

# WAKE BAR FLYER

## A HOME AWAY FROM HOME

A Glimpse into Wake County's Historic Law Offices..... 3

VOL. XLV1 • ISSUE 3 | THIRD QUARTER 2019

## A NEW HOME

BY DAVID SHERLIN, PRESIDENT | WAKE COUNTY BAR ASSOCIATION

**THE WAKE COUNTY BAR ASSOCIATION AND TENTH JUDICIAL DISTRICT BAR HAVE A NEW HOME!** We are happy to inform you that the WCBA and Tenth are the proud new owners of an office located at 712 West North Street. The purchase of the property, which closed on July 9, is the byproduct of more than a year and a half of work by our New Space Task Force, as well as our current Executive Committee and staff of the WCBA/Tenth.

The office, built in 1910 and used for decades as a private residence, will provide wonderful opportunities for our members and staff alike. It is located in Glenwood South just off of St. Mary's Street, making it very accessible. The interior of the office was renovated approximately 10 years ago; it has five private offices, a spacious conference room and ample parking. It is approximately 2,500 square feet and sits on a quarter acre.



The WCBA/Tenth purchased the office from the John Rex Endowment, who has been an absolute pleasure to work with throughout this process. The John Rex Endowment will lease the property back from us until we vacate the North Carolina Bar Center in Cary later this year.

The purchase of this property has been a true team effort from start to finish. The process actually began years ago when, due to responsible budgeting, the WCBA and Tenth were able to save funds that allowed us to make a significant down



payment on the property. The effort continued once we became aware of this property going on the market and working closely with its listing agent, Carter Worthy. Once our offer was accepted in mid-April, there were numerous hurdles to clear due to the unique nature of the relationship between the WCBA and the Tenth Judicial District Bar. A special thank you to Carmen Bannon, Peter Bolac, David Bull, Whitney von Haam, David Gadd, Nancy Grace, Adam Gottsegen, Maria Lynch, Judge Robert Rader, Mary Nash Rusher, Keith Satisky, Beth Voltz, Colon Willoughby and Allen York for all that you did to make this happen!

I also want to thank the North Carolina Bar Association for all that it has done for the WCBA over the years. While the WCBA/Tenth won't be under the NCBA's roof when we move out a few months from now, we will always remain grateful for

continued p.2



## UPCOMING EVENTS

SOFTBALL LEAGUE: REGISTRATION NOW OPEN  
September 8 - October 27 | Millbrook Exchange Park

FAMILY LAW UPDATE  
August 21 | NC State Bar, 1-4:15 p.m.

CAMARADERIE + CONNECTIONS  
August 22 | Jose & Sons 5:30 p.m., Boxcar Arcade 6:30 p.m.

WCBA MEMBERS-ONLY OYSTER ROAST  
September 19 | Haywood Hall, 5 p.m.

## SAVE THE DATES

BREAKFAST DISCUSSION SERIES  
August 21 | September 18

NO LUNCHEONS IN AUGUST AND SEPTEMBER

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VOL. XLV1 No. 3 | THIRD QUARTER 2019

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the support the NCBA has given us, especially during this time of transition.

This issue of the Bar Flyer showcases some of the other historic homes throughout Wake County that house offices of our members. I can't wait for you to see our new office in a few months. More importantly, I look forward to seeing how this office will become a home for the attorneys of the WCBA/Tenth, and for the unique ways that this home will serve our membership and community alike. **WBF**



## LAW SCHOOL SCHOLARSHIP WINNERS CHOSEN

**Congratulations to Trey Ferguson of Raleigh and Laura Medlin of Cary who each received a \$4000 Wake County Bar Association memorial scholarship. The scholarships are awarded annually to law students or persons about to enter law school who have Wake County ties, and are funded through donations, the annual golf tournament and late fees from district bar dues. The scholarship fund was founded in memory of Edwin S. Preston Jr., former Wake County Chief Resident Superior Court Judge.**

*"During my four years of teaching high school I witnessed students struggling with legal issues outside of the classroom, which led me to get involved in a number of advocacy groups in an attempt to change our local education to better accommodate these at-risk students. After a few years in that work, along with my full-time teaching job, I felt I could better serve individuals like my students by pursuing a career practicing law. This calling to serve members of my community is why I chose to come to law school, and it is that same passion for helping others that motivates me to find a law career in public service."*



