where he focuses on business litigation, construction litigation, and insurance bad faith.

**Danielle Stone** was appointed to the Character and Fitness Committee of the Virginia Board of Bar Examiners. She is an officer in the Abingdon, Va., law firm of PennStuart, where she focuses on professional liability, insurance defense, and civil litigation. She also chairs the firm's recruiting committee.

**E. Winslow Taylor**, whose focus is on personal injury and civil litigation, has opened a law firm, Taylor & Taylor Attorneys at Law PLLC, in Winston-Salem with his father, Daniel R. Taylor

Jr. ('76, P '12, '15).

## 2013

**John S. Gormally** joined Goldberg Segalla as an associate attorney in the law firm's general liability group. He is based in Princeton, N.J., and focuses on complex civil litigation and contractual and corporate matters. He was previously with Inglesino, Webster, Wyciskala & Taylor LLC in Parsippany, N.J.

**Anna Sweigart Rothschild** joined Hunton Andrews Kurth LLP as a senior-level associate in the Boston office. She focuses on complex employment litigation.

## 2014

**Nicholas Stewart** has joined the law firm Turner Padget as an associate in the Charleston, S.C., office. His focus areas include construction, healthcare and insurance law.

**Ashley M. White** joined Pellettieri Rabstein & Altman, a New Jersey-based law firm, as an associate in the personal injury department. She previously was special deputy

## ALUMNI HIGHLIGHT:

### Rolf Garcia-Gallont (JD '16)

Womble Bond Dickinson attorney Rolf Garcia-Gallont is part of the defense effort of Ja Rule (real name Jeffrey Atkins) in Fyre Festival lawsuit.



TAYLOR '12



UNDERWOOD '14



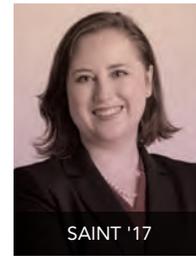
PITT '15



KRYST '17



NYENHUIS '17



SAINT '17



STORRS '18

**Sarah Gallas Sweet** joined Ice Miller LLP as an associate attorney in the trusts, estates, and private wealth practice group. She is based in Indianapolis, Ind.

## 2017

**Ethan Clark** joined Keis George LLP as an associate in the law firm's property subrogation practice in the Cleveland, Ohio office, where he prosecutes third-party claims on behalf of insurance carriers and self-insured businesses, specifically large property losses involving product liability, fire and water damage, construction defects, utility company errors, or other deficiencies.

**Katherine Haddock** was promoted to senior associate at Helen Tarokic Law PLLC, a Wilmington, N.C., firm that specializes in immigration and naturalization law.

**Stephanie A. Jackson** is the Title IX coordinator at Denison University, a private liberal arts college in Granville, Ohio.

**Cheslie Kryst** has joined the nationally syndicated entertainment news program "Extra" as a correspondent. Kryst, an attorney from Charlotte, N.C., was crowned Miss North Carolina and Miss USA in 2019.

**Adam T. Nyenhuis** rejoined the Delaware law firm Morris, Nichols, Arsht & Tunnell LLP following a judicial clerkship with Karen L. Valihura of the Delaware Supreme Court. He will practice in the corporate and business litigation group.

**Sarah Remes** joined the law firm Pierce Atwood LLP in the Boston office. She is an associate in the litigation, class action defense and government investigations, and compliance groups.

**Sarah Saint** was named chair of the board of directors for the North Star LGBTQ Community Center, which provides educational and social activities for LGBTQ youth and adults in the

greater Winston-Salem area. Saint, who has served on the board since 2018, is an attorney at Brooks Pierce in Greensboro, N.C.

## 2018

**Earl Storrs III** joined the Law Offices of Pullano & Farrow in Rochester, N.Y., as a law clerk in the commercial litigation department

## 2019

**Jordan Artrip** joined the law firm Narron & Holdford PA in Wilson, N.C., specializing in taxation and corporations.

**Shellie L. Bryant** joined King Latham Law PLLC as an associate in the Winston-Salem office. Her focus areas include litigation, employment, personal injury, and business law.

**Caitlin Bush** has joined the family law team at Tharrington Smith LLP in Raleigh, N.C.

**Emily Cline** is an assistant

district attorney in Cleveland County, N.C.

**W. Cole Shannon** joined Young Clement Rivers LLP in Charleston, S.C., as an associate in the construction law practice group. At Wake Forest, he won the CALI (Center for Computer-assisted Legal Instruction) Award for Appellate Advocacy and the Dean Suzanne Reynolds Award for Academic Excellence in Great Jurists.

