

# WAKE FOREST JURIST

THE MAGAZINE OF WAKE FOREST LAW | 2025



*Pro Humanitate*

# FOLLOW THE FACES OF WAKE FOREST LAW

From classrooms and clinics to the courtroom and the community, our #LegalDeacs are shaping the future of law. Follow us on social media for more *Pro Humanitate* stories from our students, alumni, and faculty.

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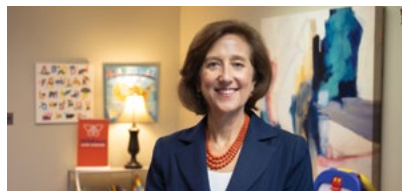
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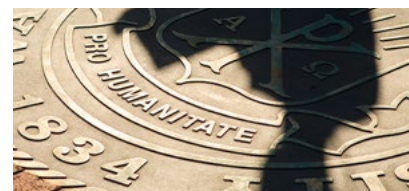
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*Dear Wake Forest Law Community,*

Each year, *The Jurist* offers us the chance to pause and reflect on what makes Wake Forest Law so distinctive. For me, it always comes back to one central idea: *Pro Humanitate*.

At Wake Forest, *Pro Humanitate*—for humanity—is more than a motto. It's an approach that is integrated into every part of our mission. From Foundations Week to the moment our students cross the stage at Commencement, we intentionally challenge them to consider how they will use their legal education to make a difference in the lives of others.

We want our graduates to be more than capable practitioners—we want them to be thoughtful problem-solvers, trusted advisors, and community-minded leaders. That means learning to see the law not just as a set of tools, but as a means of service. And that journey begins here.

In the pages of this year's *Jurist*, you'll see how that vision comes to life. From victories in our clinics and thousands of hours logged through our Pro Bono Project, to the work of our Leadership and Character cohort and alumni who continue to serve their communities in remarkable ways—these stories show what it means to live out *Pro Humanitate*. And they represent only a small fraction of the impact our students, alumni, faculty, and staff make every day.

Of course, the ideals of *Pro Humanitate* isn't something we can teach with a course book. What we can do is create space—through meaningful classroom experiences, hands-on opportunities, and mentorship—for students to reflect and think deeply about their purpose and the lawyers they want to be.

This isn't easy work. We're operating in a time of division, where public trust in institutions is strained and incivility is far too common. But that's where Wake Forest Law graduates come in. We need professionals who understand the power of humility and integrity—and who lead with those values, even when the path is hard.

As you read through the stories in this issue, I hope you'll be as inspired as I am. Wake Forest Law is a community defined not just by knowledge and skill, but by character—and I couldn't be prouder of the people, like you, who represent us.

Sincerely,



Andrew Klein  
Dean & Suzanne Reynolds Distinguished Chair in Law







## *The words Pro Humanitate*

first appeared on the seal of Wake Forest College in 1908. But even before then, the concept of being “for humanity” has been core to Wake Forest’s identity. *Pro Humanitate* is a clarion call to move through the world with compassion and empathy, to use our ideas and talents to benefit our communities, and to be a catalyst for good.

At Wake Forest Law, we take this mandate seriously. From the moment students arrive at the Law School, they not only learn what it means to be for humanity, but they also put it to practice. Whether it’s through the thousands of hours of pro bono work our law students engage in, or the clinics where they serve real clients who otherwise wouldn’t have access to legal services, our law students consistently use their time and talent to help others. Those students then go on to become alumni who carry the spirit of *Pro Humanitate* with them—bringing about change through their legal advocacy, serving as a voice for others, and devoting their free time to causes they are passionate about.

Etched on the wall in the Commons of Worrell are the words of Wake Forest Law’s first dean, Needham Yancey Gulley: “Making a good life is more important than making a good living.”

*And what better way to  
make a good life than to  
care for others,  
make a difference,  
and be for humanity.*

# EMPOWERING LITTLE VOICES



Iris Sunshine (JD '89)  
Dedicates Her Career  
to Children's Law

By Hannah Callaway





Iris Sunshine (JD '89) in the entrance lobby of the Children's Law Center of North Carolina in Winston-Salem.

With vivid detail, Iris Sunshine (JD '89) remembers the day she visited the judge's chambers to discuss her parents' custody agreement. Ten years old at the time, her parents had divorced several years prior. "I was wearing a flowered dress and a cardigan," she recalls, "and the office felt so big. I was just a little kid." Through a long series of questions, the judge sought to gather her perspective on the arrangement. With a lawyer by her side, Sunshine shared her personal experience and also spoke on behalf of her two younger brothers. When she left the meeting, she had one thought:

**"That's what I want to do when I grow up."**



**We are the champions for children.  
And we are their legal advocates.  
We raise their voices to be heard  
when it is needed the most.**

As the Executive Director of the Children's Law Center of Central North Carolina, she's achieved her dream of advocating for children so their voices can be heard. Headquartered in Winston-Salem and serving both Forsyth and Guilford counties, the Children's Law Center focuses on advocacy for children in domestic violence, high-conflict custody, and rights of children in public education cases. The organization was founded in 2005 by Penny Spry (JD '82) and Amy Kuhlman, and Sunshine joined the team in 2008 as a staff attorney—their first hire—and was appointed executive director following Spry's retirement in 2011. The staff and their offerings have expanded over the last 20 years, but the mission remains the same. "We are champions for children," says Sunshine. "And we are their legal advocates. We raise their voices to be heard when it is needed the most."

While the seed was planted during Sunshine's youth, her desire to advocate for children grew during her time at Wake Forest Law. Following graduation from Cornell University's School of Industrial and Labor Relations, Sunshine spent a few years gaining experience as a lobbyist for the International Ladies' Garment Workers' Union in Washington, DC, before applying to law school. She soon moved to North Carolina, got married, and began school—all in the same summer.

Though many professors and classes strengthened her knowledge and honed her skill, Sunshine's clinic course, taught by Dean James Taylor and Professor Carol Anderson, was particularly impactful. "The fact that Wake Forest Law had a clinic offering was something that attracted me to the school in the first place," she explains. "I liked that you were assigned something different than what you would otherwise be inclined to do." Her assignments included externships with Womble

Carlyle (now Womble Bond Dickinson) and the District Attorney's office. Sunshine describes the experience as transformative and a time when things began to coalesce for her. She found a natural fit working in the DA's office and came on board as an assistant district attorney after graduating and successfully passing the North Carolina Bar Examination.

As a prosecutor in district court, Sunshine began championing the needs of children as she rotated through traffic, criminal, juvenile, and domestic cases. "There were many opportunities to learn, and try child abuse cases," she recalls, "and while not everybody wanted to tackle those, I did." In superior court, she continued her focus on similar cases and other criminal matters until her retirement from the DA's office—a move that allowed her to shift her energy to focus on her young children. In 2008, Sunshine had the opportunity to return to Wake Forest Law by covering the sabbatical of her former professor, Carol Anderson, and leading the clinic course that had meant so much to her nearly 20 years prior. It was an opportunity to connect with lawyers and students in the community before a brief return to the DA's office to backfill the leave of a staff member. "It was like riding a bike," she says of serving once more in domestic and juvenile court.

After having been introduced to the Children's Law Center earlier in the year by a former mentor, Sunshine landed at the center in November 2008 with a new part-time role. Her work there has been deeply meaningful, as each program impacts long-term outcomes for children. "What is best for the children so often falls through the cracks," Sunshine explains, in domestic violence or high-conflict custody cases. Toxic and traumatic childhood experiences, such as parental substance abuse or violence in the home, can







Project Buddy Bears of NC, Inc. is a local nonprofit that makes bears for first responders and family services to give to children in situations of trauma or distress. Learn more at [facebook.com/projectbuddybear](https://facebook.com/projectbuddybear) or scan the QR code.








I was working with a little boy and drove out to complete a home visit. He came outside to greet me and he hugged me. He grabbed me around the legs and I thought, 'He knows I'm his person and that I'm here for him.' He trusted me and he needed that connection. That's why we are here. That's why we do what we do.







cause lasting poor mental and physical health outcomes. Every case they encounter is different. The center provides Guardian ad Litem (GAL) advocates for children, as appointed by the courts. In North Carolina, GALs in juvenile court proceedings can be practicing lawyers, staff, or volunteers who complete a training program and work under supervision of staff. Children's Law Center's staff attorneys and pro bono attorneys are highly trained, experienced, and prepared to serve as GALs for children. They do not offer legal advice or representation, but instead make critical assessments to help determine the best possible outcomes for the child to which they are assigned. "We have access to court, law enforcement, school, and medical records," explains Sunshine, "along with the ability to interview all parties and relevant collateral witnesses." GALs will often visit children in both their home and school environments. Child interviews are conducted with age-appropriate questions and seek clarity around the child's experiences, feelings, and observations. At the conclusion of their assessment, the assigned GAL will present their findings and recommendations to the court. Last year, the center supported over 200 children across more than 150 cases.

"My team is dedicated, compassionate, and tenacious," says Sunshine. "And they really connect with these children. They get down on eye level; they sit on the floor to play; they kick soccer balls around with them." Fostering connection and earning children's trust is important. A brief but powerful moment stands out in Sunshine's memory that illustrates the close bond: "I was working with a little boy and drove out to complete a home visit," she recalls. "He came outside to greet me and he hugged me. He grabbed me around the legs and I thought, 'He knows I'm his person and that I'm here for him.' He trusted me and he needed that connection. That's why we are here. That's why we do what we do."

In 2023, the center expanded its footprint through a new education and advocacy program. "Children are entitled to a free and appropriate public education," says Sunshine, while acknowledging gaps that exist in the public school system today. The center

provides direct legal representation for children who have individualized education plans (IEPs) that are not being enacted and to children who are involved in exclusionary school discipline matters—such as long-term suspension or expulsion. A big component of the program, Sunshine explains, is education. "There's a need for parents to be educated about what their rights are," she says. "We partner with established community agencies or other organizations who help to equip and educate parents with the tools they need to become advocates."

Sunshine continues to work on the ground level by working with volunteer GALs on cases, and filling in occasionally when someone can't make a court date. But in her role as executive director, she is largely focused on strategically increasing capacity to sustain the center's programming, which in turn extends the organization's impact and ability to serve more children. "My role as executive director is to be promoting our work and our vision for the future across the community and with statewide partners," she explains. "I'm sharing the issues children are experiencing and the physical, mental, and emotional impacts. And I'm raising awareness as to how we are helping to mitigate those adverse experiences by building trust with the children and students we serve." She has also maintained a connection between the center and Wake Forest Law welcoming law student interns.

At the heart of her work over the last 35 years, *Pro Humanitate* shines through. "My commitment to the protection of children is what I'm most proud of," says Sunshine. "I've always stood for the same thing." And through her compassionate service, she inspires the next generation. "Some of the children we serve have shared they'd like to become a lawyer someday, or they'd like to be a lawyer for children," she says. "It's a full-circle moment."

# The Light Between the Bars

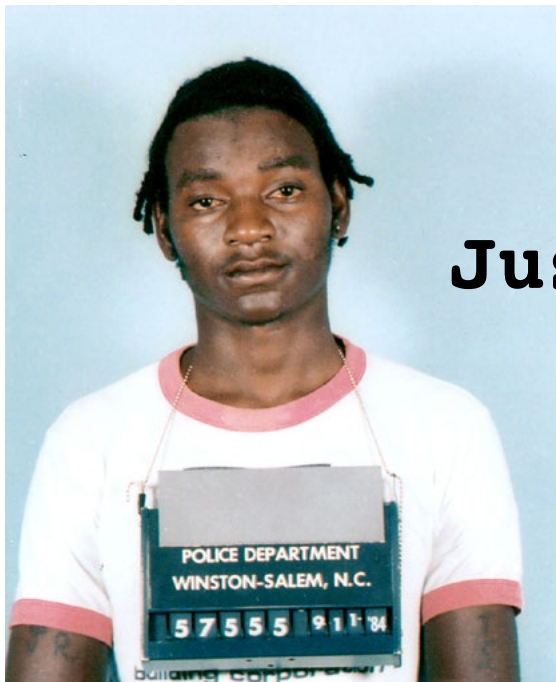
The Life and Legacy  
of Darryl Hunt

It's not every case that changes a career—or a life. But for Mark Rabil, clinical professor of law and founding director of the Innocence & Justice Clinic at Wake Forest Law, the Darryl Hunt case did both. What began as a single act of advocacy became a life's work grounded in *Pro Humanitate*—law practiced in service to people and justice.

As a capital defense attorney and part-time supervising attorney for Wake Forest Law's Litigation Clinic, Professor Rabil approached every case with focus and determination. But the Darryl Hunt case was different. Hunt was different—charismatic, unwavering in his honesty, and gifted with a keen memory.

No one could have predicted just how far the case would reach, or how deeply it would resonate. What followed was not only a fight to prove one man's innocence, but a journey that would reveal broader cracks in the system—and help shape the effort to mend them.





# Just the Beginning

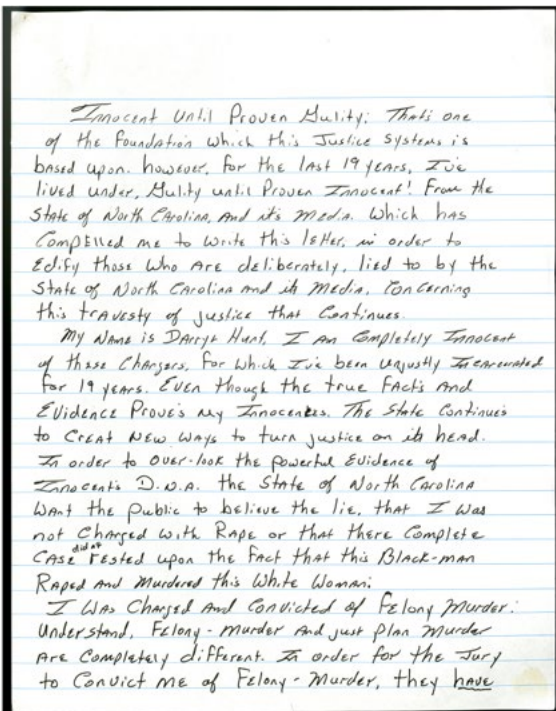
In August of 1984, Darryl Hunt, a black man, was accused of raping and killing Deborah Sykes, a white newspaper editor, in Winston-Salem. If convicted, he faced the possibility of the death penalty.

Professor Rabil was 29 years old when he took on Hunt's defense. Though he had no experience trying murder cases, he was committed to ensuring that Hunt received a fair trial.

Working alongside co-counsel Gordon Jenkins and City Councilman Larry Little (JD '90), who founded the Darryl Hunt Defense Committee to fight for Hunt's innocence, Professor Rabil focused on building a strong defense. While their goal was an acquittal, they were also prepared to do everything possible to prevent a death sentence.

In 1985, Hunt was convicted of murder and sentenced to life in prison without parole. He had been spared the death penalty, but the legal fight was far from over.

Over the next 19 years, Hunt and his legal team faced continuous obstacles in the fight to prove his innocence: an additional wrongful accusation, a retrial that reaffirmed his conviction, a plea deal that would have required him to admit guilt, and DNA evidence discounted by the courts. Appeals were repeatedly denied, and the prolonged legal battle and prison time took a significant emotional and psychological toll.



Left top: Hunt's booking photo, August 1984.

Left bottom: Writing by Hunt during his incarceration ca. 2001-2002. - Darryl Hunt and Hunt Trials Collection (SLMS1), Law Library, Wake Forest School of Law, Wake Forest University, Winston-Salem, NC, USA

Hunt with lawyers Mark Rabil (r) and James Ferguson, reacts to a judge dropping murder charges against him at a hearing in 2004. Photo: Ted Richardson/Winston-Salem Journal



## Homecoming

Still, Professor Rabil, his co-counsel, and the Darryl Hunt Defense Committee remained committed to the case—and so did Hunt.

In 2003, renewed DNA testing identified the actual perpetrator, Willard Brown. Brown confessed to the murder of Sykes, and in 2004, Hunt was released after nearly 20 years of wrongful imprisonment. That same year, he was formally exonerated and pardoned by the governor. Brown was later convicted and sentenced to life in prison, plus 10 years.

Hunt's case captured national attention. His wrongful conviction and ultimate exoneration were the subject of the acclaimed HBO documentary *The Trials of Darryl Hunt*, which premiered at the Sundance Film Festival in 2006. Later, his life and the fight to free him would be chronicled in *Beyond Innocence: The Life Sentence of Darryl Hunt*, written by reporter and Wake Forest University Associate Professor Phoebe Zerwick. The book would provide a detailed account of both the legal case and the personal cost of his incarceration.

By the time he was released from prison, Hunt had already begun touching lives through the power of his story—and this was just the beginning.

Even while incarcerated, Hunt was thinking about how he could help others, according to Zerwick's *Beyond Innocence*. He led prayer groups for other Muslim men, taught others to read, and coached people on their legal rights.

After his release, he wanted to continue helping others and, in his words, “give back to the community that gave so much to me.” His first mission was to support individuals returning from prison and help them avoid the cycle of recidivism. He wanted to work with Professor Rabil to make it happen. Professor Rabil suggested they work on wrongful convictions together, but Hunt opened his eyes instead to the value of supporting people coming out of prison.

Hunt had seen firsthand how difficult it was for people to rebuild their lives after prison. Many lacked education, housing, or job skills, and their criminal records often created barriers to employment. Others were returning to their communities with unresolved trauma and emotional pain.

Together, Hunt and Professor Rabil began to imagine a new kind of support system—one that addressed the barriers they faced at every level and treated returning citizens with dignity. Hunt didn't like the term “reentry.” He preferred “homecoming”—a word that reflected a sense of welcome, restoration, and belonging.