**James "Trey" Ferguson**  
2L, Campbell Law School



**Laura Medlin**  
3L, University of North Carolina

*"I try to live by the motto 'to whom much is given, much is required.' I know I have the talent and drive to become a great lawyer and I want to use it to bring justice to those who need it, whether it be individuals, companies or governments. It is something I have been working toward all my life, informing what I read, the classes I took, even taking other jobs after graduating so I would know I was really sure about committing to law school. I believe it is my responsibility have a part in upholding justice—tempered with mercy—because while life does not give everyone an even playing field to begin with, our constitution and legal system promise that everyone is equal under the law."*





## A HOME AWAY FROM HOME: 221 GLENWOOD — MARSHALL & TAYLOR

BY: LUCY AUSTIN, WAKE BAR FLYER EDITOR



**ON GLENWOOD AVENUE**, one block south of Hibernian and Sushi Blues, a house built in 1910 feels like home, though no longer to one family. The house at 221 Glenwood is the home to Marshall & Taylor, a family law and divorce firm where Jeff Marshall practices. The well-worn floors, tall windows and brick fireplaces remind you that this house has history, even if we don't know the particulars.

This is not the first old house where he has practiced. He says it just doesn't feel as much like work when your office is in an old home. His office was previously at 711 W. North St., just across from our new WCBA office. One day on the way to lunch in Glenwood South, he walked by 221 Glenwood and saw that it was for sale. Within five minutes, he had shaken hands and was ready to move. The house was the right size for his growing practice, with an ideal location. Marshall doesn't know much about the house except what's available in the public records, but the house has witnessed more than a century of growth in Raleigh.

The house has a relaxing feel, which he appreciates. It provides a calming space for his clients as they face tough personal issues. Being in Glenwood South also has its perks, more than just the obvious accessibility to restaurants and shops. At least once a year, his children set up a lemonade stand in front of the house and they "kill it," at least as compared to your typical kids' lemonade stand. They donate their proceeds to the local fire station, and it teaches his kids valuable lessons on business, customer service and giving to others.

Having an office in an old house lends itself to landlord-like problems like plumbing issues and parking challenges. One thing he hasn't had to do, though, is much renovation. He attributes this to the way houses were built a century ago. He has left as much of the original and older features as possible, purposefully allowing the character of the house to shine. This old house serves modern purposes with the same welcoming feel as it did 100 years ago. [WBF](#)



**JEFF MARSHALL NEXT TO THE  
FIREPLACE**



## A HOME AWAY FROM HOME: THE COWPER HOUSE — ROBERTSON IMMIGRATION LAW FIRM

DESCRIPTION COURTESY OF ANN ROBERTSON



**ROBERTSON IMMIGRATION LAW FIRM** is located at 501 North Blount Street in a house built in 1895 which is a “delightful example of the picturesque Queen Anne style popular at the turn of the century,” according to Capital Area Preservation. It was constructed for United States District Attorney Claude Bernard. The house became known as “the Cowper house” because it was inhabited from the turn of the century through the 1950s by the family and descendants of B.G. Cowper. Cowper moved his family from their farm at Five Points in Raleigh to this house which is located at the corner of Blount and Polk Streets. Cowper and his business partner, Bryan Grimes, owned an insurance company on Fayetteville Street. Cowper was active in community civic affairs, serving on the original Board of Trustees for Raleigh’s first public library, the Olivia Raney Library. His daughter, Mary Grimes Cowper, married Curran G. Keeble in 1925 and they lived in the family’s home through the 1950’s. The house later served as offices for the North Carolina architectural licensing board in the late twentieth century.

This 4,000 square foot house has a tall hipped slate roof, slate gables and a square-corner tower with a slate belfry, which has a metal finial. The front of the house has a two-story bay window along with decorative wood brackets framing the cutaway upper bay window. The rosette window in the tower, the wraparound porch with bracketed posts, and a decorative balustrade add other well-known elements of the Queen Anne style. This frame house showcases two-and-a-half stories of a “visual feast of this Victorian style,” according to Capital Area Preservation.