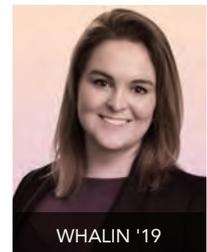
**Briana M. Whalin** has joined the Orlando, FL, office of ShuffieldLowman PA. Whalin works in the firm's guardianship and elder law section, assisting clients with Medicaid planning, long-term planning, and asset protection. In 2019 she received the 2019 Smith Anderson Pro Bono Award for Excellence in Service, which goes annually to a Wake Forest law school student who exhibits passion, creativity and dedication to serving people in need.



BRYANT '19



BUSH '19



WHALIN '19

## PANDEMIC LIFE:

### John Sanders ('07, JD '16)

My family left Winston-Salem in February as I took a position in White & Case's Milan, Italy office. We immediately found ourselves in the new epicenter of the pandemic and restricted to our apartment under a strict quarantine. What we learned was that Wake Forest is a global community that rallies together. We connected with the Wake Forest community in North Carolina via Zoom, Skype, and WhatsApp and connected with the Wake Forest LLM community here in Italy in person and online. We're more connected than ever, despite being 4,475 miles from Winston-Salem and social distancing. Here is a picture of my family outside of Casa Artom in Venice shortly after the lockdown was lifted.



## PANDEMIC LIFE:

John Sears (JD '17)

When I decided to strike out on my own at the beginning of 2020, I never anticipated that we would be shutting down the office and going remote less than two months later due to the threat of COVID-19. The shutdown has added many additional obstacles to the challenges of starting a new practice. I was accustomed to traveling to visit clients and potential clients several times per month, so the impact on marketing and client development has been significant. Despite those obstacles, the team continues to grow thanks to our wonderful clients around the world and their referrals. Here is a picture of the team from just last month.



## PANDEMIC LIFE:

Josh Winks (JD '17)

I never thought that standard trial materials would become masks and hand sanitizer. I realized this as I prepped my trial bucket for my first superior court trial where I had planned for the usual items like pens, highlighters, and notepads. Despite the health risks to myself, a client sitting in jail for over two years waiting for a chance to prove his innocence made it necessary to go forward with the trial. He was found not guilty and released. I wish there had been photos, but the courtroom was closed because co-counsel had been exposed to COVID-19 so only participants were allowed in the courtroom and neither of us thought to get a photo.

## PANDEMIC LIFE:

Vicki Banks (MSL '19)

The current situation has affected everything from Biltmore's thoughtful reopening process to our daily operations, and we've become increasingly flexible in order to continue providing gracious hospitality for our guests. I am grateful for the incredible people around me who keep everyone's best interests in mind, and who have become true COVID-19 warriors by never hesitating to help one another during a time when many withdraw and isolate. There are challenges, but there are also exciting opportunities to develop our resiliency to new heights, discover the innovative spirit that lives within each of us, and keep pushing each other to achieve the next possibility, while keeping safety and health as our top priority. Crisis reveals character, and I'm honored to serve with a team that demonstrates tremendous integrity and courage during such unprecedented times.

## WEDDINGS

**Anna Bryce Flowe ('18)** and Cauley Lauchlin Hobson, 12/14/19 in Greenwood, S.C. They live in Charlotte, N.C. The wedding party included **Elizabeth Anne Casale ('18)**.

**Ted Saint ('19)** and Alexandra Bell, 9/21/19 in La Jolla, Calif. They live in San Diego. The wedding party included **Patrick Wilson ('19)**.

**Matthew Hooker ('20)** and Chiedza Mushayamunda, May 30, 2020. Winston-Salem. Among those in attendance was **Kay Albaugh Hooker ('84)**, mother of the groom.

## BIRTHS

**Jonathan Kreider ('08)** and Kathryn Kreider, Greensboro, N.C.: twin sons, Samuel James and Robert Levi. 11/18/19

**William Gus Elliott II ('13)** and Gretchen Edwards Elliott, Valdosta, Ga.: a daughter, Mary Jean. 7/20/19

**Eleanor Trefzger Morales ('10)** and **Francisco Morales ('11)**, Winston-Salem: a son, Thomas Henry. 7/22/19. He joins his sister, Caroline Grace (3).

**Kelley Chan Gass ('13)** and **Matthew Gass ('13)**, Atlanta, Ga.: a son, Noah James. 12/9/19

# DEATHS

**James E. Bond**, Sept. 16, 2019, Seattle. He taught at the Wake Forest Law School for 11 years before becoming dean of Seattle University School of Law. He held that position from 1986 to 1993 and again from 1995 to 2000. He was author or co-author of seven books. He traveled to Mississippi in 1964 to register black voters. He is remembered for his optimism, quick wit, and brilliant legal mind.