In 2005, Hunt launched the Darryl Hunt Project for Freedom and Justice in collaboration with Professor Rabil and Wake Forest Law students. The project provided holistic support for people returning home from prison, offering basic needs like food, shelter, and





Below: Hunt and Rabil with Carol Turowski (center right), then co-director of the Innocence & Justice Clinic, and Beverly Monroe (center left) in 2011 at the clinic's presentation of Monroe's wrongful conviction. Bottom: Hunt and then Assistant Dean of Law Development Jon McLamb in 2011.



medical care. It also offered long-term resources like GED preparation, job readiness, and emotional support. He even hoped to open a construction company to provide sustainable employment opportunities.

The project was ambitious: Hunt hoped to serve 1,000 people a year. According to Zerwick's research, although it operated for only a short time, it achieved a remarkably low recidivism rate of 10% among participants, far below the national average of 70%.

Still, legal and bureaucratic barriers made it difficult to reach everyone in need. Broader reform was necessary. Drawing on the stories he heard from those returning home, Hunt began to advocate for systemic change.

Hunt worked with legal reform organizations and lawmakers to expand expungement laws, helping to broaden eligibility to include low-level felonies. His case also became a reference point for advocates pressing for improvements in police procedures and criminal justice policy. Concerns about biased eyewitness identification—highlighted in Hunt's case—led many police departments to revise how they conduct photo lineups. His experience also helped spark conversations about police interrogation practices and supported calls for legislation requiring open-file discovery in felony cases. Together with other wrongful conviction cases, Hunt's story helped catalyze the creation of the North Carolina Innocence Inquiry Commission—the first and only state-run agency in the nation with the authority to review and rule on claims of actual innocence.

Hunt also continued his advocacy through direct engagement with policy efforts. He took a part-time role with the North Carolina chapter of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People (NAACP), where he lobbied for the Racial Justice Act, a law that gave people on death row the opportunity to challenge their sentences based on evidence of racial bias. One of the act's strongest advocates was Tarrah Callahan, director of the Coalition for Alternatives to the Death Penalty. Moved by Hunt's story and dedication, she secured a grant allowing him to join the coalition full time and deepen his work in criminal justice reform. Later, as executive director of Conservatives for Criminal Justice Reform, Callahan continued to advance many of the issues Hunt had championed, including driver's license restoration for North Carolinians impacted by unpaid fines and raising the age of juvenile prosecution from 16 to 18.

# Exonerate, Educate, and Instigate



Rabil and Hunt with Innocence & Justice Clinic students and Barry Scheck (center) during the Innocence Network Conference at the Wake Forest University Charlotte Center in 2013.

In 2009, Professor Rabil joined the Wake Forest Law faculty. Under the leadership of former dean Blake Morant, he founded the Innocence & Justice Clinic, with the mission to exonerate the wrongly convicted, educate future lawyers, and instigate broader legal reform.

Students who studied Hunt's case and worked on similar ones gained insight into how wrongful convictions can occur—and what it takes to challenge them. “Every criminal case is a microcosm,” says Professor Rabil—a way to understand how individual decisions can reflect and reinforce broader patterns of injustice.

Since its founding, the clinic has reviewed over 3,000 cases with over 20 currently in litigation. More than 300 students have come through the clinic, including alumni who are now prosecutors, defense attorneys, judges, and legal advocates across the country.

“We take the hardest of cases—those in which people are likely innocent and have exhausted almost all avenues of legal relief. We usually have to find new evidence or a different decision maker to help them,” says Professor Rabil. “Many times, it's a student who finds the new evidence or a new angle.”

In one case, for example, clinic students revisited the 1998 conviction of a woman accused of poisoning her husband. Her husband was regularly drinking water mixed with 3-Nitro, a livestock medication he used to treat his ailments. A student discovered that the 3-Nitro contained lethal levels of arsenic and was taken off the shelves in 2016. The finding led the clinic to file a motion supported by the five scientists involved in the Food and Drug Administration's decision to ban the product.

In another case, students examined a 1995 murder-arson case in which a fire expert gave his opinion as to how long the fire burned—an opinion that negated the client's alibi. The clinic brought in a fire expert of its own, gathered over 10,000 pages of discovery, and found evidence that the original prosecutor knew the testimony was flawed but used it anyway.

The clinic doesn't just pursue individual exonerations—it prepares students to think systemically, challenge entrenched injustices, and recognize how legal work can drive change far beyond the courtroom.

It also carries forward Hunt's legacy by reminding students that justice isn't always delivered with a verdict.



# *Pro Humanitate* in Every Case



Despite his resilience, Hunt faced ongoing challenges with trauma and addiction in the years following his release. In 2016, after a period of personal hardship, he died by suicide. His passing was a profound loss to those who knew and worked alongside him—and a reminder of the deep and lasting impacts of wrongful incarceration.

Nearly a decade later, his legacy endures.

Through his experience and work, Hunt helped shape a more honest and compassionate conversation around incarceration and second chances. The stories he gathered, the barriers he illuminated, and the persistence he modeled helped change how people thought—and talked—about justice. Over the years, many others have followed his example. Some pursued careers in law or innocence advocacy, while others carried forward his values into broader policy reform.

At Wake Forest Law, that spirit lives on. Through the Innocence & Justice Clinic and the many students shaped by Hunt's legacy, the work continues—not only to correct injustice, but to meet it with empathy, integrity, and purpose. This is the heart of *Pro Humanitate*: a commitment to serve, listen, and see humanity in every case.



Wake Forest Law is home to the **Darryl Hunt and Hunt Trials Collection** created by metasearch librarian and archivist Leslie Wakeford.

The collection features correspondence, court transcripts, and investigative files donated by Professor Mark Rabil.

To schedule a research appointment, contact **Leslie Wakeford** of the Law Library at [wakefolk@wfu.edu](mailto:wakefolk@wfu.edu).

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# DIGNITY IS A HUMAN RIGHT

Pro Bono Work Bolsters the  
Winston-Salem Community  
By Hannah Callaway





## THE PRO BONO PROJECT

has been a staple of the Wake Forest University School of Law for more than 15 years, encouraging students to engage the community through service to others. Unlike ad hoc pro bono opportunities at other law schools, Wake Forest Law offers a fully-realized program with a student-run board, faculty directors, and standing initiatives where students work under the supervision of licensed attorneys to serve a variety of unmet legal needs in Winston-Salem and Forsyth County. Last school year, students contributed an impressive combined 5,856 pro bono hours.

“The Pro Bono Project emphasizes that dignity is a human right,” says Mae Zeitouni (JD ’25), who recently completed a year as deputy director of the Project. Indeed, dignity is at the heart of this essential work, which focuses on supporting individuals from myriad backgrounds through the following projects:

- Expungements
- Wills
- Housing
- Know Your Rights
- Healthcare Advocacy
- Prison Letters
- Teen Court
- Volunteer Income Tax Assistance (VITA)
- Funeral and Cemetery Law

This pro bono work addresses some of the most critical areas of need in the community, explains the Pro Bono Project's Faculty Advisor and Legal Aid attorney Corey Frost. "Attorneys in private practice have very limited ability to provide free legal services for people who need, for example, a simple will or a power of attorney document," he says. "This is where law students can help to fill the gap." For most projects, experienced student coordinators help train new students. Supervising attorneys are then on hand to review work and share feedback. In most instances, students work directly with clients.

Pro Bono Project clients have little to no barrier of entry to receive services, and intake events are strategically held in widely-accessible areas such as the Forsyth County Central Library. It's important to meet the community where they are, says former Pro Bono Project Executive Director Mary Catherine Baker (JD '25). "I've found there is sometimes a disconnect between law students and the general public," she says. "There's a lack of understanding about what the average person goes through. Most people cannot afford a lawyer; they don't have access to an attorney. We experience a level of privilege by attending law school, and it's good to redirect some of that back into the community." Zeitouni agrees. "Participating in the Pro Bono Project is encouragement to remind yourself why you're here and why you're doing this," she says. "Often, people come to intake events—not only because they want help, but because they need it. They're in a vulnerable place. It reminds me of the importance of community and that I can help to make a difference."

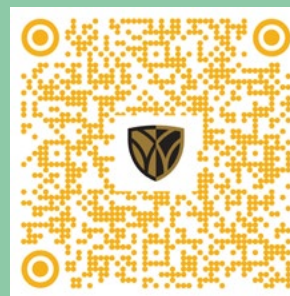
This deep appreciation for serving the community led Baker and Zeitouni to propose that students complete at least 10 pro bono hours during their 1L year, which was instituted during the 2024–2025 school year. The initiative has been successful, and has encouraged students to give even more of their time to local causes. This year, a record number of Wake Forest Law 1L students were named to the North Carolina Pro Bono Honor Society—which requires at least 50 pro bono hours logged in the span of a year. With 99% participation, 1L students together contributed nearly 3,000 pro bono hours of work throughout the year.

Mae Zeitouni (JD '25), left, and Mary Catherine Baker (JD '25)



Wake Forest Law alumni are encouraged to participate in the Pro Bono Project as supervising attorneys. Contact [probono@wfu.edu](mailto:probono@wfu.edu) for additional information.

Community members are invited to propose events for consideration. Scan the code to access the proposal form.



[wfu.law/PBForm](https://wfu.law/PBForm)





The need is infinite.  
We're only limited  
by initiative and by  
the availability of  
our students.

—Corey Frost

However, one challenge is that interest is high and not every student can work with their first-choice project. Frost and the student-led board are intentionally creating more ways for students to become involved and are adding multiple opportunities throughout the year for project training. He also hopes to offer additional non-project-specific services in the future. “I want to be nimble,” he explains. “I’d like for the Pro Bono Project to be able to respond to things that arise when political winds change or when the legal landscape changes.” Last year, the Pro Bono Project organized a name change clinic. In the coming year, they’re considering a power of attorney clinic for undocumented immigrants who want to support their children in the event of a deportation. “The need is infinite,” Frost adds. “We’re only limited by initiative and by the availability of our students.”

Corey Frost, right of table, and Carson Leighty (JD '27), left of table, at the law student org fair in fall of 2025.







Working directly with so many people makes you view the world differently. You have to confront many of your beliefs about the world, too. It's a full range of human emotion.

—Mary Catherine Baker (JD '25)



A critical pillar of support for the local community, the Pro Bono Project also delivers substantial benefits for students. Projects provide a low pressure opportunity to explore unfamiliar areas of law. The work, in turn, includes real-world interviewing, counseling, and more. Many students, for example, do not have experience talking to members of a different community or a different socioeconomic status. “The way you speak in a law school class is very different from how you speak to clients,” Frost says. “These projects are a safe and controlled environment to gain that experience.” The work also introduces students, who come from all over the country, to the Winston-Salem community—the people, the culture, and the available resources.



“Working directly with so many people makes you view the world differently,” says Baker. “You have to confront many of your beliefs about the world, too. It’s a full range of human emotion.” She uses the alternative justice program Teen Court as an example of the dichotomies often found in pro bono work. “I experienced kids who were crying and scared alongside kids who were rough and trying to challenge me. Both need the same support and should be treated the same.” All individuals, regardless of background or circumstance, deserve the same access to legal and support services.

“Everyone benefits from pro bono work,” she continues. “I appreciate that Wake Forest Law makes this a lifelong learning opportunity. We engage with pro bono work, not so we can talk about it in a job interview or attract the right law firm, but because at the end of the day we have a desire to meet the need.”



Top: Corey Frost speaks at the Pro Bono Honor Society induction ceremony in April 2025. Second from top: honor society inductees pose after receiving their awards at the induction ceremony. Left to right, back row: Jane Claire Hendrick (JD '27), Katy Kerensky (JD '26), Mary Catherine Baker (JD '25), Carson Leighty (JD '27), Josh Horen (JD '27). Front row: Meghna Gohil (JD '26), Olivia Lara (JD '27), Vivian Bolen (JD '26), and Mae Zeitouni (JD '25). Second from bottom: Amelia McClure (JD '25), Melissa Stuckey (JD '26), Denise Hartsfield (JD '91), Libby Rau (JD '26), and Brielle Brown (JD '25). Bottom: Sydney Howard (JD '27).



# PRO BONO PROJECT SPOTLIGHTS



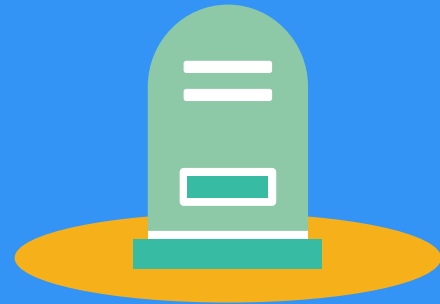
## HOUSING

The Housing Project began in Fall 2023, based on a proposal drafted by Mae Zeitouni (JD '25). In close partnership with Legal Aid of North Carolina, the project provides advice to low-income tenants who are navigating unsafe or unhealthy housing conditions across the state of North Carolina. Due to the high volume of referrals received, this collaboration is essential to ensure that as many individuals receive assistance as possible. Last school year, the project sponsored four intake events. Students held interviews, then advised tenants on communicating with their landlords regarding unsafe or unhealthy conditions. This work not only fulfills a community need, but also helps students to gain experience conducting client interviews.



## EXPUNGEMENTS

Working with the Wake Forest Law Innocence & Justice Clinic, students supporting the Expungements Project assist individuals in determining whether past convictions (including not guilty charges and juvenile, misdemeanor, and felony convictions) can be stricken from their records. It's a service in high demand. "The student coordinators worked hard to publicize an expungement intake event earlier this year," recalls Corey Frost, faculty advisor and Legal Aid attorney. Advertised on the radio, in print, and on social media, "the attendance exceeded my expectations with over 140 people showing up to have their records checked."



## FUNERAL & CEMETERY

Funeral and Cemetery Law, the newest Pro Bono Project, gives students the opportunity to conduct state-specific legal research on the handling of deceased persons and human remains. In partnership with the Wake Forest Department of Archaeology, students conduct title searches to help track the historic boundaries of the local Winston-Salem Odd Fellows Cemetery—a site that has been partially paved over and built on top of during the last 100 years. They also participate in hands-on, on-site work. "It's one of the most memorable projects for me," says Zeitouni of helping to plot and map the cemetery. "We talked to a woman who was so thankful because through the clean up efforts, she was able to trace one of her family members whom she hadn't previously been able to find."



HOW DAVID DAGGETT (JD '85) BALANCES IT ALL





Above and following page: David Daggett (JD '85) at the Safe Sober Teen Center

If ever there was someone who seems to have it all figured out, it's David Daggett (JD '85).

But that assuredness is by no means accidental, or pure luck. It has resulted from a clear, foundational life philosophy. From his incredibly successful law firm, to his deep and broad service to the community, to his devotion to his family and his health, Daggett is intentional about how he spends his time and energy.

"My son, who is now at the age where he wants to have those deep philosophical talks with dad, asked me once 'How do you do so much and still have time for our family?'" It's a great question, and one that many ponder about Daggett. How does he do so much?

"It's simple," he says. "I've architected my life using this concept I call the 'Four Anchors.'"

The Four Anchors is Daggett's personal approach to building a meaningful, purpose-driven life. He believes a life consists of four distinct areas: professional, physical, family/social, and spiritual. By integrating these four anchors and maximizing your time, you can strengthen each anchor and create stability and balance.

"For example," says Daggett, an avid athlete and competitor, "when the kids were young, I'd wake up early in the morning and bike to my in-laws' house a few hours away. My wife and children would meet me there as I was arriving, and we'd have family time. It's about doing things concurrently and making the most of your time."





Time seems infinite when you talk to Daggett. He wakes up at 4:30 a.m. for his morning swim, during which he meditates and makes a mental list of what he wants to accomplish that day. Then it's off to the law offices of Daggett Shuler, which he co-founded with fellow Wake Forest Law alumnus Griff Shuler (JD '94).

Since Daggett established the firm, which specializes in personal injury, disability, and workers' compensation, it has become a cornerstone of the Winston-Salem community. The firm's philosophy, "We help people through situations that many times are the worst events they've experienced in their lives," underscores Daggett's personal commitment to serving others for 40 years as a local attorney.

When Daggett turned 50, he decided to dedicate one-third of his productive, professional time toward community service. And when it comes to serving the community, rather than focusing his energy on one specific cause or issue, the throughline for Daggett has been his love of people—that is the one thing that his incredibly varied philanthropic activities have in common.

Leveraging his legal expertise, he has served as president of the Forsyth County Bar Association, as a member of the Board of Governors of the North Carolina Bar Association, and on the 21st Judicial District Bar Association. A former wrestler himself, Daggett coaches high school wrestling. He speaks at local middle and high schools, volunteers in various capacities at New Philadelphia Moravian Church, and is a frequent emcee at charity events, including the annual holiday party for the Atrium Health Wake Forest Baptist Orthopedic Surgery & Rehabilitation Department. He serves on the board of the American Heart Association - Triad and for Willie Mason & Friends, a community-based choir. Daggett Shuler also sponsors numerous events throughout the year.

"I wanted to start a law firm that has a distinct impact on both people and on the community. That's part of our mission and ethos," says Daggett. "I'm fortunate that everyone on our team is on the same page with regards to those ideals, because my hope is that our firm's legacy will prevail long after I'm gone."

Perusing Daggett's LinkedIn profile is a humbling experience that not only inspires you to do more, but to be better. It also makes you question whether Daggett sleeps at all.



Among his countless contributions to the community, perhaps the one he is most proud of is the founding of the Safe Sober Program.

In its 35th year, Safe Sober is the largest and longest running privately funded initiative of its kind in the United States (and likely, the world). It began as Safe Sober Prom Night, which was an initiative aimed at creating awareness among teens of the dangers of drug and alcohol consumption, especially during the time between prom and graduation. The program encouraged students to sign a pledge agreeing to remain sober and make good decisions on prom night and during that period.

A few years ago, the program expanded beyond prom night to operate year-round and target middle school students as well. “Society has changed, and the issues we were seeing with high school students, we now see with middle school students,” says Daggett.

“Our goal is to raise awareness of the dangers of drug and alcohol use and to create an atmosphere of positive peer pressure amidst the negative peer pressure our youth are bombarded with. We want to encourage the community to collectively ‘wrap their arms’ around these young people, and help put them on the road to success.”