The Cowper House was renovated by Legacy Construction Group, LLC with the design assistance of Winstead Wilson Architects, PLLC. It was purchased by Robertson Immigration Law Firm in 2013. The 2014 Anthemion Award was presented to the builder, the architects, and the law firm “for the Commercial Rehabilitation and Adaptive Reuse of the Cowper House.” Members of the Wake County Bar are encouraged to come visit this lovely office to see the detailed wainscoting, intricate four fireplace mantles, two staircases and amazing pocket doors in the interior of the office building. The law office is open from 9 a.m. to 5:30 p.m., Monday through Friday, and visitors are welcome. [WBF](#)



## A HOME AWAY FROM HOME: THE FRANCIS-SHEPHERD HOUSE – THE FRANCIS LAW FIRM

DESCRIPTION COURTESY OF CHARLES AND MARVEA FRANCIS



**THE FRANCIS-SHEPHERD HOUSE**, built circa 1902, is located in downtown Raleigh at 215 E. North Street in the Blount Street and Historic Oakwood neighborhoods. This wonderful house was built for 25-year-old attorney and legislator Sylvester Brown Shepherd and his wife, 20-year-old Lila May Vass Shepherd, daughter of railroad executive William Worrell Vass. Prior to 1914, the couple added a large two-story addition behind the right half of the house. The house is an excellent example of the Neoclassical Revival style.

By 1931, the house was a rooming house with as many as six apartments. In 1985, the State purchased the property for government offices. In 2016, the house was revived and completely restored by contractor Greg Paul for attorneys Charles and Marvea Francis to serve as the office of The Francis Law Firm, PLLC. Matthew Konar Architect PLLC and Richard Hall Designs, PLLC designed the office space to maintain the integrity of the original house.

During the restoration process, two separate exterior sidings were exposed within the house. It was determined that an original one-story wing was behind the left half of the house. The exposed siding in the house's interior was likely a kitchen wing attached to the main house. The exposed siding was left intact as a feature of the new interior space. There are also several other



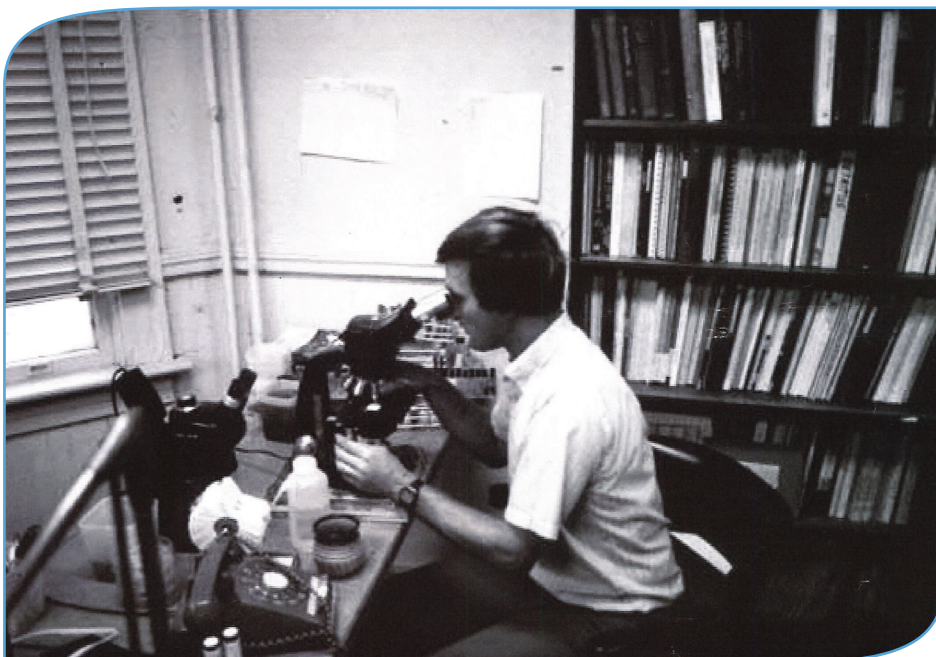


## A HOME AWAY FROM HOME

### THE FRANCIS-SHEPHERD HOUSE – THE FRANCIS LAW FIRM

original features in the house like gorgeous fireplace mantels, tile surrounds and original heart-of-pine hardwood floors.