**Everette "Buddy" Carnes ('48)**, Oct. 27, 2019, Marion, N.C. He served in the U.S. Army for four years during World War II, primarily in the Pacific theatre. His legal career spanned more than 50 years, earning him induction into the North Carolina Bar Association Hall of Fame. He was active in his community and held leadership roles with the American Red Cross, Boy Scouts, and the Marion Civitan and Rotary clubs.

**James "Ed" Landers Jr. ('52)**, Sept. 15, 2019, Winston-Salem. He served in the U.S. Army and worked in the trust department for Wachovia Bank, retiring in 1990 as a vice president after 38 years. He delivered for Meals-on-Wheels and was a trustee for North Carolina Baptist Hospital, a member of the Lions Club for more than 50 years, and a deacon, trustee, and Sunday school teacher at Ardmore Baptist.

**James E. Sizemore ('52)**, May 27, 2019, Winston-Salem. He taught in the Wake Forest School of Law from 1953 until retiring in 1992. A native of Tennessee, he served in the U.S. Navy during World War II. In 1944, he survived the German torpedoing of his ship in the English Channel that killed about 400 men. After the war, he attended Tennessee State University before enrolling in the Wake Forest School of Law. He joined the law faculty after a year in private practice. A law school scholarship is named in his honor. He was known for playing guitar and singing bluegrass music. He was the World Champion Dobro Player at the 1973 Ole Time Fiddler's and Bluegrass Festival in Union Grove, N.C.

**Elmer "Ray" Etheridge ('53)**, March 6, 2020, Shawboro, N.C. He served in Germany with the U.S. Army and worked as a practice attorney in Elizabeth City, N.C. He also spent many years as the prosecuting attorney in Camden County (N.C.). His passions included genealogy and history, particularly Civil War history.

## Fred Crumpler (JD '57)

Crumpler passed away Jan 19, 2020, in Winston-Salem. He was a prominent lawyer and a founding partner of White and Crumpler, with a legal career spanning more than 55 years. One of his cases helped establish the right of a criminal defendant to enter a plea without admitting guilt, now known as the "Alford Plea." He was the first attorney to win the prestigious Harvey Lupton Award as the top criminal defense lawyer in Forsyth County. He received the Order of the Long Leaf Pine from North Carolina Gov. Pat McCrory in 2014. Survivors include his wife, Marsha, and a daughter, **Andrea Cline ('91)**. Read more [wfu.law/95b](http://wfu.law/95b)



**Lester Poindexter Martin Jr. ('54)**, Feb. 20, 2020, Mocksville, N.C. A former Eagle Scout, he served in the U.S. Army in China, Burma (Myanmar), and India during World War II and received the Air Medal and the Distinguished Flying Cross. He practiced law with his late brother, George, for 18 years before becoming chief District Court judge and a Superior Court judge. He represented Davie County in the North Carolina General Assembly in the early 1960s.

**I. Beverly Lake Jr. ('60)**, Sept. 12, 2019, Wake Forest, N.C. His five decades of public service in North Carolina included time as deputy attorney general, state senator, special Superior Court judge, and associate justice and chief justice of the North Carolina Supreme Court, where he once dribbled a basketball down the hallway to celebrate a Deacon win over UNC. In 2006 he founded the North Carolina Innocence Inquiry Commission to review innocence claims and, when necessary, overturn wrongful convictions.

**Ted Brooks Lockerman ('61)**, Aug. 22, 2019, Clinton, N.C. He practiced law in his hometown of Clinton for 41 years, retiring in 2003. He served on the Sampson County Board of Commissioners, the county's Board of Elections, and the N.C. Wildlife Commission, among others. With a magnetic personality and sharp wit, he was known as

the consummate "jokester" among friends.

**Charles Royal Tedder ('62)**, May 2, 2019, Greensboro, N.C. He served in the U.S. Air Force for four years before enrolling in law school at Wake Forest. He was an attorney in Greensboro for 36 years, retiring in 1999, and was a former president of the Hamilton Lakes Lions Club.

**Grover Aubret Gore ('63)**, March 8, 2020, Winston-Salem. He practiced law for many years in Eastern North Carolina and helped on his family's farm in Brunswick County (N.C.). As a trustee at N.C. State University, he was instrumental in starting the college's veterinarian school. He also served in the U.S. Coast Guard. He is survived by his wife, four children, two grandchildren, and a brother, **Harold L. Gore ('55)**.