Over 50 local high schools participate in the program, and more than 600,000 students have gone through the program. Each student who signs the pledge and participates in the Safe Sober Program, which includes events, presentations, and other activities, receives a special t-shirt, which is designed by a different teen each year. “We now have generations of students in the Triad who have gone through the Safe Sober Program, and that truly is one of the crowning achievements of my career.”

The most recent addition to the Safe Sober Program is the Safe Sober Teen Center, a collaboration between Daggett Shuler and the William G. White, Jr. YMCA. The Safe Sober Teen Center provides a safe space, enriched learning and activities, and mentorship for teens. It integrates the values of the Safe Sober Program and of the YMCA, ensuring that teens have a place to go after school where they can be surrounded by positive influences.

“I’ve seen firsthand how bad choices can really throw a person’s life off track. There are often devastating consequences,” says Daggett.

“Kids need trusted adults in their lives to show an interest in them and get involved—to believe in them—and help put them on a positive path. It’s easy to write a check. It’s much harder to put in the time and effort and show up for these kids. But it makes all the difference.”

In addition to his devotion to his charitable work, his career, and his family (he has been happily married for nearly 30 years and has three adult children), Daggett is deeply committed to his physical and mental health. He is a 34-time IRONMAN finisher over 44 consecutive years and has competed in 220 triathlons. He and his daughter recently competed in the Escape from Alcatraz Triathlon, combining two of the Four Anchors—physical and family/social.

Unsurprisingly, Daggett’s love of people has made him not only a prolific philanthropist, but a talented lawyer. He believes that inter-

personal skills are key to succeeding in the legal profession. “The most critical thing you do as a lawyer is to advise and counsel your clients,” he says. “You need to be able to gain their trust, and that requires the ability to meaningfully engage with others.”

While he was born with those innate people skills, he cultivated many other key lawyering skills during his time at Wake Forest Law. “It goes without saying that I received an excellent education at Wake,” Daggett explains. “But I also developed strong relationships with my professors, like Butch Covington and the late Ralph Peeples.” He has stayed in touch with many of them throughout the years.

But one of the most impactful aspects of attending Wake Forest Law was that it brought him to this city that he cares so deeply about. After receiving his bachelor of arts from Indiana State University, he moved down to Winston-Salem—and he never left. He obtained his JD, opened his law firm, and set down roots, which have grown and spread and strengthened everything around him.

As good as Winston-Salem has been to Daggett, he has paid it forward to his community in spades. “It’s what I love to do,” says Daggett. “Helping people is in my DNA.”

And it wouldn’t be surprising at all if that DNA was superhuman.



“It’s what I  
love to do.  
Helping  
people  
is in my  
DNA.”

Two roads diverged in a wood, and I—

I took the one less traveled by,

And that has made

all the difference.



Emile Thompson (JD '10)

—Robert Frost





# Energy for Change

How Emile Thompson (JD '10) Blends the Law and Science to Bring Clean Energy to Washington, DC

For Emile Thompson (JD '10), two roads diverged after he earned his undergraduate degree, and one took him not to a “yellow wood,” but rather, to a green Forest. “My family is heavily science-oriented,” says Thompson. “My grandfather was a surgeon, my mother has a PhD in microbiology, my brother is a surgeon. So I always figured I’d go into the sciences as well.” But after receiving a bachelor’s of science in computer science, with minors in math and biology, and enrolling in a PhD program for bioinformatics, he quickly realized that wasn’t the path for him. “It was isolating, and I’m much more of a people-person,” he says. So after a year, he left the PhD program, took the LSAT, and arrived at Wake Forest Law.

Yet as the chair of the Public Service Commission of the District of Columbia (DCPSC), Thompson has been able to seamlessly blend two of his passions together: science and the law. In this role, his mission is to ensure that utilities companies provide safe, affordable, and reliable services to DC residents, while also taking into account the District’s climate commitments.

Through programs like Power Path DC, which Thompson helped launch in 2020, the DCPSC aims to modernize the city’s energy grid and achieve the District’s ambitious clean energy and climate goals. “Our planet is getting warmer,” says Thompson. “And one of the biggest reasons for that is our energy infrastructure. Transitioning to clean, carbon-free energy sources and distribution systems is very important for our sustainability—for our resiliency.”

Power Path DC consists of four pilot projects, including a geothermal community heat pump project to replace fossil fuel-based space conditioning systems, a solar aggregation and advanced inverter project, a virtual power plant project, and a transactive neighborhood renewable microgrid to show how community-based renewable energy systems can provide essential grid services. All of the projects are highly innovative and collaborative, and will benefit distressed neighborhoods in DC.

While environmental justice and sustainability—and the drive to diversify energy sources so that there’s less reliance on natural gas—are very much at the forefront of the DCPSC’s work, Thompson acknowledges that it has been a challenge to get DC residents to buy in. “Given that some of the incentives set forth by the federal government are being taken away, there will be a direct impact on folks’ energy bills,” says Thompson. “People will have tough decisions to make about how committed we are as a society to this energy transition. But I think we’re at an inflection point. I strongly believe that once we get to a certain adoption level, it will ultimately lead to greater affordability.”

Many of the skills he uses in his work today, he learned during his time clerking for the Honorable Judge Herbert Dixon of the Superior Court of the District of Columbia. “What I learned from him, you can’t learn from a law school book,” Thompson says. “Being thoughtful and deliberate, balancing competing interests, knowing when to ask questions and not assuming you know everything. These concepts all sound simple in theory, but they’re much harder in practice.”

Thanks to his nearly 30 years on the bench and a wide-ranging professional network, Judge Dixon was able to help open doors for Thompson, which led to a role in the Office of the Mayor, advising DC Mayor Vince Gray on criminal justice and other public safety issues. He continued serving as an advisor when Mayor Muriel Bowser took office. He eventually landed in the US Attorney’s office, where he spent five years, ending up as deputy chief of misdemeanors.

But Thompson wasn’t always planning on taking the criminal law route. He once again diverged from the path he was on after a transformative experience in his third year at Wake Forest Law.

“I participated in the Innocence & Justice Clinic, and that was where everything changed for me,” says Thompson. He and his classmate were reviewing the



If someone were to look back at my body of work,

I would like them to say that I was a thoughtful leader,

someone who did their best

case of Marchello Bitting, who was convicted of attempted armed robbery in January 2002 and was sentenced to 10 years in prison. Bitting claimed that the sentence was based on inaccurate information, and had been doing a lot of pro se filings. He hadn't been able to get much traction when he was eventually referred to Professor Mark Rabil's Innocence & Justice Clinic. "My teammate and I researched the issue and found that it was full of merit," says Thompson.

The rest was history—both for Bitting and Thompson.

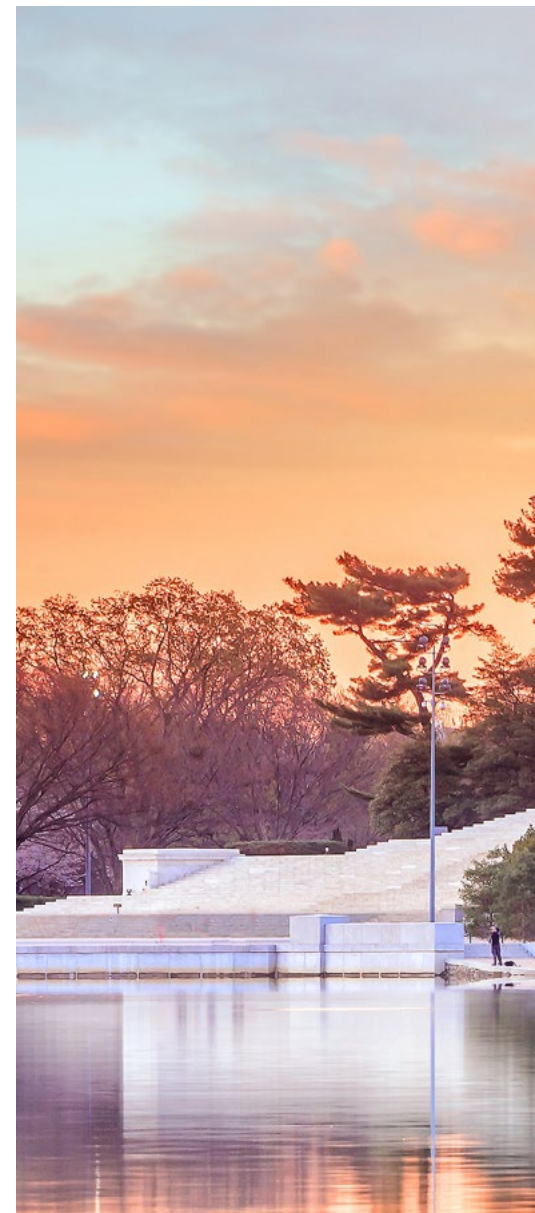
Thanks to the work of the Innocence & Justice Clinic, including Thompson, Bitting was released from jail early due to the sentencing error. "That was a very powerful experience for me," Thompson says. "It not only cemented my interest in criminal justice, but reframed my entire way of thinking about the law. So often we can get caught up in saying 'well, this person is good' or 'this person is bad,' just by virtue of the position they're in within the justice system [plaintiff or defendant]. But the truth is, you need competent people working on both sides; people who are going to take the extra step to make sure things are done correctly. From then on, that idea was the North Star for my career."

But beyond those deeply impactful moments, there was so much from his time at Wake Forest Law that Thompson cherishes. For his undergraduate degree, he attended Morehouse College, an all-male historically Black college. "I loved it there. It's a place like no other in the world," he says. "But after that experience, coming to Wake was just what I needed." What drew Thompson to Wake Forest Law was the small class and section sizes, the strong sense of community, and the quality of professors. "Everything about it was second-to-none," he recalls.

It's no surprise that Thompson—so skilled at moving effortlessly from one area to another—belonged to multiple communities while at Wake Forest Law. "I had my core group," he recalls. "But I had friends from my section, friends from playing basketball and flag football, friends I went to bar review with."

That keen ability to become involved in so many different communities has remained with Thompson, who is active in many ways outside of his professional career. He sits on the board of the Abramson Scholarship Foundation, which is aimed at first-generation college students and provides both financial support and mentoring. He also served for many years on the board of the Boys and Girls Club of Greater Washington. He plays recreational basketball every week—a throwback to his time at Wake Forest Law, when his intramural basketball team won a championship each year of the three years he was in law school.

Despite his busy schedule, he still has plenty of time to devote to his children, ages 23, 4, and 3. "In all of my life's work, my greatest accomplishment is my children," says Thompson. And much like he himself diverged from the path his parents took, so too has his eldest daughter, whose passion is art education, with a specific focus





to work across all groups,

and with all stakeholders,

to achieve a common goal.



on communities that often aren't exposed to art. "She recently finished a fellowship at the National Gallery of Art and now has a fellowship at the Metropolitan Museum of Art in New York City," says Thompson, beaming. She may not have followed in his footsteps in terms of her field of work, but there is no doubt that her commitment to helping people was inherited from her father.

Had Thompson stayed in the field of science, his journey would have certainly unfolded quite differently than it has. Yet, the legacy that he hopes to leave behind would have stayed the same. "If someone were to look back at my body of work, I would like them to say that I was a thoughtful leader, someone who did their best to work across all groups, and with all stakeholders, to achieve a common goal. A visionary who was able to take big ideas and translate them into tangible, impactful work that makes a real difference in the lives of others."

That, of course, takes energy. And energy is what Emile Thompson's life is all about.



# The Heart of a Lawyer

IN THE AGE OF "AI-IFICATION," WAKE FOREST LAW  
CLINICS TEACH INTANGIBLE SKILLS

By Suzi Morales



During a recent legal conference,  
Professor John Korzen ( '81, JD '91)  
heard one panelist compare a good lawyer to  
Charlotte A. Cavatica, the fictional spider from the  
children's classic *Charlotte's Web*. Using messages  
weaved into her web, Charlotte advocated to save  
the life of Wilbur the pig, runt of his litter.



The analogy illustrated that, “A good lawyer is a good communicator with a good mind and a good heart,” says Professor Korzen, director of the Appellate Advocacy Clinic, which provides legal representation to appellate litigants in a variety of cases and also prepares amicus briefs. While the research and writing capabilities of generative AI continue to evolve, he says that AI can never replace “heart,” the ability to empathize with clients and understand their goals.

## THE ROLE OF CLINICS IN LEGAL EDUCATION

According to the 2024 AI and Legal Education Survey conducted by the American Bar Association’s Task Force on Law and Artificial Intelligence, more than half of law schools responding to the survey reported that they now offer courses dedicated to teaching students about AI. Further, 83% reported that they offer curricular opportunities in which students can learn to use AI tools effectively.

It is undeniably important to prepare future lawyers to competently use the technologies they will encounter in practice. At the same time, it remains crucial to educate law students on the intangible skills that will enable them to effectively advocate for their clients.

And that’s where Wake Forest Law’s seven clinics shine.

“Given the AI-ification of research and writing—and we are seeing encroachment of AI in the legal profession—clinics remain critical to legal education,” says Allyson Gold, associate dean of experiential learning and director of the Medical-Legal Partnership Clinic. Clinics are transformative experiences for many law students, notes Professor Gold, where students can apply what they learn in doctrinal courses and figure out who they are as professionals.

In Professor Zaneta Robinson’s (JD ’03) Intellectual Property Law Clinic, students help clients secure trademarks and copyrights, but that’s usually not the only assistance clients need. For



example, clinic students walk clients through who owns their intangible assets and draft contracts like assignments, licenses, and non-disclosure agreements.

“Clients may think they have rights in things that they don’t own, or they may have rights that they don’t realize they have,” says Professor Robinson. “On the front end, there’s a lot of client counseling and then we oftentimes spend more than a week or two just sorting out rights.”

Similarly, Professor Gold’s Medical-Legal Partnership Clinic relies on human connection. The clinic works with primary health care providers to identify potential legal issues, like substandard housing, lack of insurance, and improper denial of benefits, that might be causing or exacerbating a patient’s medical condition. “To secure justice for their clients,” Professor Gold says, “law students must have diverse subject matter experience, a variety of skills and advocacy strategies, as well as the ability to collaborate and step out of silos.”

The ability to interact with others in legal settings extends beyond client relationships. IP clinic student and rising third-year law student Shyamaa Khan (JD ’26) says her work as a summer associate after her first year of law school often involved conducting research on her own and simply sending the results to her supervisor. After the clinic, she went back to Delaware-based IP boutique Devlin Law Firm for a second summer. Now she is better able to communicate with her colleagues about the research and legal conclusions.

“To secure justice for their clients, law students must have diverse subject matter experience, a variety of skills and advocacy strategies, as well as the ability to collaborate and step out of silos.”  
—Allyson Gold

In addition to interpersonal connections, clinics teach students non-linear, creative thinking. Professor Korzen points to a recent North Carolina Supreme Court case brought by restaurants seeking insurance coverage for business losses sustained during COVID-19 closures. Various restaurant industry groups filed amicus curiae—“friend of the court”—briefs in the case, which is not unusual. What was notable about one brief was that it was on behalf of an individual restaurant rumored to be a favorite of a key justice.

“I don’t think AI would be able to think outside the box that way,” says Professor Korzen.

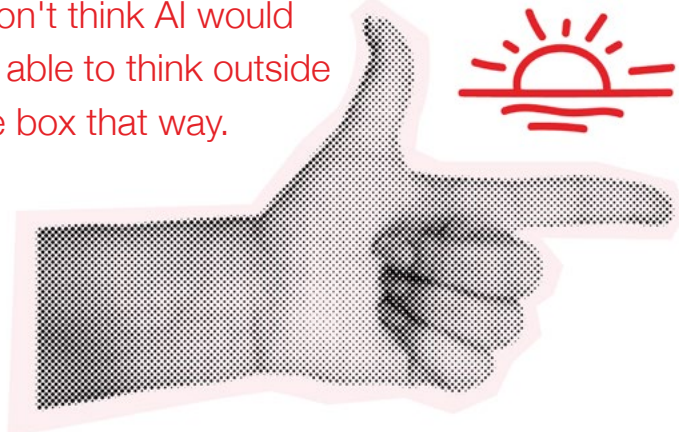
One of the biggest benefits of law school clinics is the confidence boost they give lawyers-in-training. Third-year law student Sami Vincent (JD ’26) joined the IP clinic in her 2L year. She does not have any lawyers in her family and the clinic showed her “what it’s like working with a client.”

According to Vincent, the clinic operates as a small law firm, with students working as associates with Professor Robinson. She recalls one client meeting where clinic students were using words like “intent to use,” a common trademark law term to describe a brand owner’s aim to begin providing products under a proposed trademark. Professor Robinson invited the students to back up and explain the concept in layman’s terms.

“The biggest thing I would say I learned is how to explain the law [to] someone who has no legal background in a way that makes sense to them,” Vincent says. The clinic allowed her to learn by trial and error in a low-stakes environment that prepared her for summer associate position with Sidley Austin’s Washington, DC, office.

“

I don't think AI would be able to think outside the box that way.