The restoration earned the 2017 Anthemion Award from Capital Area Preservation for commercial rehabilitation. The house was on display as part of the Annual Historic Oakwood 2017 Candlelight Tour for the holiday season. Several interior rooms and the wrap-around porch were prominently featured in the 2019 Charles Francis mayoral campaign video announcement. [WBF](#)



THE FRANCIS-SHEPHERD HOUSE WAS PREVIOUSLY THE HOME OF THE DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENT AND NATURAL RESOURCES OFFICE.





WAKE COUNTY

# BAR AWARDS

— 2019 —

WEDNESDAY,  
OCTOBER 23

NORTH CAROLINA MUSEUM OF HISTORY

SILENT AUCTION | 5:30 P.M.  
SHOW | 7 P.M.

For sponsorship opportunities, please visit our website at [www.wakecountybar.org](http://www.wakecountybar.org)



## A HOME AWAY FROM HOME: NORRIS HOUSE — ANDERSON JONES

DESCRIPTION COURTESY OF TODD JONES

**NORRIS HOUSE** is original to the site at 421 North Blount Street. It was built in 1879 as a wedding gift for Cornelia Alice Norris and her husband Matthew Tyson Norris. Once a jewel on downtown Raleigh's historic North Blount Street, Norris House hosted many a fashionable event in her heyday. Norris had a business at City Market and was the local cotton factor who reported daily on the price of cotton in the Raleigh Times and later the News & Observer. Mrs. Norris was formidable in her own right as a the first grand regent of the local chapter of the Daughters of the American Revolution.

Over the years, renovations and expansions of the home were not always kind. Later owners converted the home into a boarding house, completely removing her original Italianate front elevation. In the 1970s, the State of North Carolina acquired the house and converted it to an office building. The State Bureau of Investigation called Norris House home for a period, as did the State Office of Archaeology. Eventually, Norris House sat vacant and fell into disrepair.

Restoration efforts began in 2016 and concluded in May 2018. The exterior changes were most dramatic: Norris House shed the 1930s era two-story colonial front porch in favor of her original Victorian front elevation. The design of the 2017 front elevation was informed by historical records and the original masonry foundation, which was unearthed on site in April 2017. Great care was exercised to preserve historic elements within the original 1879 structure, including original doors, trim, stained glass and a fireplace surround and mantel. Historic architectural pieces found in the attic were cleaned and repurposed within the home where possible. The upstairs of the home is the law firm of Anderson Jones, PLLC while the downstairs is available for rent for events and receptions. The downstairs also houses Five Points Baking Company, LLC, purveyor of gluten-free cheese straws and shortbread cookies. [WBF](#)



BEFORE

AFTER





## A HOME AWAY FROM HOME: PATIENCE HALL — GAY JACKSON & McNALLY

BY: LUCY AUSTIN, WAKE BAR FLYER EDITOR



ANDY GAY STANDS IN FRONT OF A PHOTO OF HARRY TRUMAN VISITING ZEBULON.

in the hallway, the original 1908 deed for the house sits across from a drawing of the house before it was moved. On the other side of that wall, a photo shows former President Harry Truman, who came to Zebulon in 1960 to campaign for then-Senator John F. Kennedy. In the front of the crowd stand two young boys, Andy and his twin brother. In the conference room, a news clipping shows former President Bill Clinton who, in May of 2008, came to speak in Zebulon on the same weekend the law office moved down the street.

After practicing almost 40 years, Gay has no plans to slow down. Specifically, he says he can't retire until after his mother. At 92, she still runs a dry cleaner in town, spending six days a week at the business and taking home her sewing to do after dinner each night. Her philosophy is that she'd rather wear out than rust out, a work ethic Gay takes to heart.