**John "Gary" Vannoy ('64)**, March 15, 2020, Millers Creek, N.C. A practicing attorney for 55 years, he believed his main job as a lawyer was to help others. In 1968 he started his own general law practice in North Wilkesboro, N.C., which is now Vannoy, Colvard, Triplett and Vannoy. He also worked in municipal law, serving as North Wilkesboro's town attorney from 2008 to 2019. Remembered for his dedication to clients and his family, he was inducted into the N.C. Bar Association General Practice Hall of Fame in 2018.

**Nelson M. Casstevens Jr. ('65)**, Nov. 30, 2019, Charlotte, N.C. He practiced law in Mecklenburg County (N.C.) for nearly 50 years, retiring in 2013 as senior partner in Casstevens, Hanner, Gunter, Riopel & Wofford PA. He served as president of the law school's Alumni Council and chair of its Board of Visitors.

**Harold "Rob" M. Robinson Jr. ('65)**, March 15, 2020, Morganton, N.C. He served in South Korea as a U.S. Army member and worked for many years as an attorney. He loved dogs — especially basset hounds — model trains, U.S. history, road trips with his wife, Terri, and visiting with his daughters and grandchildren.

**Jack Allen Thompson ('65)**, Dec. 6, 2019, Fayetteville, N.C. He was a Superior Court judge, district attorney, and lawyer in private practice. He loved traveling with his late wife, shag dance lessons, tennis, and especially golf. He was a member of the law school Alumni Council and the Samuel Wait Legacy Society.

**James "Jimmy" Gaither Jr. ('67)**, Feb. 26, 2020, Hickory, N.C. He practiced law in Hickory for more than 30 years, then became general counsel for the Dale Jarrett Foundation created by the NASCAR legend. Gaither loved golf. Some of his favorite life moments were attending the Master's in Augusta, Ga., and meeting his idol, Arnold Palmer.

**John "Ben" Morrow ('65)**, Sept. 15, 2019, Gastonia, N.C. He was an Army veteran and an attorney in private practice at J. Ben Morrow PA.

**Jones Pharr Byrd ('71)**, Jan. 27, 2020, Asheville, N.C. He served in the U.S. Army as a second lieutenant. He began his legal career in the state Attorney General's office, then practiced law in Asheville, for many years at Van Winkle Law Firm. He served as chair of the Buncombe County Board of Elections. He is survived by his wife and two children, **Jones Byrd Jr. ('02)** and Julia Byrd, and two granddaughters.

**Charles Stuart Lanier ('72)**, Oct. 24, 2019, Jacksonville, N.C. He opened his own law practice, now known as Lanier, Fountain, Ceruzzi & Sabbah. He was a gifted high school athlete and is a member of the East Duplin High School Athletic Hall of Fame. He was predeceased by his parents, **Russell Lanier ('51)** and Sybil Lanier, and a brother. He is survived by his wife, four sons, and six grandchildren.

**Michael A. Ellis ('74)**, Nov. 28, 2019, Goldsboro, N.C. He practiced law in the Goldsboro area. He coached football and basketball youth/prep sports and treasured the friendships he made. Survivors include his wife, Caroline Hoke Ellis, two children, and brother, **Ken Ellis ('71)**.

**Carl Franklin Parrish ('74)**, March 9, 2020, Winston-Salem. Remembered for his determination and quick wit, he retired in 2017 after a 43-year career as a criminal defense attorney. He taught law courses at Wake Forest and Forsyth Technical Community College. His weekly "Ask the Lawyer" segments ran for 24 years on WXII-TV. Among his awards was the highest civilian honor from the North Carolina Troopers Association in 2014. He was a member of the Samuel Wait Legacy Society and the law school Alumni Council.

**Steven Edward Philo ('74)**, July 21, 2019, Franklin, N.C. He was a U.S. Army Ranger, a Vietnam veteran, and a graduate of the U.S. Military Academy at West Point. He co-owned Philo & Spivey PA law firm with **David Spivey ('82)** for 37 years in Franklin. He taught legal classes at Southwestern Community College and managed the Cherokee Indian Reservation drug court. He refereed basketball games and was an assistant coach for state champion cross country and track teams at Franklin High School.

**Bertram John Schaeffer ('75)**, Nov. 22, 2019, Philadelphia, Pa. He was a tax lawyer and securities executive who spent 15 years as a partner at Ernst & Young in Philadelphia. He later worked as a wealth management consultant, helping advise clients from musicians to athletes to executives.