—John Korzen ('81, JD '91)

## TECH IN PRACTICE

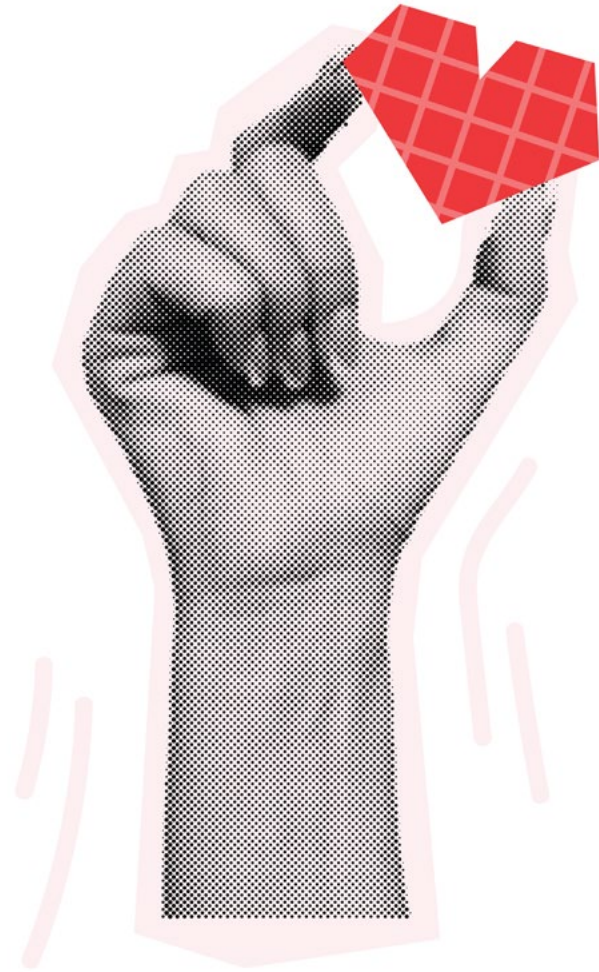
But law schools also have a responsibility to prepare students for the technology they will use in practice. Professor Robinson is concerned that when students use generative AI tools before they have a legal foundation for their knowledge, they will not truly understand the lessons. Clinics help students contextualize their knowledge and put it into practice.

“If you do plan to use AI for generative purposes—for drafting an email or what have you—to the extent that there’s any legal advice, you’ll be in a better position to evaluate the accuracy and legitimacy of what AI created,” says Professor Robinson. “Without going through the exercise and building that mental muscle yourself, you open yourself up to vulnerabilities that just aren’t worth it, in my opinion.”

Like Wake Forest Law’s other clinics, Professor Korzen’s Appellate Advocacy Clinic meets once a week. They discuss strategy for specific cases as well as lawyering skills, like research. While he often learns from students about the tech tools they are using, he says it is a mistake to assume that law students are all tech savvy. “There’s plenty of teen and 20-something Luddites, too,” he remarks. Clinics can bridge the gap and help students use technology ethically.

Confidentiality is another major concern. Professor Gold says, “I tell students all the time, we have to be really careful about how we engage with AI. ... You can’t feed information that you’ve gathered from a client interview into a generative AI system. That violates our duty of confidentiality.”





At Wake Forest Law, AI use in clinics and other classes can vary from professor to professor. Professor Korzen's clinic doesn't currently use generative AI, but he will be incorporating it into a legislative drafting course. He plans to require students to prompt AI to help draft a proposal for a local ordinance or a state statute. Students will then discuss the prompts as well as the substance of the proposals.

Vincent has had many conversations in her classes about issues like confidentiality, as well as the impact on legal doctrine, like how using generative AI as an artist or author might affect copyright ownership. As a summer associate, she has used AI tools to help streamline or summarize research. She recently read several highly technical research papers for her work in patent litigation. After she had read the papers, she used firm-approved AI to summarize their findings and confirm her own understanding.

## AN EVOLVING PROFESSION

Of course, this isn't the first time the profession has gone through a major tech evolution. "There's always a bit of panic every time we get a big, transformative technology, but I don't think it will change the practice," says Professor Gold. "It will [change] some elements of it, but I don't think it fundamentally changes what it means to be a good lawyer."

Clinic student Khan agrees. As an undergraduate, she says there was a lot of concern that "AI is going to take over the world and there'll be no jobs left for us." In contrast, "when I got to law school, a lot of my professors really stressed that, yes, AI can aid in research or AI can draft a contract for you, but the relationship you have with your clients can't really be replaced with AI."

As Professor Gold says, the advance in technology makes the clinical experience all the more important: "No matter what, you still have to know how to communicate and build trust with your client. You have to know how to get a story and how to put things together, even if you're going to be aided with different technology in the future. We're still counselors, we're still advisors, and you can't outsource that to machine learning."



# A Wise Decision

## Integrating Character Education into My Teaching Philosophy

by Jasmine Plott, Reference Librarian

### Burning Questions

*Pro Humanitate*, or “for humanity,” is a phrase that I’ve been thinking about a lot this past year. This was triggered by the birth of my son in August 2024 and embracing motherhood. As exciting as this change was, I felt the responsibility of this new person. What do I owe to my child in teaching him to do the right thing? How do I raise a good human being who cares about and respects others?

I realized that this was not the first time I pondered these questions. Similar questions arose in another of my identities: a law librarian who teaches legal research. In both situations, I explored questions of helping an individual develop their identity.

The rhetoric surrounding law school is often focused on achievement. Who is at the top of the class? Who earned the highest grade on an assessment? The character of the recipient is rarely mentioned as an important part of educating lawyers. In the Fall 2024 semester, these questions surrounding how to create capable and compassionate lawyers became pressing for me.

The rhetoric surrounding law school is often focused on achievement. Who is at the top of the class? Who earned the highest grade on an assessment? The character of the recipient is rarely mentioned as an important part of educating lawyers.

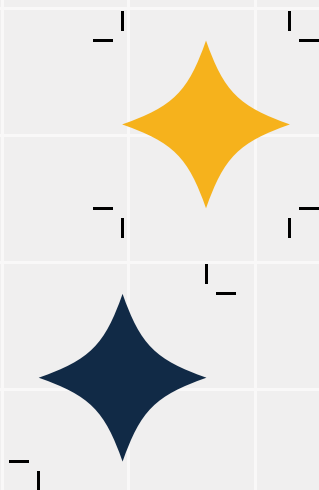






Jasmine Plott teaching legal research

## Searching for (and Finding) Answers



Thankfully, I had the guidance of my colleague and friend, Dr. Nancy Winfrey, the assistant director of curriculum with Wake Forest's Program for Leadership and Character.

In September 2024, Dr. Winfrey asked me to participate in a research study she was leading, which focused on the Wise Interventions framework. The framework encourages short pedagogical interventions to introduce character education into the legal classroom. For each intervention, the instructors selected a character trait to introduce in class. Instructors then developed a 5–10 minute activity for students to explore this trait. Interventions were repeated one to three times throughout the semester.

The goal was to help students build habits to be good lawyers and good people. This seemed like a great opportunity to explore the answers to my questions. So, I agreed to participate.

Dr. Winfrey divided the participants into small groups of professors who taught a variety of legal subjects. Each group met monthly to brainstorm ideas, discuss the interventions, and reflect on student responses.



For my first intervention, I chose to focus on building resilience. I designed a quick activity that students were certain to fail. The class and I then discussed their emotional response to failure. Finally, the students reflected on coping strategies for when they do not perform well. I explained upfront that this was an activity to help students explore their values. Sadly, the student response was lukewarm.

I learned from this that how you introduce these activities into the classroom determines their effectiveness. Law students are unwilling participants for activities that do not appear immediately relevant to them. Luckily, I talked with my groupmates and got pointers to make my next intervention successful.

I implemented my next intervention on the last day of my students' legal research class. I chose to focus on self-awareness. I guided the students through a series of questions where they reflected on the semester. This time, I did not mention character

development as a goal of the exercise. This change, combined with how the exercise fit into the semester's flow, encouraged student participation. The students shared what they learned about themselves and their future as lawyers.

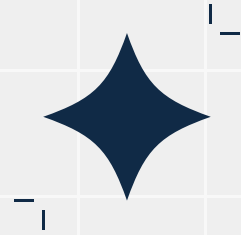
When I collected the student responses and read through them, I noticed an immediate difference. The student responses demonstrated engagement. Better yet, the students reflected on their values in a way that I had hoped they would. I've included below one of my favorite student responses to the prompt of what they learned about themselves through legal research:

"I learned I love research. I like having the skills to answer interesting questions, and I want to be a lifelong learner."

I recognized when reading through these responses that, if introduced in the right way, incorporating character education into legal education is possible. More importantly, these interventions helped me recognize the value that comes from introducing character education.



I recognized when reading through these responses that, if introduced in the right way, incorporating character education into legal education is possible. More importantly, these interventions helped me recognize the value that comes from introducing character education.



## Reflecting on What I Found

Dr. Winfrey's study helped me find answers to my questions. In particular, I learned to create a classroom environment that produces good lawyers and good people. Adopting the Wise Interventions framework forced me to be intentional about the classroom environment I create. Building community takes time. I was on parental leave in the fall semester, so I had to start fresh, come spring. The Wise Intervention framework focuses on building character. Therefore, creating an environment where students could speak honestly about their feelings was essential.

I also learned about the significance of understanding my own character. It's important for law students to better understand their own values to be effective lawyers. However, it's equally important that legal educators examine their own character. Reflecting on the success of my second intervention compared to my first, I realized two things: I had changed, but the students had also changed. As a professor, I am a role model for my students. Accordingly, my awareness of my own character shapes the classroom environment.

This awareness translates into fulfilling classroom objectives, such as learning how to do legal research. But, it also translates into creating a supportive environment where students can learn from mistakes. Ultimately, it makes space for students to examine connections between their education and their values. As I connected

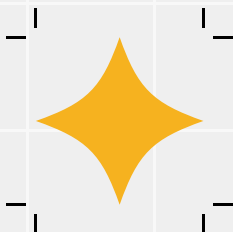
with my values throughout the semester, the students—perhaps subconsciously—noticed this. The changes I was experiencing myself gave students a sense of comfort exploring their own identities.

Additionally, this experience shaped my teaching philosophy, which now reflects my values and the concept of *Pro Humanitate*. The following statement describes my teaching philosophy: I nurture students by creating a classroom environment to cultivate capable attorneys and better people. As people, and as legal educators, we are responsible for learning about our values so we can be effective in the classroom and beyond.

Without understanding ourselves, we cannot help students discover their own values. We owe it to students to help them shape their identity. Students can use these skills inside and outside the classroom and as future lawyers. The time that we have with law students is short. Therefore, it's important not to underestimate the impact that we have on these budding lawyers.

What I hope you'll take away, whether you're involved directly or indirectly in educating young lawyers, is that I encourage you to think about your teaching philosophy and your values. There is no one way to incorporate character education into your curriculum. It is important to be authentic and vulnerable in conveying these messages to students. Once you embrace who you are, the rest will follow.

After a year of reflection on this question, I am closer to understanding *Pro Humanitate*. This is particularly true in the context of a legal educator. In the context of being a parent, I'll have to get back to you!



# N A V I G A T I N G

LAW SCHOOL  
WITH INTEGRITY  
& PURPOSE







BY SYDNEY SMITH ('24, MA '25, JD '28)

As the legal profession evolves alongside a rapidly shifting social and technological landscape, future attorneys must ask themselves how they will leverage their position in society to serve a greater good. The Wake Forest Law Leadership and Character Cohort seeks to cultivate high ethical and moral values by carving out space for students to align their values with their professional ambitions. Through peer conversations, faculty mentorship, and community service, the program invites students to lead with integrity, empathy, and purpose.

The cohort is a cross-year initiative in which 1Ls, 2Ls, and 3Ls gather monthly to reflect on character-driven leadership in the legal field. The program offers a rare pause in the often unrelenting pace of law school, providing what Associate Director of Leadership and Character in the Law School Dr. Benjamin Rigney describes as “a space to catch a breath.” The program isn’t just a resume booster; it’s designed to help students build lasting habits that will support them throughout their careers.

This mission is deeply rooted in Wake Forest University’s motto: *Pro Humanitate*—for humanity. For many cohort members, that phrase has become more than a guiding principle; it’s a lived experience.





Top: (third row, center of image) Israel Suarez (JD '26) runs laps at Hit the Bricks.

Bottom: Marin Bennerotte (JD '25) and Louis Morledge (JD '26) help kids make decorations at Project Pumpkin.



Third-year law student Israel Suarez (JD '26) says, “To me, *Pro Humanitate* means using our skills and education in service of others. It’s about thinking beyond ourselves and recognizing the broader responsibility we have as future attorneys.”

That sense of purpose carries into how students approach leadership and public service. Both current and former cohort members say the program has shaped how they think about leadership and public service. Marin Bennerotte (JD '25) describes a growing sense of self-awareness and intentionality: “The cohort emphasized the importance of listening as a leadership tool, which made me more mindful in how I lead conversations.”

This transformation is no accident. Cohort meetings center on reflective and introspective dialogue. Discussions encourage students to consider their purpose, navigate high-pressure environments, and weigh the ethical dimensions of the decisions they’ll face as attorneys.

Law school is often known for its competitive atmosphere, but the cohort challenges this norm by fostering a culture rooted in honesty, vulnerability, and mutual support. Dr. Rigney suggests that there’s a “high level of psychological safety” within the cohort, which allows students to openly discuss experiences with impostor syndrome, burnout, and stress, creating space for meaningful conversations. Through these candid exchanges, they build solidarity, offer each other encouragement and practical advice, and reshape the typical law school experience into one defined by compassion and collective resilience.

For many students, the cohort acts as a bridge between academic life and community involvement. Together, the cohort members take part in a range of service events, such as Project Pumpkin, where law students hand out candy and host games for local children, and Hit the Bricks, a campus-wide run-a-thon fundraiser for cancer research.

“It was pouring rain, but our cohort still showed up and ran. There was a shared sense of purpose; not just among us, but the whole Wake community,” says cohort member Suarez.

These experiences strengthen the bonds within the cohort and deepen their connection to the broader community.

Beyond service, the cohort is also a platform for skill-building and professional growth. Students have moderated panels, spoken at events, and practiced inclusive leadership. These experiences enable them to feel better equipped to listen intentionally and create space for all voices to be heard—skills they’ll carry into future workplaces and courtrooms.

This cohort is just one piece of a larger effort within the university to foster a strong sense of integrity and ethical responsibility. The conversations and habits built among the cohort participants transcend monthly meetings by helping students become more intentional in how they lead and engage with others.

“I think law school tends to move quickly, and the program has helped me build in time to pause, think critically about decisions, and consider the broader impact of my actions. That’s carried over into how I approach team projects, interviews, and even how I respond in class,” says Suarez.

—Israel Suarez (JD '26)

Ultimately, these ripple effects help create a culture where students support one another in becoming not just skilled practitioners of the law but principled professionals who recognize their responsibility as leaders in society.

During a time where the integrity of the legal profession is under intense scrutiny, programs like the Leadership and Character Cohort are a reminder that who lawyers *are* matters just as much as what they *do*. At the core of a Wake Forest Law alumnus is a strong sense of purpose that has been influenced by one’s understanding of and commitment to *Pro Humanitate*. For these students, it isn’t just a motto, it’s a compass.

**I think law school tends to move quickly, and the program has helped me build in time to pause, think critically about decisions, and consider the broader impact of my actions. That’s carried over into how I approach team projects, interviews, and even how I respond in class.**

# LEADERS *student*

## Jasmin Herrera



I am a third-year law student from South Florida. I am extremely grateful for my time at Wake Forest because of the knowledge I have gained and the connections I have made. Through my course load, I have been able to expand my interest in several areas of the law, such as family law, real estate, and tax. Outside of the classroom, I am honored to be a co-president of the Latino Law Student Association (LLSA) and a member of the *Wake Forest Law Review* Board of Editors. I am passionate about my role as co-president of LLSA because our organization plays a big role in fostering inclusion and vibrant community. LLSA has established several annual events that attract a great deal of students from all backgrounds, and we are honored to share our culture with all the students at Wake Forest Law. I am excited for the future of the organization, and I hope that it continues to provide a community and a safe space for all the incoming Latino students. As a member of the *Wake Forest Law Review* Board of Editors, I have the opportunity to work with some of the brightest and most dedicated individuals to help them publish blogs and articles on topics that they are truly passionate about. It has been a pleasure to work so closely with both organizations, and I look forward to their futures.



## V. Brooke Blair

I am originally from Thomasville, North Carolina and have been fortunate to call Wake Forest home for both my undergraduate ('22) and graduate studies. I have the privilege of serving as president of the Student Bar Association, after previously serving as a 1L representative and treasurer during my 2L year. In these roles, I have focused on fostering a collaborative environment, representing my peers, and working closely with faculty and staff to strengthen the Law School community at Wake Forest. I am also pursuing a dual JD/MBA and serve on the Executive Board of the Business Law Society, where I am able to further my passion for exploring the intersection of business and law. My time at Wake Forest has shaped my passion for leadership and service, guided by the University's *Pro Humanitate* spirit.



## Katie Koesters

My time at Wake Forest Law has been shaped by my passion for criminal justice reform and commitment to public interest work. I currently serve as the executive director of the Public Interest Law Organization (PILO), the senior executive editor of the *Wake Forest Journal of Law and Policy*, and a member of the Moot Court Board. Of these roles, my work with PILO has been especially meaningful because PILO empowers students to pursue their passions while making a direct impact in their communities. I'm excited to continue working with other students who are dedicated to expanding access to justice and growing the public interest community at Wake Forest Law. My hope is to leave behind a strong foundation that will continue to inspire students to pursue careers in service and advocacy.



## Kwaku Sarpong

I was born and raised in Suffolk, Virginia. Today, I am passionate about international law—particularly how we can use the international legal system to do good and protect the innocent around the world. As the current president of the International Law Society, I hope to do my part to foster a space where people can explore their interest in international law and also gain exposure to people and cultures from around the world. I am grateful to Wake Forest for the collegial academic environment that it's provided and the many invaluable experiences that it has given me, and I hope to make the most of that in my final year.

## Sterling Terranova

I am a 3L from Charlotte, North Carolina. As editor-in-chief of the *Wake Forest Journal of Business and Intellectual Property Law* (JBIPL), I am honored to publish insightful legal scholarship while working alongside some of the most outstanding and dedicated individuals at Wake Forest Law. My hope is that JBIPL continues to thrive and contribute meaningfully to both traditional and emerging topics within business and intellectual property law for years to come. Outside of JBIPL, some of my other involvements include being a student worker for the Admissions Office and a Wake Forest Law Ambassador. I am deeply grateful for my time at Wake Forest Law, especially the community it has fostered and the leadership opportunities it has afforded me. After graduation, I look forward to practicing corporate law at a firm in Atlanta, Georgia.