Along with Gay, his law partners and administrative staff serve clients in the surrounding five counties and beyond. Cheryl has been with the firm for 34 years, and Jackie, who says her office upstairs has the best view in the building, has been there for 19 years. Gay says his law partners, Darren Jackson and Patrick McNally, have made him a better lawyer and a better person. He says a lot of life has been lived in Patience Hall, which is more than just an office space. It's a home. [WBF](#)

**ZEBULON'S HISTORY**, from its founding in 1907 through the present day, is reflected in Patience Hall, which has been there almost from the beginning. Andy Gay, a member of the charter class at Campbell University School of Law, is a Zebulon-native and grew up a block away from the home of Dr. Coltrane, Zebulon's first dentist. Gay remembers watching him take his well-known walks, cane in hand and hat on head, no matter the weather.

In 1995, Gay bought "Coltrane House" and started a law firm with Donna Stroud, now a Court of Appeals judge. With some changes in personnel and firm name over the years, Gay & Stroud is now Gay Jackson & McNally. The firm is still in "Coltrane House," now called "Patience Hall" after Gay's daughter's middle name. Although the house remains much the same, it's location has changed, but it did not go far.

The house was originally located at the corner of North Arendell Avenue and East Gannon Avenue, and when development came along wanting to build a Walgreens on the site, the house went on the move, rolling one block down to its current location at North Arendell and East North Street. As one of the oldest houses in Zebulon, Gay has an appreciation for the history of the

town and this house within it. On a wall



THE POCKET DOORS TO THE CONFERENCE ROOM ARE ORIGINAL AND HAVE BEEN BEAUTIFULLY RE-FINISHED.





## DIRECT EXAMINATION: DAVID GADD



*David Gadd served as the WCBA's closing attorney during the purchase of our new downtown Raleigh office. We sincerely appreciate his dedication and efforts for our bar!*

### 1. When you were in elementary school, what did you want to be when you grew up?

A veterinarian.

### 2. What was the most important lesson your parents taught you?

You can accomplish anything if you work hard enough.

### 3. Who was your favorite teacher and why?

Greg Crabb, 11th grade science teacher. He treated 17-year-old students like adults. The most helpful thing he ever did for me was provide constructive criticism that carried over well beyond 11th grade science class.

### 4. Did you love or hate law school?

Hated all the reading and mostly enjoyed the lectures and class discussion. The best part of law school was the opportunity to make friends from all over the country with different backgrounds.

### 5. What was your most embarrassing courtroom experience?

After Hurricane Isabel flooded the Hyde County Courthouse, court was held in the fire truck bays of the local fire station. The first time I had court there, I arrived on time and took a seat in a fold-out chair in the front to wait for my case to be called. After a few minutes, the judge said, "Unless you intend on testifying, please get off the witness stand!" I still think I may have been set up for that one!

**DIRECT EXAMINATION IS THE FIRST** opportunity for the jury to meet a witness. An effective lawyer will use the opportunity to personalize the witness, making the witness appear both likeable and credible. At the end of the day, the direct examination is a party's best chance to tell his or her story.

### 6. What was your best courtroom experience?

I was very fortunate to be mentored by Charlie Ogletree after law school. Charlie was the only lawyer in Tyrrell County for about 35 years and was a true general practitioner. We tried several criminal cases together and I learned more from watching him in the courtroom than anything else during my career.

### 7. Why did you become a lawyer?

I enjoyed undergraduate courses in environmental law and policy and was encouraged to pursue law school by Art Cooper, one of my professors at N.C. State.

### 8. What has been the most surprising or unexpected development in your career?

I went to law school with the intention of working in the environmental field. After 15 years, I've practiced in many different areas, none being environmental law.

### 9. What is your favorite book?

Band of Brothers by Stephen Ambrose.

### 10. What is your most marked characteristic?

Eternal optimism.

### 11. What is your hidden talent?

Although you wouldn't be able to tell by the looks of my yard, I have a green thumb.

### 12. Who are your real life heroes?

Mom and Dad. They have been a steady, supportive force for me and my brother and sister our whole lives, no matter the circumstance. They have provided the example for raising my own children.