**Michael G. Walsh ('75)**, March 21, 2020, Whispering Pines, N.C. He worked in the legal industry and taught business law at Villanova University. Known as "the grammatical lawyer," he wrote many articles in professional journals and legal magazines, including the Practical Lawyer. He was also a member of Scribes, the American Society of Legal Writers.

**John Charles Collins ('76)**, April 5, 2020, Wilmington, N.C. He practiced law in Wilmington for 44 years, both as an assistant district attorney (1979-1982) and then as a partner at Hewlett, Collins & Allard LLP, specializing in criminal defense. He was a founding member of the National College for DUI Defense and a former president of the

New Hanover County Bar Association.

**Lewis Alston "Al" Thompson III ('77)**, Nov. 19, 2019, Warrenton, N.C. He was an attorney at Banzet & Banzet (later Banzet, Thompson & Styers PLLC) for more than 40 years. Remembered as a modern-day Renaissance man, his hobbies included cooking, gardening, art, running, traveling, and riding horses. He is survived by his wife, **Susan Morrice Thompson ('77)**, three children, and five grandchildren.

**Kay Ruthven Hagan ('78)**, Oct. 28, 2019, Greensboro, N.C. She was North Carolina's first female Democratic senator, serving in the U.S. Senate from 2009 to 2015. A native of Shelby, N.C., Hagan grew up in Lakeland, Fla., and graduated from Florida State University. She and her husband, **Charles "Chip" Hagan ('77)**, met at Wake Forest Law. She worked in banking before turning to politics, spending a decade in the state Senate and chairing the powerful Appropriations Committee. As a U.S. Senator, Hagan served on the Armed Services Committee and visited troops in Iraq, Afghanistan, and Pakistan. After leaving the Senate, she was a fellow at the Harvard Institute of Politics and a consultant with the lobbying firm Akin Gump. She is survived by her husband, three children, and five grandchildren.

**Paul Alexander Weinman ('78)**, April 4, 2020, Winston-Salem. He served in Vietnam as a member of the U.S. Army and was a Winston-Salem police officer for five years. After earning his law degree, he worked as a federal prosecutor in North Carolina for nearly three decades, retiring in 2012. He was an avid Wake Forest soccer fan who could often be seen standing against the brick wall in the last row of Spry Stadium.

**William W. Pepper Sr. ('85)**, Dec. 27, 2019, Harrington, Del. He enjoyed a successful legal career that spanned nearly 35 years and was most recently a partner at Schmittinger & Rodriguez PA in Dover, Del. He was a volunteer firefighter, a diehard Philadelphia Eagles fan, and a devoted father and husband.

**Andrew "Andy" Krafur ('86)**, April 25, 2019, El Paso, Texas. He founded the law firm Krafur, Gordon, and Mott PC in 1994 and worked as an attorney in West Texas. He also founded and ran Spira Footwear. His passions were his family and running. His family hopes his passing as a result of his bipolar disorder

will help increase awareness and treatment options for this mental disease.

**Suzanne Rowland Foreman Hildebrand ('81)**, May 24, 2020, Charlottesville, Va. The valedictorian of her high school class, she worked as a teacher on a children's unit at the Medical University of South Carolina. She was a devoted mother who enjoyed sailing, kayaking, biking, and volunteering in her community.

**David Norris Chambers ('89)**, March 12, 2019, Orlando, Fla. He played football at the University of Northern Iowa and the University of Iowa. He worked for the NCAA National Office and as an athletics administrator at several universities, including Virginia Tech and the University of Nevada, Las Vegas.

**Miriam "Miki" Esther Felsenburg ('91)**, March 20, 2020, Longmont, Colo. She was a beloved Wake Forest School of Law faculty member for 17 years. Previously, she worked in public relations for AT&T/Western Electric, serving as the company's national spokesperson. Remembered for her keen intellect and wry humor, she was especially passionate about the arts, the environment, and her students.

**Rodney Gene Hasty ('95)**, Oct. 12, 2019, Weaverville, N.C. He was an assistant district attorney in the Buncombe County District Attorney's Office, practiced civil litigation at a law firm and rejoined the DA's office as chief assistant district attorney in 2015. Passionate about computers and technology, he built an innovative website for the DA's office to improve victim access and coordinate defense attorney schedules for court dockets to free up time to assist victims.

## *Our Mission*

Wake Forest Law advances access to justice through insightful scholarship and reflective teaching, preparing professionals to meet the legal challenges of the future with confidence, character, and creativity.

## *Our Vision*

Our graduates will be prepared to manage change and the increasing demand for effective problem solving with the ability to communicate across differences. By understanding the way the law supports meaningful solutions, our lawyers and professionals will go on to have a positive impact at the local, state, and national levels.

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