# Lexi Nasr

As the proud daughter of two immigrants and the first in my family to graduate from college and attend law school, my journey has been both humbling and fulfilling. Serving as president of First-Generation Law Students (FGLS) for two years has been the honor of a lifetime, giving me the opportunity to support and empower peers with resources, encouragement, and community. My goal—both now and beyond law school—is to help first-generation law students take up space with confidence and pursue successful legal careers equipped with the tools they need to thrive.



## DRESS FOR SUCCESS WITH FGLS

Wake Forest Law's First-Generation Law Students (FGLS) organization works to "equip first-gen students with the toolkit necessary for successful careers."

Their Professional Attire Pop-Up brings that vision to life, providing free professional clothing—thanks to generous donations from professors and nonprofit partners—and helping students "feel empowered to present themselves professionally in all spaces."

Interested in donating to the FGLS  
Professional Attire Pop-Up?  
Contact [lawfgls@wfu.edu](mailto:lawfgls@wfu.edu)

# Katy Kerensky

It's a privilege to lead the Pro Bono Project at Wake Forest Law. I've been involved with the program since my 1L year, and it's been one of the most impactful parts of my law school experience. From day one, I was drawn to the chance to apply what I was learning to assist individuals who may not otherwise have access to legal services, and it's helped me discover my passion and shape the kind of legal career I want to pursue. Working alongside fellow students who are equally committed to service is rewarding. What makes the Pro Bono Project so special is that students can make an impact at any stage in their legal journey. I'm grateful for everything this program has taught me and proud to help lead it forward.



# LilyAnne Rodriguez

I'm originally from Cape Coral, Florida, but I've been fortunate enough to call Winston-Salem home for the last two years. In my roles as editor-in-chief of the *Wake Forest Journal of Law & Policy* and co-president of the Latino Law Student Association (LLSA), I find it extremely rewarding to get involved with the wonderful faculty and staff at Wake Forest Law. As a first-generation college and law student, I'm passionate about serving in these positions because I can serve as a resource and guide for others. Growing and learning in these leadership positions have provided me with the chance to engage more closely with the Wake Forest Law community, for which I am thankful.







## Will Boyce

I am originally from Amarillo, Texas, and following graduation, I will complete a clerkship in Virginia before moving to Charlotte to pursue a career in litigation. In my final year at Wake Forest Law, I am honored to serve as the editor-in-chief of the *Wake Forest Law Review*, where I get to work closely with my peers to publish the work of nationally-renowned scholars and some of the Law School's finest student writers. I am also a member of the Honor Council—an organization that reflects Wake Forest's deep commitment to relationships and trust. Every day, I feel blessed to be a member of the Wake Forest Law community, which I hope to make even stronger through empathetic and people-focused leadership.

## The Laws of the Dead

What is human composting, and what does it have to do with Wake Forest Law? What is the difference between funeral and cemetery law?

Learn about these and more from the latest episode of The Legal Deac Podcast, narrated by Will Boyce (JD '26)!





## 1 Foundations Week

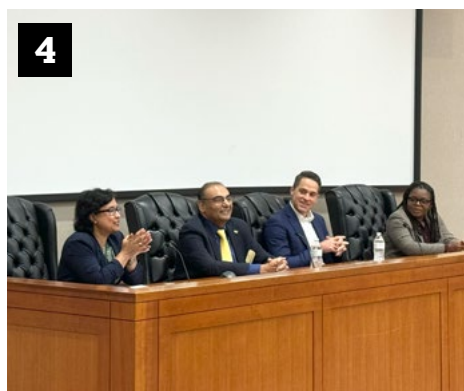
Incoming 1Ls began their journey at Wake Forest Law with Foundations Week. The Class of 2028 boasts a median LSAT score of 166, tied for a record high, and a 3.79 median GPA, tied for the second highest ever. The 1L class comprises 7% first-generation college students and 79% first-generation law students. Eighty-one percent of students come to Wake Forest Law from outside North Carolina, representing 108 undergraduate institutions, and 33 states and Washington, DC.

## 2 No Place Like Home

The *Wake Forest Law Review* Symposium, “There’s No Place Like Home: Using the Law to Promote Healthy Housing,” convened leading legal scholars and policy experts to explore innovative strategies, cross-disciplinary solutions, and community-driven efforts to expand access to safe, healthy housing. Panel discussions also examined the intersection of race and housing policy, emphasizing the law’s vital role in advancing equity and promoting just living conditions.

## 3 Music Copyright in the Age of Artificial Intelligence

Wake Forest Law and the *Wake Forest Journal of Business & Intellectual Property Law* hosted its annual spring symposium, the theme of which was “Music Copyright in the Age of Artificial Intelligence.” The event brought together legal scholars, music industry executives, policymakers, and technologists to examine how generative AI is reshaping the music industry and challenging foundational principles of copyright law.



## 4 The Legal Implications of Artificial Intelligence and Healthcare

In partnership with the Wake Forest School of Medicine’s Center for Artificial Intelligence Research, the *Wake Forest Law Journal of Law & Policy* hosted “The Legal Implications of Artificial Intelligence and Healthcare.” The event examined complex questions around data privacy, liability, regulation, and AI-assisted decision-making, highlighting the need for interdisciplinary collaboration in shaping the future of healthcare law.

## 5 International Thanksgiving Potluck

In November 2024, Wake Forest Law celebrated its annual International Thanksgiving Potluck. The event brought together international students, faculty, staff, and their families to share favorite dishes and desserts from their home countries. While honoring the American tradition of Thanksgiving, the potluck also offered space for community members to celebrate their own cultures and stories.

## 6 Bar Passage & Employment Rates

In July, Wake Forest Law’s Class of 2025 took the North Carolina bar for the first time, leading to a bar passage rate of 86.75%. Wake Forest Law’s 2024 graduating class achieved a 98.7% employment outcome. Among all graduates, 89.7% accepted full-time positions for which bar passage is required, and 7.7% of graduates are employed in positions where the JD is an advantage. Graduates who are enrolled in graduate studies make up 1.3%. Fifty-four percent of graduates are employed outside of North Carolina.





## 7 Clerkship College Conference

In partnership with The Program for Leadership and Character and the Legal Writing Institute, Wake Forest Law hosted the 2024 Clerkship College. The two-day event included virtual training on legal writing and leadership principles. The in-person closing session—“What is Needed to Flourish as a Judicial Clerk”—featured a distinguished panel of judges and attorneys, including North Carolina Supreme Court Justice Tamara Barringer and Judge Michael Robinson of the North Carolina Business Court. The panel was moderated by **Marin Bennerotte (JD '25)**, who was a member of the Leadership and Character in the Law Cohort. Clerkship College was open to third-year law students, judges, current and prospective law clerks, faculty, and staff.

## 8 Leadership & Character in the Law Conference

On March 27–28, 2025, Wake Forest Law and the Program for Leadership and Character hosted the inaugural Leadership and Character in the Law Conference. The event welcomed legal educators from across the country for collaborative discussions and practical sessions on integrating character education into legal teaching. North Carolina Attorney General Jeff Jackson delivered the keynote address, and a featured discussion on navigating political and ideological differences brought together current North Carolina Supreme Court Justice **Phil Berger, Jr. (JD '99)**, and former Justice Michael Morgan—two leaders from opposite sides of the political spectrum.



## 9 New Faculty

**Professor Nia Johnson** joins Wake Forest Law from Duke University School of Law, where she served as a visiting assistant professor. Her scholarship lies at the intersection of health law, bioethics, and race and the law. She is teaching Torts and Race, Bioethics, and the Law.

**Professor Wayne Logan** comes to Wake Forest Law from Florida State University College of Law, where he was the Steven M. Goldstein Professor. His scholarship focuses on a variety of subjects, including police search and seizure, Megan's Law, and issues relating to the interplay of the state, local, and federal criminal justice systems. He is teaching Criminal Law, Criminal Procedure, and Sentencing.

**Professor Abel Rodríguez** joins us from St. John's University School of Law, where he was an assistant professor of law. His research focuses on race, migration, and the intersection of criminal and immigration law. He is teaching Criminal Law and Immigration Law.

## 10 Suzanne Reynolds Distinguished Chair in Law

This spring, the Wake Forest Law community celebrated the establishment of the Suzanne Reynolds Distinguished Chair in Law, honoring the legacy of Dean Emerita **Suzanne Reynolds (JD '77)**. The Suzanne Reynolds Distinguished Chair in Law—created to recognize Dean Reynolds' lasting impact—is designated to be held by the sitting dean of the Law School. We are proud to announce that Dean Andy Klein has been named the inaugural holder of this prestigious chair.



# RAISING THE BAR

(and the funds)

Thanks to the unwavering support of our alumni, donors, and friends, Fiscal Year 2025 was another exceptional year for Wake Forest University School of Law. With a continued commitment to our students and mission, we surpassed major fundraising goals and strengthened alumni engagement nationwide. From Deacs Day of Giving to record-setting support for scholarships and the Wake Forest Fund for the School of Law, FY25 stands as one of the most successful years in our fundraising history.

## BY THE NUMBERS

**\$6.78 MILLION**

raised in new commitments

**\$4.74 MILLION**

total cash received

**1,870**

total gifts

**\$1.29 MILLION**

raised for the Wake Forest Fund for the School of Law

**70%**

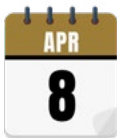
donor renewal rate—the highest across all University units.

**\$212,015**

Amount raised on Deacs Day of Giving—and more Wake Forest Fund dollars than any other School or Unit on campus.



**1,557 DONORS**  
**974 HOUSEHOLDS**



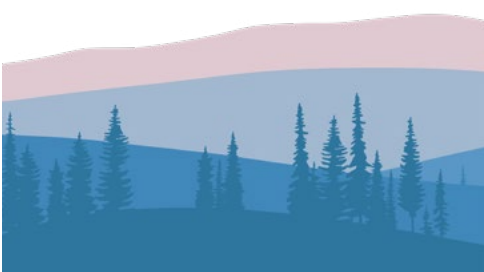
April 8, 2025—Deacs Day of Giving—was the busiest day for giving. The Wake Forest Fund for the School of Law received 146 gifts. That's one gift every 10 minutes.

## GIFTS BY LOCATION & TIMING



### FROM THE MOUNTAINS

Mount Airy, Mount Laurel, NJ, Mount Pleasant, SC, Mount Sterling, KY, Mountain Brook, AL, Mountain View, CA, and Lookout Mountain, TN



### AND THE HILLS

Chapel Hill, Rock Hill, SC, Bloomfield Hills, MI, and Woodland Hills, CA



### FROM CITIES

Elizabeth City, NC, Ellicott City, MD, Iowa City, Johnson City, TN, Morehead City, NC, Oklahoma City, and Peachtree City, GA



## ENGAGEMENT BY THE NUMBERS

**49**

events

**16**

unique cities

**2,123**

event registrants

**19%**

increase in event registrants  
compared to FY24

**\$4 MILLION RAISED IN  
SCHOLARSHIPS**

**ESTABLISHING OR ENHANCING  
22 SCHOLARSHIPS**

**ACCOUNTING FOR 12.3%  
OF SCHOLARSHIP DOLLARS  
RAISED ACROSS CAMPUS**

## WHY GIVING MATTERS

**Behind every dollar raised is a story of impact.**

Your support in FY25 did more than break records. You made law school possible for talented students, brought top-tier faculty to campus, and ensured Wake Forest Law remains nationally competitive. Scholarships funded this year will ease the financial burden for current and future students. Unrestricted gifts to the Wake Forest Fund for the School of Law provided critical flexibility, allowing the Law School to meet emerging needs, invest in student programs, and strengthen career support.

Engaged alumni across the country helped foster a powerful network of mentors and advocates, reminding our students that they're part of something bigger.



### YOUR IMPACT

Scan the QR Code to read about the veteran and active duty community at Wake Forest Law, made possible in part by your gifts.



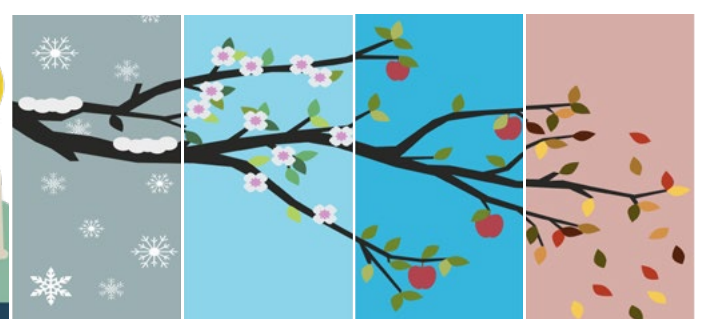
### AND TOWNS

Chestertown, MD, Georgetown, SC,  
Georgetown, TX, Jamestown, NC,  
and Morristown, NJ



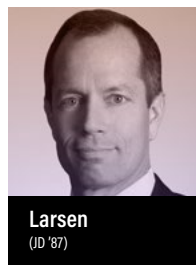
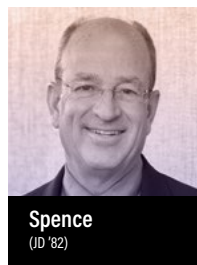
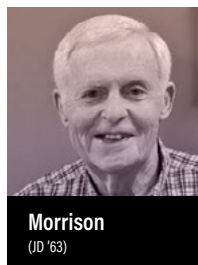
### IN EXOTIC PLACES

Naples, FL, Rome, GA,  
Florence, SC, New  
London, CT, and  
Sparta, NC



### IN ALL SEASONS

Winter Park, FL, Springfield, MA, Palm  
Springs, CA, Summerfield, NC, Moravian  
Falls, NC, and Great Falls, VA



## 1960s

**Fred Morrison (JD '63)** was honored by the North Carolina Office of Administrative Hearings with the renaming of a courtroom to the "Fred G. Morrison Jr. Courtroom." Morrison recently retired after 60 years of practicing law. He retired as senior administrative law judge after 37 years in the Office of Administrative Hearings.

**Leo Daughtry ('62, JD '65)** wrote his first novel, *Talmadge Farm*. The book is set on a North Carolina tobacco farm in the 1950s and follows three families navigating the changing culture in the state. Daughtry's experiences growing up among tobacco fields in Sampson County, NC, inspired the book. Daughtry practiced law in Smithfield, NC, and served in the North Carolina General Assembly for 28 years, both in the Senate and in the House, where he was majority and minority leader.

**Dallas Clark ('65, JD '68)** received a runner-up award in the 2024 Los Angeles Book Festival for his most recent legal thriller, *The Mind of Dan MacAvoy*. His debut novel, *The Investigation Officer's File*, was a finalist in the 2024 American Legacy Book Awards contest. Clark is a retired attorney in Greenville, NC.

## 1970s

**R. Lee Farmer (JD '73, P '00)** was appointed to the North Carolina Ethics Commission, which oversees the conduct of more than 7,000 legislators, judicial officers, and certain state employees. He is a past president of the North Carolina Association of Municipal Attorneys and North Carolina Association of County Attorneys. Farmer has practiced law in Caswell County, NC, since 1973.

**Roy A. Archbell Jr. ('71, JD '74)** wrote his third book, *Beaufort County, North Carolina Ancestors*. He received the 2024 Award for Excellence in Publishing in the family history category from the North Carolina Genealogical Society. Archbell practiced

law on the Outer Banks for 40 years until retiring in 2015. He lives outside Roanoke, VA, with his wife, Mary "Charlie" Archbell.

**James K. Dorsett III (JD '77)** received the John B. McMillan Distinguished Service Award from the North Carolina State Bar. He is a past president of the State Bar and the State Bar Foundation. Dorsett has practiced law at Smith Anderson for 45 years and was president of Food Runners Collaborative Inc. and the Rotary Club of Raleigh.

**Reece Saunders ('74, JD '77)** received The Order of the Long Leaf Pine, North Carolina's highest award for service. Saunders was district attorney in Anson, Richmond, and Scotland counties for 14 years before retiring in 2024. He was also in private practice and was a district court judge in the 1980s.

**Steve Shuff (JD '78)** is co-founder of The NOAH (No One Alone or Hungry) Foundation of Ohio, which provides a free Christmas Day dinner to residents of Seneca County, OH. Last Christmas, the organization celebrated 17 years. Shuff is a longtime judge for the Seneca County Common Pleas Court.

**Bill Webb ('75, JD '78)** received The Order of the Long Leaf Pine, North Carolina's highest award for service. He practiced law for 45 years and was the lawyer for Richmond County, NC. He is also owner of The Webb Farm in Ellerbe, NC.

## 1980s

**Dan A. Boone (JD '80)** retired from the practice of law. Boone, also a retired CPA, established a successful estate and trust practice with Black, Boone & Brasch P.A. in Concord, NC. He previously was CFO of Food Lion in Salisbury, NC, and CFO and corporate counsel of CFRA in Concord, NC. He hopes to improve his golf game and spend more time with his wife, Teena Boone, as they visit his two sons and their families more frequently.

**David B. Rea (JD '80, P '13, '20)** was inducted into the Marquis Who's Who biographical registry,

which recognizes accomplished individuals from every field. Rea is president of Salem Investment Counselors in Winston-Salem. He has five children and nine grandchildren.

**Ted Smyth (JD '81)** received the 2024 Core Value Award from Cranfill Sumner LLP for his embodiment of the law firm's core values of client service, teamwork, and reputation. He is of counsel in the firm's Raleigh office. He was also named to the 2025 edition of The Best Lawyers in America in bet-the-company litigation, commercial litigation, insurance law, and personal injury litigation (defendants and plaintiffs).

**Eric R. Spence (JD '82)** was included in the 2025 *North Carolina Super Lawyers* magazine and the 2025 edition of The Best Lawyers in America in commercial real estate law. He is of counsel at Ragsdale Liggett in Raleigh.