### 13. When and where were you happiest?

Anchored in the Albemarle Sound with my wife and kids. **WBF**



## A WINDOW INTO THEIR TIMES: HISTORICAL NOTES FOR THE WCBA



**THE FIRST SESSION OF WAKE COUNTY COURT** was held not in a courthouse, but in a home. Specifically, the home of Joel Lane. The Joel Lane House, built circa 1769, was the site of the first session of the “Inferior Court of Pleas and Quarter Sessions” in June of 1771. The home continued to serve as a meeting place, hosting a meeting of the North Carolina Council of Safety in August 1776 and a session of the General Assembly in 1781. In 1792, the commissioners to select the capital site conducted their balloting at the house, establishing the City of Raleigh on part of Joel Lane’s land. The Joel Lane House today welcomes visitors to learn about the early days of our county and city, and in 2019 the house is celebrating 250 years! [WBF](#)

**SOURCE:** Murray, Elizabeth Reid (1983) Wake: Capital County of North Carolina: Volume I: Prehistory through Centennial. Raleigh, NC: Capital County Publishing Company, Inc.

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## MATCHING GAME — MEET SOME OF OUR NEW NEIGHBORS!

CAN YOU MATCH THE LAW FIRM/ORGANIZATION TO THEIR HOME?

1. The Law Offices of Gregory L. Seibert — 117 Glenwood Avenue (built 1920)
2. Dysart Willis Houchin & Hubbard — 507 North Blount Street (built 1898)
3. Abrams & Abrams — 1526 Glenwood Avenue (built 1919)
4. Blanchard Community Law Clinic (Campbell Law) — 11 South Blount Street (built 1890)
5. Blanchard, Miller, Lewis & Isley (and Barefoot Family Law) — 1117 Hillsborough Street (built 1920)
6. Whitfield, Bryson & Mason — 900 West Morgan Street (built 1910)



ANSWERS: 1. (B) 2. (F) 3. (C) 4. (E) 5. (D) 6. (A)



## HOME

BY: CAMILLE STELL | PRESIDENT OF LAWYERS MUTUAL CONSULTING & SERVICES

**HOME IS MY FAVORITE STATE OF BEING.** While the WCBA is moving to a new home, Lawyers Mutual also recently found a new home. We moved our office on May 17, all the way across the parking lot. We moved from Weston II to Weston I in Cary. I love our new space. It is light filled and modern. The best part of the move was also the hardest part, the office purge. We had multiple purge parties this year as we continue to move towards being a paperless office. I don't think Warren Savage will mind me sharing, but Warren and I love our paper. And our offices were full of it. On bookshelves, the desk, the table, the floor. We had paper everywhere. And I can't speak for Warren, but I was not that person who could say, "I know where everything is."

I actually knew where nothing was. I could never find anything. That fabulous manuscript I wanted to go back and reference? No clue where to find it. That great article that I printed and hole punched and considered putting in a notebook? Nope, can't find that either. The hotel registration I printed out just in case? Beats me.

So the purge was painful. At one point, I had to stop looking at the paper (because I wanted it all) and just start tossing it in the blue recycle bins. And on my many trips to the bins, I most often found Warren standing there with his papers in hand, also trying to decide whether to let go. On one of my trips, Warren was standing there with his BARBRI study guides. Yes, you read that correctly, his BARBRI STUDY GUIDES. From 1996.

I also had drawers full of cards and thank you notes. Notes from lawyers I worked with 15 years ago. Notes from friends congratulating me on my move back to Lawyers Mutual in 2009. And birthday cards from decades past. I've been thinking about why I hold onto paper. And, in some strange connection, it's home. My work has always been another version of home for me. So it's no surprise that my office looks like my home. It includes favorite artwork, tchotchkes, photos of family and friends and plenty of books and paper. I tend to nest wherever I am. I take leaving

hard. Ask any of the law firms where I've ever worked. It takes me weeks to move out. Luckily, I've never had the experience of giving notice and being escorted to the door. Instead, I typically give notice through tears and then spend weeks wrapping up assignments, but also saying goodbye to my work family. I need goodbye lunches and goodbye drinks and goodbye coffee. I need to read every piece of paper that has surrounded me in the current home and time to decide what to move to the next home. And I typically arrive at the new home bringing a lot of baggage with me. But baggage in the best sense of the word. Memories as well as mementos. Work to me is another version of home. I've been extraordinarily lucky in that sense. My work feeds and sustains me.