**Wayne Johnson (JD '84)** is director of higher education at the North Carolina State Education Assistance Authority, the agency that administers the state's grant, scholarship, and student loan programs for post-secondary education.

**David A. Senter Sr. ('81, JD '84, P '07, P'12)** was profiled in North Carolina Lawyers Weekly's Power List for construction law. He was also inducted as a fellow in the American College of Construction Lawyers. Senter is senior counsel at law firm Maynard Nexsen in Raleigh. He has 40 years of experience in construction law and is an adjunct professor at Wake Forest Law.

**Rhonda Kahan Amoroso (JD '85, P '97)** is CEO of simply francis publishing co., a publishing company that combines aspects of traditional and self-publishing, in Wrightsville Beach, NC.

**David Daggett (JD '85)** completed his 10th Ironman World Championship (2.4-mile swim, 112-mile bike ride, and 26.2-mile run) in Hawaii in October. He first completed the Hawaii Ironman in 1990. Daggett is managing partner of Daggett Shuler Attorneys at Law in Winston-Salem.





**Moskowitz**  
(JD '89)



**Dixon**  
(JD '92)

**Thomas C. Grella (JD '85)** is serving a three-year term on the American Bar Association's Board of Governors. He is a shareholder and former managing partner of McGuire, Wood & Bissette PA in Asheville, NC.

**Nick Ellis (JD '86)** was selected to the 2025 edition of The Best Lawyers in America in seven categories and was named Raleigh Lawyer of the Year in litigation (municipal). He is a partner and chair of the litigation section at Poyner Spruill LLP.

**Rob Griffin ('83, JD '86)** was named to the 2025 edition of The Best Lawyers in America in litigation (insurance). He is a partner at Cranfill Sumner LLP in Raleigh.

**David Larsen (JD '87)** was recognized in the 2025 edition of The Best Lawyers in America as Detroit Lawyer of the Year for trust and estates. Larsen is the senior member of Bodman PLC's high net worth practice group.

**Pete Tannenbaum (JD '87)** is executive director of Raleigh's nonprofit Alliance Medical Ministry, a free healthcare clinic that serves uninsured adults. He is a former investment banker. *More at [bit.ly/PeteTannenbaum](https://bit.ly/PeteTannenbaum)*

**Reid Acree Jr. ('82, JD '89)** was named to the 2025 edition of The Best Lawyers in America in workers' compensation law. He represents injured workers with an emphasis on lung diseases and cancer cases. He has had his own firm in Salisbury, NC, since 2003.

**Kara Fisher Moskowitz (JD '89)** was named interim CEO of the Charlotte Center for Legal Advocacy after serving as director of the consumer protection program since 2012. She has spent her career in public interest law and was a managing attorney at Atlanta Legal Aid for 10 years.

**Bobbi Acord Noland ('86, JD '89, P '12)** received the Secured Finance Network's (SFNet) 2024 Lifetime Achievement Award and was inducted into the SFNet Hall of Fame. She is a partner and head of the commercial finance practice at Parker Hudson

Rainer & Dobbs LLP in Atlanta. She is also co-general counsel for SFNet and an adjunct professor at Emory University School of Law.

**David Rhoades (MBA '88, JD '89)** was named to the 2025 edition of The Best Lawyers in America in workers' compensation law (employers). He is a partner at Cranfill Sumner LLP in Raleigh.

## 1990s

**Andy Avram ('82, JD '90)** was named to the 2025 edition of The Best Lawyers in America in workers' compensation law (employers). He is a partner at Cranfill Sumner LLP in Charlotte.

**Pat Flanagan (JD '90)** was named to the 2025 edition of The Best Lawyers in America in civil rights law, employment law (management), and litigation (insurance, labor and employment, and municipal), and to *Business North Carolina* magazine's 2025 Legal Elite list in employment law. He is a partner at Cranfill Sumner LLP in Charlotte.

**Patrick Woodie ('87, JD '90)** is president and CEO of the NC Rural Center, a Raleigh-based nonprofit that develops economic strategies to bolster the quality of life for rural North Carolinians. *More at [bit.ly/PatrickWoodie](https://bit.ly/PatrickWoodie)*

**Jeff Malarney (JD '91)** was named to *Business North Carolina* magazine's 2025 Legal Elite list in

real estate. He is founder of law firm Malarney & McCown PLLC in Kitty Hawk, NC.

**W. Lee Allen III (JD '92)** was inducted into the North Carolina American Legion Baseball Hall of Fame for more than 20 years of dedication and leadership as Post 39 commander and as a member of its athletic committee. Allen is of counsel at Colombo Kitchin Attorneys in Greenville, NC.

**Mary Alice Dixon (JD '92)** is an award-winning poet whose work has been featured in dozens of publications. She won the North Carolina Writers' Network 2024 Randall Jarrell Poetry Competition and has been a finalist for the North Carolina Poetry Society Poet Laureate Award and the Broad River Review Rash Award in Poetry. She has been nominated for the Pushcart Prize multiple times and shortlisted for the Anthology (Ireland) Poetry Competition award. During her legal career, she advocated for abused children and unhoused families and was an adjunct professor of juvenile law at UNC Charlotte. She lives in Charlotte, where she volunteers with hospice and facilitates grief-writing workshops.

**Andrew Robertson (JD '92)** joined law firm Haynes Boone as a partner in the finance practice group in New York.

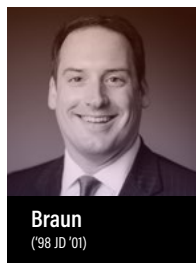
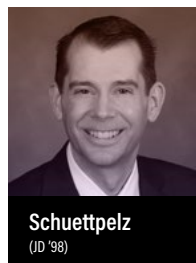
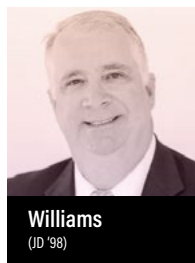
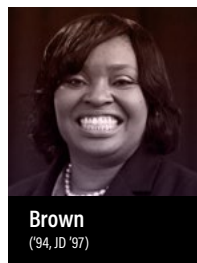
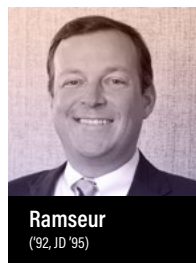
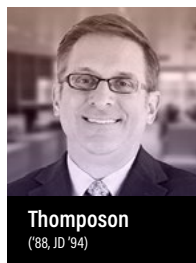
**Nick Valaoras ('89, JD '92)** was named to the 2025 edition of The Best Lawyers in America in workers' compensation law (employers). He is a partner at Cranfill Sumner LLP in Charlotte.



### Deacs Days of Living: *Pro Humanitate*

After four years in big law, I transitioned to an in-house role so I could focus my non-work time on my four children. That meant coaching their teams or simply being there to encourage them and their teammates. *Pro Humanitate* sometimes means showing up, day after day, for the people who matter most. For me, that has been my family. The same spirit of community I experienced at Wake Forest Law is something I've tried to live out in my own life and instill in the lives of those around me.

—Jim Hutcherson ('83, JD '89)



**Susan P. Ellis (JD ’93)** joined Davis Hartman Wright LLP as a partner in the employment, litigation, and appellate practice groups. She is based in the firm’s Morehead City, NC, office.

**Scott Davis (MBA ’89, JD ’94)** was named to the 2024 North Carolina Super Lawyers list for state, local, and municipal business and corporate law. He is a managing partner at Davis Hartman Wright in New Bern, NC.

**Sherri Wilson Elliott (JD ’94, P ’20)** was appointed superior court judge in North Carolina’s Judicial District 19, serving Catawba County, NC. She was chief district court judge in Judicial District 36. She serves on the Governor’s Crime Commission and the Board of Law Examiners of the State of North Carolina.

**Eric W. Iskra (JD ’94, P ’22)** was elected member in charge of lawyer administration at law firm Spilman Thomas & Battle. He is a partner in the firm’s Charleston, WV, office. He was previously a member in charge of client relations.

**Kimberly Helmintoller Stogner (’86, JD ’94)** was installed as the 130th president of the North Carolina Bar Association. She is also president of the North Carolina Bar Foundation. She is a partner at Womble Bond Dickinson LLP in Winston-Salem and a member of the Wake Forest Law Board of Visitors. She and her husband, R. Stuart Stogner (’85), live in Winston-Salem.

**Bruce Thompson (’88, JD ’94)** was named to The Best Lawyers in America in government relations practice, land use and zoning litigation, and administrative/regulatory law. He was also named to the 2024 edition of the Irish Legal 100, a ranking of distinguished legal professionals with Irish heritage. Thompson is a partner in Parker Poe’s Raleigh and Washington, DC, offices and an adjunct professor at Wake Forest Law.

**Jonathan Evans Jones (’92, JD ’95)** was elected a district court judge for the 2nd Judicial District of North Carolina, which includes Beaufort, Hyde, Martin, Tyrrell, and Washington counties. For 21

years, he was an assistant district attorney for the 2nd Judicial District. He lives in Washington, NC, with his wife and three daughters.

**Robert J. Ramseur Jr. (’92, JD ’95, P ’23)** was named to North Carolina Lawyers Weekly’s Real Estate Power List, and he received the Excellence in Law award. He was also named to *Business North Carolina* magazine’s 2025 Legal Elite list and to the 2025 edition of The Best Lawyers in America in real estate law. He is a partner at Ragsdale Liggett in Raleigh.

**Kerrie Forbes (JD ’96)** retired from Southwest Airlines and became chief legal officer and general counsel of JSX, an aviation company in Dallas that offers charter flights to destinations throughout the country.

**Bonita Hairston Brown (’94, JD ’97)** was named the 14th chancellor and first woman to lead Winston-Salem State University. She was vice president and chief strategy officer at Northern Kentucky University and was interim president at NKU last year. Her parents are WSSU alumni.

**Sean Cole (JD ’97)** was elected a superior court judge in Wake County, NC. Previously, he was a

lawyer at several law firms and ran his own firm. He and his family live in Raleigh.

**Dan Katzenbach (JD ’97)** was named to the 2025 edition of The Best Lawyers in America in construction law, litigation (construction), personal injury litigation (defendants), product liability litigation (defendants), and professional malpractice law (defendants). He was also named to *Business North Carolina* magazine’s 2025 Legal Elite list in construction law. He is a partner at Cranfill Sumner LLP in Raleigh.

**James E. Quander (’95, JD ’98)** was honored by Wake Forest Law’s Black Law Students Association (BLSA). The moot court team was named the James “Jimmy” Quander Moot Court Team. Quander is a criminal defense lawyer and of counsel at Womble Bond Dickinson in Winston-Salem. He was a student-athlete and president of BLSA at Wake Forest.

**Joseph “Jody” Newsome (JD ’98)** was named general counsel of the North Carolina State Bureau of Investigation. He was previously associate university attorney and ethics liaison at East Carolina University. He lives in Greenville, NC.



## Deacs Days of Living: *Pro Humanitate*

Wake Forest’s *Pro Humanitate* motto has led me to give back to the legal community by coaching high school mock trial teams, coaching law school moot court teams, and serving on a statewide statutory commission for many years. And in one of Wake Forest’s clinics, while representing scores of individuals pro bono, I have supervised more than 200 wonderful third-year law students and encouraged them to view their future legal careers as a means both to help individuals in need and to improve the justice system as a whole.

—Professor John Korzen (’81, JD ’91)





## Deacs Days of Living: *Pro Humanitate*

As a first-generation college student and the first in my family to attend law school, education profoundly changed my life. I achieved these milestones thanks to generous people who invested in me. Carrying forward the spirit of *Pro Humanitate* means using the knowledge I've gained to impact my community. My husband and I founded Project:Re3, a nonprofit that organizes national and international service trips, and we established the Project:Re3 Hope Center, which provides free food, clothing, and counseling to vulnerable members of our local community. I strive to give back what was given to me—hope, opportunities, and community.

—Beth Mabe Gianopulos (JD '01)

**Tom Schuettelpelz (JD '98)** was promoted to vice president/trust officer for National Exchange Bank & Trust in Fond du Lac, WI. He joined the bank in 2019 as a trust and wealth management officer. He is a native of Fond du Lac.

**Kevin G. Williams (JD '98)** was elected vice president of the North Carolina State Bar. He is president of Bell, Davis & Pitt PA and a member of the firm's litigation section. He lives in Winston-Salem.

**Evan Wolkofsky (JD '98)** was named general counsel at Foundation For The Carolinas, the fifth-largest community foundation in the country. He lives in Charlotte with his wife, Robyn Wolkofsky, and their three children.

**James Black (JD '99)** was named to the 2025 edition of The Best Lawyers in America in workers' compensation law (employers). He is a partner at Cranfill Sumner LLP in Raleigh.

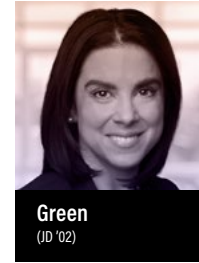
**Ryan Shuirman (JD '99)** was named to the 2025 edition of The Best Lawyers in America in medical malpractice law (defendants) and personal injury litigation (defendants). He is a partner at Cranfill Sumner LLP in Raleigh.

## 2000s

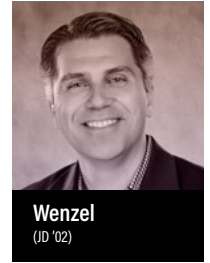
**Mark Hartman (JD '00)** was named to the 2024 North Carolina Super Lawyers list for banking law and to the Chambers USA Legal Guide 2024 for banking and finance law. He is a managing partner at Davis Hartman Wright in New Bern, NC.

**Eric Braun ('98, JD '01)** was appointed president of Shawnee State University in Portsmouth, OH, after serving as interim president for seven months. From 2015 to 2023, he was vice president for advancement & enrollment management. A native of Portsmouth, he joined Shawnee State in 2009 as executive director for development and president of the SSU Development Foundation.

**Janine Jacob (JD '01)** was appointed co-commissioner of accounts overseeing estates and trusts for Patrick County, VA. She was a partner at Daniel, Medley & Kirby PC for 15 years before opening her own law office in 2017. Jacob is also a substitute judge in the general district court and juvenile and domestic relations district courts. She lives in



Green  
(JD '02)



Wenzel  
(JD '02)

Martinsville, VA, with her husband, Robert Lackey, and their two sons.

**Gavin B. Parsons (JD '01)** joined law firm Ward and Smith PA in Raleigh, where he focuses on business and intellectual property litigation.

**Dalton Green (JD '02)** was elected to shareholder in Ogletree Deakins law firm's Raleigh office. She counsels employers on all aspects of employment law.

**Todd King ('98, JD '02)** was named to the 2025 edition of The Best Lawyers in America in personal injury litigation (defendants) and product liability litigation (defendants). He is a partner at Cranfill Sumner LLP in Charlotte.

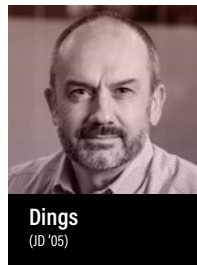
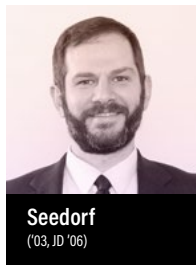
**Jason W. Wenzel (JD '02)** was elected president of the District Bar of the 13th Judicial District of North Carolina and the Johnston County (NC) Bar Association. He is managing partner of Narron Wenzel PA in Raleigh and Smithfield, NC, and is board-certified by the North Carolina State Bar as a specialist in commercial real property law.



## Deacs Days of Living: *Pro Humanitate*

I've combined my struggles with mental illness with my experience as a neuroscientist and a lawyer to educate others about mental health issues. I have bipolar I disorder, an anxiety disorder, and PTSD, which contributed to divorce, job losses, bankruptcy, and collecting disability benefits. With medicine and therapy, I was able to return to practice while writing, speaking, and teaching about mental health. I'm a blogger for *Psychology Today* and *WebMD*, I'm a VP on the Board of Directors for BarCARES, and I developed and teach a class for Wake Forest Law on Mental Health and the Legal Profession.

—Edward Ergenzinger ('94, PhD '99, JD '02)



## Deacs Days of Living: *Pro Humanitate*

We often think of the big and bold, wholesale efforts as the most impactful means of bettering the lives of others; but the spirit of *Pro Humanitate* is also honored in small ways. Each day, I try to both help those around me and let folks know I appreciate them and how they help me.

—Professor Ellen Murphy (JD ’02)

**Scott Seedorf (’03, JD ’06)** was appointed general counsel to the United Association of Journeymen and Apprentices of the Plumbing and Pipe Fitting Industry of the United States and Canada, AFL-CIO. He is a managing partner of O’Donoghue & O’Donoghue LLP in Washington, DC, and serves on the Board of Directors and Lawyers Advisory Panel of the AFL-CIO Union Lawyers Alliance.

**Justin R. Barnes (JD ’07)** received a 2024 Law360 Distinguished Legal Writing Award from The Burton Awards for his article, “2022 Wage and Hour Developments: A Year in Review.” He is office managing principal at Jackson Lewis PC in Atlanta. He and his wife, **Meredith Belser Barnes (JD ’08)**, have three children.

**Brendan S. Cox (JD ’07)** was promoted to partner at law firm Laredo, Smith & Kane in Boston. He is a litigator and criminal defense attorney.

**Jennifer Selin (JD ’07)** joined the faculty of Arizona State University’s Sandra Day O’Connor College of Law as an associate professor. She teaches administrative and constitutional law. Her research has been cited by the Obama, Trump, and Biden administrations, as well as Congress, the Supreme Court, and media outlets.

**Meredith Mack (JD ’08)** was promoted to partner at law firm Husch Blackwell. She lives in Media, PA.

**Charlie McCurry (’05, JD ’08)** has joined Moore & Van Allen PLLC in Winston-Salem as senior counsel. He was with Womble Bond Dickinson LLP. He and his wife, **Katherine “Kate” Arnold McCurry (JD ’11)**, and their two children live in Winston-Salem.