Last fall, I moved out of Lawyers Mutual and into Lawyers Mutual Consulting. And earlier this spring, I moved out of one work home and into another. It didn't take me long to hang the art and arrange the photos, because that is what I do and who I am. I already love my new office and quite frankly, I'm benefiting from less paper. I was forced to get my electronic files in good order and pare the paper down to the necessities. Now I can actually find the papers that are important. And to end the suspense, Warren did manage to recycle the BARBRI study guides. And he also seems happily ensconced in his new paper-less office.

I hope you can find your version of home in your professional life. Let me know if I can help you get there. [WBF](#)



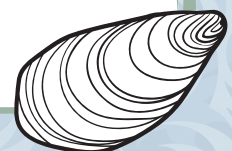
Camille Stell is the president of Lawyers Mutual Consulting & Services. Continue this conversation by contacting Camille at [camille@lawyersmutualinc.com](mailto:camille@lawyersmutualinc.com) or 800.662.8843.



### WCBA Members-Only Oyster Roast | September 19th



One of the best member events has moved to September!  
Join us from 5-7:30 p.m. on Thursday, September 19 at Haywood Hall  
(211 New Bern Place, Raleigh – across from the State Bar Building)  
for our annual Members-Only Oyster Roast. We'll be serving up barbecue, oysters and shrimp, as well as wine, beer and water. It's always a good time, and we look forward to seeing you there!







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## SELF-PUBLISHED PROFESSIONALISM : THE OTHER COACH K

BY KIMBERLY DIXON | THE NORTH CAROLINA STATE BAR



DIXON (CENTER) WITH HER CHAMPIONSHIP TEAM OF CAMPBELL STUDENTS

**I NEVER DREAMED** that I would have the opportunity to coach a team of exceptional law students to a national championship. Let's be honest: they did most of the work, but like THE Coach K, they make this Coach K look good. To be clear, I never told the team to call me Coach K. That was prompted by someone else. However, I definitely did not protest the suggestion. It is an honor and a pretty fitting nickname for me. As a very proud Duke alum, basketball fanatic and probably one of the craziest Cameron Crazies you will ever meet, I am convinced that I really do bleed Duke blue (above the skin and below).

My purpose in sharing some of my experiences during my time coaching a trial team this year is to reflect on professionalism as it relates to being an attorney. One might think that professionalism and whatever it means for a particular individual only shows itself during court hearings or interactions with clients. This is not always the case. Professionalism is an important attribute that can be evidenced in the most formal settings and in much more informal ones.

When I think about Coach K and the lens through which I have viewed him, as a Duke student, alum and overall Duke fan, I think of leadership and professionalism. Coach K is all business. When it is game time, he has one goal—leading his team. He is not interested in the media and he does not do on-court interviews before halftime or after the game (except during the NCAA tournament because it is required). He instead is more concerned with coaching his team and doing what is required to keep them focused, keep them hungry, and keep them working together as a unit.

It is easy to be professional and respectful when you have the chance to calculate and plan your remarks and interactions. It is much more difficult when things are happening quickly and your true character is tested. I found myself in that very position during a particular round of competition at the regional level in Memphis, Tennessee. Shortly after my team learned that we had moved forward to the semifinal round, we left the University

of Memphis School of Law to grab lunch before our final round of competition for the day. The competition was running behind schedule, so prior to leaving the campus, we asked the competition director if we could leave to get food before the next round began. We were told we could and we went to a restaurant which was in walking distance from the law school. We were off campus for about 45 minutes.

Upon our return, I went to the school's library for the coin toss. The coin toss happened before each round (other than the initial preliminary rounds) and determined which team represented the plaintiff or defense in a particular round. The coaches were responsible for attending the coin toss. When I arrived, the coach of the other team was already there. It was very apparent to me that the coach was frustrated, upset, annoyed, and unhappy. At the time, I was unaware of what caused the visibly unpleasant attitude. I would soon find out. The other coach called the toss, "Heads." It was tails. I selected the side of the case that we wished to represent and went upstairs to join my team.

Shortly after, the other coach entered the room. It was then that I became aware of what was upsetting the coach. It was also then that her professionalism, or lack thereof, was put on full display. Unbeknownst to my team and me, because of the delayed start time of the round, each team would only have 60 minutes to present their case, instead of the scheduled 75 minutes. The judges for the round, who were local Memphis attorneys, had family responsibilities and needed to leave at a certain time.