**Jeffrey Robert Wolfe (JD ’08)** joined Davis Hartman Wright LLP as a partner in the business and labor and employment practice groups. He lives in Winston-Salem.

**Arthur R. Bookout (JD ’09)** was promoted to partner at law firm Skadden in Wilmington, DE.

**Jim Hefferan (JD ’03)** was elected to his second term on the city council in Belmont, NC, in November 2023, receiving the most votes in an eight-candidate race. He is also mayor pro tem.

**Robert Mullinax Jr. (’01, JD ’04)** was appointed chief district court judge for North Carolina’s Judicial District 36, which includes Burke, Caldwell, and Catawba counties. He has been a district court judge since 2009.

**Tyronia Morrison Smith (’01, JD ’04)** was named the 2024 Woman of Impact for the City of Atlanta Department of Aviation. She also received the 2024 President’s Award from the Georgia Association of Women Lawyers. In 2022, Smith left her law practice after 18 years to lead the \$1.5 billion commercial revenue division at Hartsfield-Jackson Atlanta International Airport, the world’s busiest airport. She earned her certified member designation from the American Association of Airport Executives.

**Michael W.V. Angel (JD ’05)** was appointed by Colorado Gov. Jared Polis as a judge for the 2nd Judicial District Court. Angel was a magistrate in the 17th Judicial District.

**Ryan Dings (JD ’05)** was named US CEO of EIT InnoEnergy, a leading global energy investor. Previously, he was the founding CEO of ClimateHaven, a Yale-backed climate tech incubator in New Haven, CT, and a venture partner at Connecticut Innovations’ \$100 million ClimateTech Fund.

**Bradley Kline (JD ’05)** was named to the 2025 edition of The Best Lawyers in America in workers’ compensation law (employers). He is a partner at Cranfill Sumner LLP in Charlotte.

**Brad Roehrenbeck (’01, JD ’05)** rejoined Kilpatrick Townsend & Stockton LLP as counsel on the complex commercial litigation team in Winston-Salem. He spent the last 12 years as an in-house general counsel after working as an associate at Kilpatrick from 2006 to 2011. He is also an adjunct professor at Wake Forest Law. He and his wife, Allison Canipe Roehrenbeck (’00), have three children.

**Eric A. Boden (JD ’06)** joined Duane Morris LLP as a partner in the trial practice group in New York and New Jersey, specializing in white-collar criminal defense, regulatory enforcement, and complex commercial litigation. He was previously an assistant United States attorney for more than 10 years for the Eastern District of Pennsylvania and the District of New Jersey, most recently as attorney-in-charge of the Trenton branch office.

**Jason Loring (JD ’06)** joined law firm Jones Walker LLP as a partner in the corporate practice group and a member of the commercial transactions team. He co-leads the privacy, data strategy, and artificial intelligence team, and is based in Atlanta.

**Steve Marshall (JD ’06)** joined Covington & Burling LLP in Washington, DC, as of counsel. He has nearly 20 years of experience in patent litigation.





Wolfe  
(JD '08)



Munroe  
(JD '03, JD '09)

**Anna Warburton Munroe ('03, JD '09)** was named a 2025 North Carolina Super Lawyer and recognized in the 2025 edition of The Best Lawyers in America in family law. She is a shareholder at Allman Spry Leggett Crumpler & Horn PA in Winston-Salem.

**Amy Holbrook Wooten ('06, JD '09)** was re-appointed to the professionalism committee of the Wake County (NC) Bar Association and Tenth Judicial District Bar. She is a litigation lawyer at Ward and Smith PA in Raleigh and a member of Wake Forest Law's Board of Visitors.



### Deacs Days of Living: *Pro Humanitate*

I'm fortunate to have a career that allows me to help people daily, from educating people about the importance of estate planning and financial well-being, to serving as trustee or executor and helping families deal with issues such as special needs, spendthrifts, intra-family conflicts, and substance abuse issues. I am also an active member of several boards whose causes I am passionate about.

—T.L. Brown ('99, JD '03, MBA '08)

## A special thanks to our 2025 Alumni Bar Coaches

CARLO BALLESTEROS-FLORES ('18, JD '23)  
LAUREN BARNETT (JD '24)  
STEVEN BLANK (JD '24)  
MADISON BOYER (JD '23)  
SAM BRADY (JD '23)  
AMY BROSDAHAN-TAPIA (JD '23)  
BLAIR CARPENTER (JD '22)  
CARA COOK (JD '22)  
PATRICK DENG (JD '22)  
NATHANIEL DRUM (JD '24)  
CARSON EASTERLING (JD '22)  
CHASE EDMUNDS (JD '21)  
TAYLOR GIBBS (JD '24)

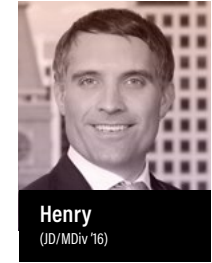
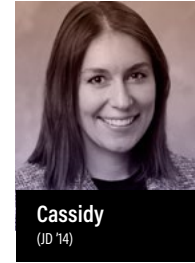
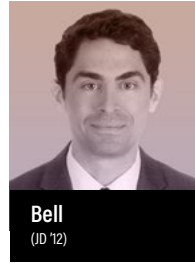
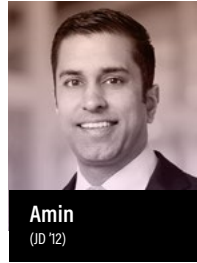
SHERRY-ANN JOSEPH (JD '22)  
KIT KNISS (JD/MDiv '24)  
GRACE KOPPENHEFFER (JD '23)  
KYLE LANG (JD '23)  
EVELYN LEA (JD '24)  
CLARE MAGEE (JD '24)  
ALEXANDRA MILLS (JD '24)  
SHIVANI MOTAMARRI (JD '24)  
LUCAS NELSON (JD '24)  
KATHRYN OVERBY (JD '23)  
ALEXIS PARKER (JD '24)  
JOSHUALAN PARRISH (JD '23)  
REBECCA PARSONS ('20, JD '23)

MARLEY PETERSON (JD '24)  
MAYA PILLAI (JD '24)  
EMILY RAMDIAL (JD '23)  
ALAINA RODRIGUEZ (JD '24)  
MATTHEW ROSENCRANCE (JD '24)  
ISABELLA SPARHAWK (JD '24)  
KIMBERLY TOMKIES (JD '22)  
SIERRA WEINGARTNER (JD '22)  
CAROLINE WILLCOX (JD '24)  
JADA WILLIAMS (JD/MDiv '24)  
ANDREW WILSON (JD '24)  
CAO YANG (JD '22)

The Alumni Bar Coach (ABC) Program connects Wake Forest Law alumni with recent graduates preparing to take the bar exam for the first time. This year, 37 alumni served as coaches to 69 recent graduates, offering guidance tailored to each mentee's location and jurisdiction. Visit the link below to find out how you can get involved.



wfu.law/ABC



## 2010s

**Stephan A. Cornell (JD '10)** joined Eisenberg, Rothweiler, Winkler, Eisenberg & Jeck P.C. in Philadelphia. He represents plaintiffs in complex wrongful death and catastrophic personal injury matters. He was formerly a partner at Fox Rothschild.

**Luke Farley (JD '10)** was elected North Carolina's Commissioner of Labor. At 39, he was the youngest labor commissioner elected in a century. Before entering public service, he was a lawyer focused on workplace safety. He lives in Raleigh with his wife and their three young sons.

**Jerri Simmons (JD '10)** was recognized as a Rising Star in workers' compensation in the 2025 edition of *North Carolina Super Lawyers* magazine, and she was named to the 2025 edition of The Best Lawyers in America in workers' compensation law (employers). She is a partner at Cranfill Sumner LLP in Charlotte.

**Ronald D. Payne II (JD '11)** joined Tuggle Duggins PA in Greensboro, NC, as of counsel. He handles estate planning and probate matters. For 13 years, he ran his own law firm, Apple Payne Law PLLC.

**Amy Puckett (JD '11)** joined Moore & Van Allen as counsel on the employment team in the litigation group. She is a member of the Wake Forest Law Board of Visitors. She lives in Charlotte.

**Meeren Amin (JD '12)** was elevated to partner in law firm Fox Rothschild's taxation and wealth planning department in Washington, DC. He focuses on assisting businesses and individuals with complex tax controversies.

**Stephen Bell (JD '12)** was recognized as a Rising Star in business litigation in the 2025 edition of *North Carolina Super Lawyers* magazine. He was also named to the 2025 edition of Best Lawyers: Ones to Watch in America in professional malpractice law. He is a partner at Cranfill Sumner LLP in Wilmington, NC.

**Tiffany Rene Johnson (JD '12)** was nominated as a judge on the US District Court for the Northern District of Georgia. She has been an assistant US attorney for the Northern District of Georgia since 2017. Previously, she was a litigation associate at Atlanta law firm Parker, Hudson, Rainer & Dobbs LLP.

**Sarah Hayward Negus (JD '12)** was named to the 2024 Lawdragon 500 X – The Next Generation. She is a member of Moore & Van Allen law firm in Charlotte, where she focuses on labor and employment law.

**Matthew T. Houston (JD '13)** was appointed judge on the North Carolina Business Court in Raleigh. Previously, he was a special superior court judge.

**Morgan McCall Reece (JD '13)** joined law firm Fox Rothschild LLP in Greensboro, NC, as counsel in the litigation department and appellate practice group. She was an assistant US attorney and an assistant district attorney.

**Jessica Bonds (JD '14)** joined law firm Bressler, Amery & Ross in Birmingham, AL, as an associate in the financial institutions practice group.

**Jenica Cassidy (JD '14)** was promoted to partner at law firm Helsell Fetterman LLP in Seattle. She is a member of the firm's estate planning and trust and estates litigation groups.

**Destin Hall (JD '14)** was named speaker of the North Carolina House of Representatives. Hall is a native of Caldwell County, NC, and represents the 87th district, which includes Caldwell and Watauga counties. He is a lawyer with Wilson, Lackey, Rohr & Hall PC in Lenoir, NC.

**Taryn Walker Harper (JD '14)** was named to The Legal 500 United States 2024 Edition. She is a shareholder at Greenberg Traurig LLP, where she focuses on product liability litigation, including pharmaceutical, medical device, cosmetics, and personal care products. She and her husband, **Nick Harper (JD/MBA '14)**, live in Atlanta.

**Nick Harper (JD/MBA '14)** joined the Chick-fil-A Corporate Support Center as senior counsel, real estate legal – new restaurant development. He serves on the Rose Council, Wake Forest Law's young alumni board. He and his wife, **Taryn Walker Harper (JD '14)**, live in Atlanta.

**John Nail (JD '14)** joined Bradley Arant Boult Cummings LLP as a partner in the tax practice group in Atlanta.

**Garin Paul Scollan (JD '14)** was elected partner at Rivkin Radler LLP. He works in the firm's Uniondale, NY, office and is a member of the compliance, investigations, and white collar and insurance fraud practice groups and the strategic alternative defense team.

**Dan Gibson (JD '15)** was named to the 2024 North Carolina Super Lawyers Rising Stars list and to *Business North Carolina* magazine's 2024 Legal Elite list for appellate law. He is a partner in Davis Hartman Wright LLP's appellate, business, constitutional, and litigation practice groups. Gibson is also co-chair of the Continuing Legal Education committee of the North Carolina Bar Association appellate practice section. He lives in Durham, NC.

**Heidi Hoover (JD '15)** was named executive director of Bridge of Hope Harrisonburg-Rockingham in Harrisonburg, VA. The organization works with single-parent families facing homelessness to provide housing and support. Hoover lives in Dayton, VA.

**Daniel Crispino (JD '16)** was promoted to counsel at Boies Schiller Flexner LLP in the law firm's Fort Lauderdale, FL, office.

**Lance Henry (JD/MDiv '16)** was named to *Super Lawyers* magazine's 2025 Rising Stars list. He is a shareholder at law firm Allen Vellone Wolf Helfrich & Factor PC in Denver. He represents clients in commercial transactions, bankruptcy proceedings, and litigation.

**Caleb Holloway (JD '16)** joined law firm Robinson Bradshaw in its employment and labor practice



group in Charlotte. He was previously vice president for teammate relations and executive services at Advocate Health.

**Jefferson Whisenant (JD '16)** was named general counsel for HonorBridge, North Carolina's largest organ procurement organization. The nonprofit serves 77 counties in North Carolina and Pittsylvania County in Virginia. He lives in Raleigh.

**Monica Corrine Berry ('14, JD '17)** joined the American Cancer Society as director, estate and gift planning. She lives in Winston-Salem.

**Meredith Pace Brewer (JD '17)** joined Maynard Nexsen as of counsel through the law firm's acquisition of Raleigh criminal defense firm Dysart Willis. Brewer focuses on white collar criminal defense and government investigations. She serves on Wake Forest Law's Rose Council, the young alumni board.

**Eric Jones (JD '17)** was named partner at intellectual property firm Patterson + Sheridan LLP in Greensboro, NC. He prepares domestic and international patent applications in artificial intelligence, communications technologies, and medical devices.

**Mark Huffman ('13, JD '18)** was named counsel for Frisco Independent School District in Texas. He was previously an associate attorney at Munsch Hardt Kopf & Harr PC in Dallas.

**Julie Vergara Duque (JD '19)** joined Deuteran Law Group's workers' compensation team as an associate attorney. She lives in Winston-Salem.

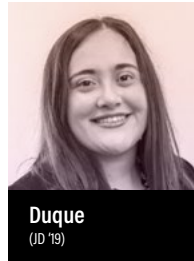
**Erica G. Litvak (JD '19)** joined law firm Bressler, Amery & Ross as an associate in the general litigation practice in Florham Park, NJ. She represents healthcare facilities in a broad range of claims, from wrongful death and personal injury to commercial loss and property disputes.

**Camryn Rohr (JD '19)** joined Fox Rothschild in Charlotte as an associate in the litigation department.

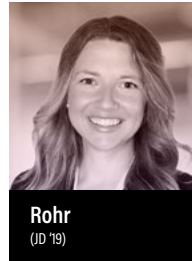
## 2020s

**Kylie L. Hamilton (JD '20)** joined Smith Debnam law firm in Raleigh as an associate in its construction and leasing practice group.

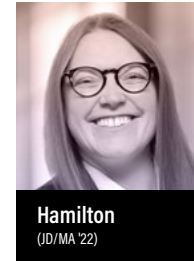
**Andrew Bosserman (JD '21)** opened his own law firm, Boss Tax Law, in Charlotte.



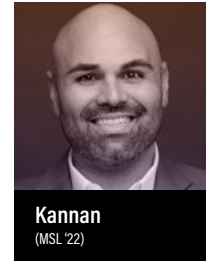
**Duque**  
(JD '19)



**Rohr**  
(JD '19)



**Hamilton**  
(JD/MA '22)



**Kannan**  
(MSL '22)

**Katie McCoy (JD '21)** joined Maynard Nexsen as an associate through the law firm's acquisition of Raleigh criminal defense firm Dysart Willis. McCoy practices government investigations and white collar defense. She serves on the Wake Forest Law Rose Council, young alumni board, and the Wake County (NC) Bar Association's Young Lawyers Division executive board.

**Stephanie Raborn (JD '21)** designs jewelry for her curated line, Las Lobas, and is an employee benefits compliance officer. After years of designing jewelry, she studied lost wax casting at Sawtooth School for Visual Arts during law school and uses the metal casting technique to create much of her jewelry. She lives in Winston-Salem.

**Mary Virginia Long Ballantyne (JD '22)** joined Johnson Jackson PLLC, a labor and employment law firm in Tampa, FL, as an associate attorney.

**Cara Cook (JD '22)** joined Cranfill Sumner LLP in Wilmington, NC, as an associate attorney. She focuses on civil litigation. At Wake Forest Law, she was a teaching assistant and managing editor of the *Wake Forest Journal of Business and Intel-*

*lectual Property Law*. She also participated in the Environmental Law & Policy Clinic.

**A. Carson Easterling (JD '22)** joined law firm Buchanan Ingersoll & Rooney PC in the international trade and national security practice group in the litigation section. Her practice includes pursuing trade remedies, such as antidumping and countervailing duties. She lives in Philadelphia.

**Samantha E. Hamilton (JD/MA '22)** was sworn in to practice in the US District Court for the Eastern District of North Carolina. She is an associate attorney in the environmental practice at Davis Hartman Wright LLP in New Bern, NC.

**Walker Helms (JD '22)** joined Akerman LLP in Winston-Salem as an associate in the litigation practice group. He serves on the Rose Council, Wake Forest Law's young alumni board.

**Joseph "Brock" Kannan (MSL '22)** joined the Federal Reserve Board of Governors as a public policy manager in the division of supervision & regulation in Washington, DC. He is also an adjunct professor teaching banking law and regulation at Wake Forest Law.



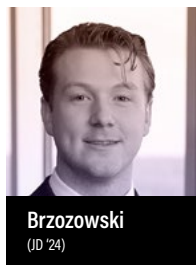
## Deacs Days of Living: *Pro Humanitate*

Access to the law and legal professionals is, unfortunately, a privilege in this country. When I can, I try to be someone's access by drafting their estate documents through CCLA, or showing up to Housing Clinics and trying my best to prevent their eviction through Legal Aid, or hopping on the phone and answering their questions via Lawyer on the Line. Generally in life, though, I try to remember that we're all the same flesh and blood, created in Jehovah/Allah/Adonai's image, and *Pro Humanitate* can be as simple as looking a houseless person in the eyes and recognizing their humanity.

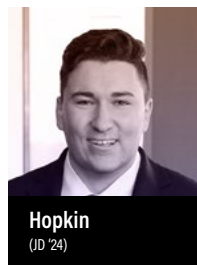
—Toni-Ann Hines (JD '22)



**Cook**  
(JD '22)



**Brzozowski**  
(JD '24)



**Hopkin**  
(JD '24)

**Tim Maguire (JD '22)** joined the US Environmental Protection Agency as attorney advisor. He was a law clerk for the Colorado Court of Appeals. He lives in Denver.

**Luke Brzozowski (JD '24)** joined Delaware law firm Morris, Nichols, Arsht & Tunnell LLP in the bankruptcy and restructuring group.

**C. Isaac Hopkin (JD '24)** joined Delaware law firm Morris, Nichols, Arsht & Tunnell LLP in the corporate and commercial litigation group.

**Cooper Isakson (JD '24)** joined law firm Critchfield, Critchfield & Johnston, based in Wooster, OH, as an associate.

**Kaylie Jessup ('21, JD '24)** joined Bell, Davis & Pitt PA in Winston-Salem. She focuses on real estate matters, banking and financial services, creditors' rights, and general business law.

**Luke Shapiro (MA '20, JD '24)** joined law firm Robinson Bradshaw. He and his wife, Jamie Shapiro (MA '22), live in Charlotte.

## Marriages

**Vanessa Gabrielle Schwartz ('12, MSL '13)** and William "Lloyd" Firth, 6/29/24 in Palm Beach, FL. A celebration was held in Washington, DC, where they live.

## Births

**Neubia LeChelle Williams Harris (JD '10)** and Michael Jarell Harris, Knightdale, NC: a daughter, Leila Amari Harris, in June 2022. She joined her brother, James Preston Harris (5).

**John Allen Riggins ('14, JD '18)** and Anne "Annie" Ives Monson Riggins ('15), Washington, DC: a son, John "Jack" Steward Riggins, in July 2024.

**Caitlin Bush Birkhead ('14, MA '16, JD '19)** and Samuel Hunter Birkhead, Raleigh: a daughter, Maggie Jane Birkhead, in May 2024.

**Matille Gibbons Bowden ('16, JD '19)** and James Duncan Bowden Jr. ('17), Great Falls, VA: a daughter, Charlotte Byrd Bowden, in February 2025.

**Caitlin Herlihy Hickman ('17, JD '20)** and Harris Walker Hickman ('17, MSA '18), Charlotte: a son, Walker Daniel Hickman, in April 2024.

**Tristan Meagher (JD '20)** and Rebecca Selby Meagher (MSBA '20), Baltimore: a son, Bennett MacKenzie Meagher, in January 2025.

**Eli Nash Hardin (JD '21)** and Caroline Beeler Hardin, Knoxville, TN: a daughter, Ruth Elizabeth Hardin, in July 2024.

## Deaths

**Samuel Emerson Britt ('50, JD '52)**, Aug. 23, 2024, Lumberton, NC. He served in the US Air Force. He was a Special Superior Court judge for North Carolina and Chief Superior Court judge

of the 16th Judicial District. He was preceded in death by his wife, Elsie Gentry Britt ('50). Survivors include sons Samuel Emerson Britt II ('76, MD '80) and Daniel Gentry Britt ('89), and grandson Samuel Emerson Britt III ('09).

**Robert Lee Savage Jr. ('51, JD '53)**, Oct. 6, 2024, Apex, NC. He was a real estate lawyer.

**John Benjamin Miles (JD '55)**, March 25, 2024, McLeansville, NC. He served in the US Army and Army Reserve. He was a lawyer and a municipal county court judge.

**Jack Edward Klass (JD '56)**, Sept. 8, 2024, Greensboro, NC. He served in the US Navy and was a lawyer and district court judge. He was a member of the Wake Forest Legacy Society.

**Frank Pleasants Meadows Jr. (JD '56)**, May 14, 2024, Rocky Mount, NC. He was a lawyer and counsel to the Nash County (NC) Economic Development office. Survivors include his wife, Notie Vay White Meadows ('56), daughters Vada Louise Meadows ('85) and Sarah Elizabeth Meadows Johnson ('89), son Frank Meadows III, and granddaughters Emily Avent Schemper ('13) and Elizabeth Holloway Earle ('16).

**William "Bill" Blakeley Mills (JD '56)**, Aug. 23, 2024, Thomasville and Mint Hill, NC. He served in the US Air Force and was a judge advocate general in the US Air Force Reserve during his three-decade military career, retiring as a colonel. He practiced law for 66 years. He received The Order of the Long Leaf Pine, North Carolina's highest award for service.



## Deeds Days of Living: Pro Humanitate

*Pro Humanitate* is the ethos of using our compassion, empathy, knowledge, talents, and service to leave the world better than we found it. I've answered the *Pro Humanitate* call by serving as the supervising attorney for our Medical-Legal Partnership Clinic. Through the clinic, I provide civil legal services to marginalized and underserved members of our Winston-Salem community as well as mentor our exemplary law students as they bridge the gap between traditional legal education and real-world experience. For me, answering *Pro Humanitate's* call means empowering our community and preparing our students to become exceptional Wake Forest lawyers and fierce advocates for a fair and just society.

—Joseph Singleton (JD '23)





## Deacs Days of Living: *Pro Humanitate*

George has been volunteering pro bono and helping a Legal Aid of NC client rebuild after suffering damage to his home and other personal property from Hurricane Helene. He has drafted FEMA appeal letters, negotiated with his client's insurance company, and provided advice on assistance programs.

Submitted on behalf of  
George Wigington ('21, JD '24)

**Kenneth Sawyer Etheridge ('58, JD '60)**, May 31, 2024, Laurinburg, NC. He was a lawyer and a charter member of the North Carolina Association of Defense Attorneys. He was a past member of the Wake Forest Law Alumni Council Executive Committee and the Board of Trustees at Campbell University. Survivors include his wife, Rebecca "Beckie" Schweistris Etheridge ('58), and son Jeff Etheridge ('81).

**John Henderson Hasty ('57, JD '60)**, Nov. 15, 2024, Gastonia, NC. He was a member of Kappa Alpha fraternity and a DJ on the student radio station at Wake Forest. He practiced law in Charlotte with his late father, **Fred Henderson Hasty (JD 1927)**, and tried a case before the US Supreme Court. He supported the Margaret S. and Fred H. Hasty Memorial Scholarship, established by his father.

**Robert J. Robinson ('58, JD '60)**, April 27, 2024, Asheville, NC. He was a lawyer for 60 years and a past president of the North Carolina State Bar.

**Lloyd Franklin Baucom ('57, JD '61)**, May 18, 2024, Charlotte. He served in the US Army in the Military Intelligence Corps. He practiced law in Charlotte for 60 years and was inducted into the North Carolina State Bar's General Practice Hall of Fame. Survivors include daughter **Jennifer Baucom Flynn ('86, JD '89)** and son James "Jay" Franklin Baucom ('91).

**Jefferson "Jeff" Haywood Bruton (JD '65)**, Nov. 2, 2024, Hendersonville, NC. He was an attorney.

**William "Bill" Robert Curtis Jr. ('60, JD '65)**, Dec. 26, 2024, Abingdon, VA. He served in the US Air Force and was a lawyer for more than 40 years.

**Jerry L. Eagle (JD '65)**, Oct. 4, 2024, Summerfield, NC. He worked in the legal department of Jefferson Standard Life Insurance Co. and its successor, Jefferson-Pilot, for 26 years and was a guardian ad

litem for abused and neglected children. Survivors include daughter **Shana Eagle Hurt ('95, JD '99)**.

**Harold "Buzzy" Edward Russell Jr. (JD '66)**, June 1, 2024, Raleigh. He practiced law for more than 50 years.

**John Charles Martin ('65, JD '67)**, April 9, 2024, Raleigh. He served in the US Army Military Police Corps. He was on the North Carolina Court of Appeals for 24 years and was chief judge for 10 years. In 2014, he received The Order of the Long Leaf Pine, North Carolina's highest award for service. He was a past member of the Wake Forest Alumni Council, Parents' Council, and the Law Board of Visitors. Survivors include daughters Lauren Martin Smith ('93) and Louise Short Dodge ('09).

**William Frank Moser ('64, JD '67)**, Jan. 5, 2025, Laurinburg, NC. He was a lawyer. Survivors include daughter Elizabeth Ashley Moser Comer ('93, P '25), granddaughter Hollis May Comer ('25), and brother Robert Moser ('66).

**Mark Braswell Perry (JD '67)**, June 16, 2024, Salisbury, NC. He was executive director of the Historic Salisbury Foundation and a trust officer with SunTrust Bank.

**William J. McCarthy III (JD '68)**, Nov. 7, 2023, Milton, DE. He was a lawyer.

**Philip Carl Shaw (JD '68)**, Jan. 2, 2025, Four Oaks, NC. He served in the US Marine Corps and practiced law for 55 years.

**Donald "Don" Kenneth Tisdale Sr. ('65, JD '68)**, April 30, 2024, Winston-Salem. He practiced law with his son, **Donald Kenneth "Ken" Tisdale Jr. (JD '97)**, and was district attorney in Forsyth County, NC, for three terms.

**Robert Bradford Leggett Jr. ('66, JD '69)**, Jan. 13, 2025, Raleigh. He was a member of Theta Chi

fraternity. He practiced law for 50 years with Allman Spry Leggett Crumpler & Horn PA in Winston-Salem and at one time, was one of only 10 lawyers in North Carolina listed as a fellow in the American College of Bankruptcy. Survivors include his wife, Sandi Foshee Leggett (MAEd '83).

**Richard L. Stanley ('68, JD '70)**, Aug. 16, 2024, Beaufort, NC. He was a judge advocate general and armor officer in the US Army. He practiced law for more than four decades, was town attorney of Emerald Isle, NC, for 43 years, and was mayor of Beaufort, NC, from 2007 to 2017. Gov. Roy Cooper awarded him The Order of the Long Leaf Pine, North Carolina's highest award for service. He was a member of the Wake Forest Legacy Society.

**Harvey Clay Hemric Jr. ('67, JD '71)**, June 2, 2024, Burlington, NC. He played tennis and was president of the Student Union at Wake Forest. He served in the US Marine Corps and was a trial lawyer for 50 years. Survivors include his wife, **Nancy Garlick Hemric ('73, JD '83)**, and brother Michael Hemric ('74).

**Philip Warren Gasaway ('69, JD '72)**, Sept. 18, 2024, Winston-Salem. Survivors include son Kenneth "Sonny" W. Gasaway ('99).

**Kenneth Walter Honeycutt (JD '72)**, Aug. 23, 2024, Monroe, NC.

**William Oliver Johnson Lynch (JD '72)**, Feb. 17, 2025, Wilmington, NC. He served in the US Army Reserve. He was a lawyer for more than 50 years.

**Carl "Will" Atkinson Jr. (JD '73)**, April 6, 2024, Troy, NC. He served in the US Marines in Vietnam. He practiced law in Troy and was the town's attorney for 27 years.

**George Richard Murphy (JD '73)**, May 27, 2024, Benson, NC. He served in the US military during the Vietnam War. He was a district court judge in Johnston, Harnett, and Lee counties, NC.

**Robert "Bob" Lejay Cummings (JD '75)**, April 26, 2024, Atlanta. He served in the US Army in Vietnam and was a lawyer.

**William "Bill" R. DeGraw Jr. (JD '75)**, July 13, 2024, Lewisville, NC. He served in the US Marine Corps and practiced law with Wilson, DeGraw & Miller. Survivors include daughter **Jennifer Scott DeGraw (JD '08)** and brother Martin DeGraw (MD '81).

**Michael Warren Drye (JD '76)**, Oct. 1, 2024, Asheville, NC. He died in Hurricane Helene's floodwaters, along with his wife, Nora Drye, and grandson Micah Drye. He was an attorney and mediator for more than 40 years.

**Linda Ekstrom Stanley (JD '76)**, Aug. 17, 2024, Cambridge, MA. She was a bankruptcy attorney in San Francisco and an adjunct professor at the University of California Hastings College of the Law.

**John Engler Zelif III (JD '76)**, May 12, 2024, Greensboro, NC. He was preceded in death by his sister, **Cynthia Jean Zelif (JD '73)**. Survivors include his brother, Robert Zelif ('76, MAEd '77), and his sister-in-law, **Gale Arnold Zelif (JD '75)**.

**Janice Head Kornegay ('73, JD '77)**, Jan. 3, 2025, Mount Olive, NC. She was a lawyer.

**Warren Edward Kasper (JD '78)**, Feb. 13, 2025, Clemmons, NC. He practiced law in Clemmons and was the village's attorney.

**Sarah Morris Johnson ('67, JD '79)**, Feb. 10, 2025, Pfafftown, NC. She was a lawyer. She was a member of the Wake Forest Legacy Society and established the Eunice and Frank Johnson Scholarship in honor of Ed Wilson ('43) and Emily Herring Wilson (MA '62).

**Douglas Alan Scott (JD '79)**, April 27, 2024, Richmond, VA. He was a lawyer and led the Virginia Poverty Law Center.

**Rebecca "Kay" Killian ('77, JD '80)**, April 9, 2024, Stanley, NC. She was a lawyer and an assistant district attorney in Lincoln County, NC. With the Catawba Conservancy Program, she ensured the preservation of more than 500 acres of her family farm. She was a member of the Wake Forest Legacy Society.

**Percy "Poss" Watson Echols (JD '81)**, July 4, 2024, Crozet, VA. He was a senior patent examiner at the US Patent and Trademark Office.

**Susan Eileen Cunningham Jonas (JD '81)**, Dec. 31, 2024, Alexandria, VA. She was a tax lawyer and community volunteer. Survivors include her husband, Wayne Boice Jonas (MD '81), and son Christopher Cunningham Jonas ('04).

**William Oliver Moseley Jr. (JD '81)**, Jan. 4, 2025, Greensboro, NC. He served in the US Army and was a lawyer.

**Robert "Bobby" Angus Bryan Jr. (JD '82)**, Sept. 24, 2024, Garner, NC. He retired from the North Carolina Office of Administrative Hearings.

**David M. Furr ('80, JD '82)**, Feb. 12, 2025, Charlotte. He began his law practice in Gastonia, NC, in 1983, but he spent the next 40 years roaming the world, working with NASCAR, advising on financial services with CapGemini, and cybersecurity initiatives with Palo Alto Networks, and, most recently, life sciences. He was a longtime member of the Wake Forest Law Board of Visitors. In 2018, he established the David and Pam Furr Law Scholarship, named in part for his late wife. In 2024, he established the premier endowed scholarship at the Law School, the David M. Furr Law Scholarship. He was one of the lead donors to the Law School's Commons renovation effort, which helped transform Worrell Professional Center. He also supported the Levine Cancer Institute's research into blood cancers. Survivors include his wife, Mindy Miralia Furr.

**Diane Penegar Furr (JD '82)**, Dec. 28, 2024, Charlotte. She practiced law in Charleston, SC, and Charlotte for more than 40 years.

**Warren Ashton Hutton (JD '82)**, Feb. 20, 2025, Winston-Salem. He was a lawyer, chief operating officer, and president of Healthstat Inc. before retiring. Survivors include his wife, Julie Schweig Hutton (MBA '82).

**John A. Rudolph Jr. (JD '84)**, Oct. 29, 2024, Tallahassee, FL. He served in the US Army Reserve and was a lawyer. Survivors include his wife, **Rhesa Hipp Rudolph (JD '85)**.

**Arthur E. Davis III (JD '86)**, Jan. 17, 2025, Brooklyn, NY. He was a lawyer, CPA, consultant, and spokesperson for the American Escrow Association.

**Clifton Merritt Mount (JD '88)**, Sept. 26, 2024, Washington, DC. He was a lawyer and a member of the Wake Forest Law Board of Visitors, as well as the Wake Forest Legacy Society.

**Patrick "Neal" Cook (JD '95)**, April 15, 2024, Charlotte. He was a partner at law firm Parker Poe. He served on the Board of Advisors for The Preston Robert Tisch Brain Tumor Center at Duke University and on the Board of Directors for Habitat for Humanity in Charlotte.

**Jennifer Edwards Devor (JD '04)**, July 23, 2024, Richmond, VA. She was an attorney.

**Lindan Jerome "L.J." Hill (JD '05)**, April 6, 2024, Bremen, AL. He was an attorney in Birmingham, AL.

**John Joseph Byron (JD '11)**, Sept. 2, 2024, Chicago. He was a partner at Steptoe law firm and a member of the Rose Council, Wake Forest Law's young alumni board.

## Friends, Faculty, Staff, Students

**Richard Gordon Bell**, Jan. 16, 2025, Winston-Salem. A native of Ohio, he served in the US Army during World War II. He graduated from the University of Kentucky and Case Western Reserve University School of Law. He practiced law with his father for 14 years before joining the faculty at Wake Forest Law in 1965. He retired as professor of law in 1990. Survivors include sons **Kenneth Bell ('80, JD '83)** and Gordon Bell. He was preceded in death by his wife, Evalyn C. Bell, and daughter Lavonn Bell.



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The background of the advertisement is a photograph of a black wrought-iron gate with intricate scrollwork. A beige and black striped scarf with tassels and the letters 'WF' is draped over the gate. To the left of the gate is a brick wall. In the top left corner, there is a dark, ornate shield-shaped emblem containing the text 'WAKE FOREST GIVING SOCIETIES UNIVERSITY'. In the bottom right corner, there is a dark rectangular box containing promotional text and contact information. The left edge of the image features a vertical strip with a repeating pattern of the Wake Forest University crest.

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”

JOHN PAYNE (JD '23)  
ABC Mentee 2025

“

I enjoyed seeing my one mentee's confidence grow and being able to encourage both mentees along the way.

”

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“

[I enjoyed] getting to help my mentees and provide advice and encouragement during what I know is a difficult time.

”

MARLEY PETERSON (JD '24)  
ABC Coach 2025

“

I really enjoyed getting to be there for students. It was really hard studying for the bar last summer, so it was great to be able to give back.

”

LAUREN BARNETT (JD '24)  
ABC Coach 2025