With that information in mind, the opposing team's coach entered the room angrily and voiced some frustrations to the entire room, including the panel of judges, regarding her team's inability to leave for food. She stated that her students had been at the competition all day, ate snacks from the vending machine and were now being "penalized" with a deduction of time by which to present their case. She did not directly state that the delay was attributed to my team going out to lunch; however, that is what her words implied-- that my team had received preferential treatment by being allowed to leave for lunch, to the disadvantage of her team.

That was the moment I felt my professionalism and my character being tested. The other coach had no issue demanding the attention of everyone in the room. It did not matter to her that law school students were in the room, both from the opposing team and from my team. It did not matter that competition coordinators and directors from the regional and national level were in the room. It did not matter that scoring judges for the competitions -- who were practicing attorneys in the Memphis area -- were in the room. It was apparent that the coach viewed her outburst as an effort to protect her team's students -- to advocate for them.





**COACH DIXON AND HER TEAM POSE WITH THEIR CHAMPIONSHIP TROPHIES**

I cannot speak for the opposing team's students or for the other individuals in the room, but what I can say is that in that moment, she lost my respect and she lost the respect of my team. In this profession, frustrations will happen. Adversity will come. But a little bit of professionalism goes a long way. In my fourth year as a practicing attorney, I have so much to learn. However, I do know that my response to situations and treatment of people is extremely important and becomes a marketing tool for myself as an attorney, the firm that I represent, and the law school I attended and represent. I did not like the coach's comments. I did not like how she chose to voice those comments. There was a better -- and a more professional and tactful -- way to express her concerns.

My initial gut reaction was to act the same way the other coach had acted. I wanted to defend my team and to make sure everyone in the room knew that we had received express permission from the competition director prior to leaving the campus. Instead, I remembered how important my professionalism is to me. I remembered that although I am still a young, newer attorney, that law school students were in the room, and that I wanted to be a good role model for them. (I also did not want to be any further distraction, as the students on both teams were preparing for a round

of competition.) I remembered that other members of the profession were in the room from whom I might possibly receive referrals in the future. I did not want to lose the respect of anyone in the room, but especially the respect of my team, who looked to me for guidance and a good pep talk prior to each round of competition.

Despite what my instincts wanted me to do, I did what Coach K would do. I kept my composure and I asked the national competition director if the two of us could speak outside in the hall (no, I was not attempting to "work the ref" as Coach K is given a tough time about). I walked the competition director through everything that had happened, and I followed up our conversation with an email so that there would be a written communication evidencing our conversation. No angry outbursts. No distractions. Just reasoned -- and effective -- resolution. At the end of the round my team was happy to learn that we advanced to the championship round of the competition and secured an invitation to the national competition.

The need for professionalism can pop up at any time and in any situation. I can only hope that I was an example to my team of what it looks like to maintain professionalism while still advocating for those you represent. And I hope I did Coach K proud. [WBF](#)



## YLD NEWS

### 2019 YLD OFFICERS

**PRESIDENT: SARAH BETH BARNES**

**SECRETARY/PRESIDENT-ELECT: JEREMY WILLIAMS**

**TREASURER: STACY LITTLE**

### UPCOMING YLD SOCIALS

**AUGUST 8 | SEPTEMBER 12**

The Young Lawyers Division is in the midst of an exciting year. The board welcomed a significant number of new members, many of whom have and already successfully hosted one or more events for the YLD community. Additionally, the YLD committees have expanded to add new members whose new ideas and willingness to help are broadening focus areas such as pro bono and public service. There is always room for more, so if you are interested in becoming a committee member please get in touch!

YLD is excited about the opportunities we have had to connect and interact with the summer clerks who are spending their summers working in the Wake County legal community. The summer clerk program on June 13 was a great opportunity to provide insight into our legal community and to get to know many of the clerks. The event was a tremendous success thanks to the exceptional planning of Meredith Pace and Jonathan Bogues, and to the participation of all of our speakers. Our summer clerks also participated in our first Summer Clerk Day of Service at Raleigh City Farm and The Green Chair Project. Be on the lookout this fall as our pro bono and public service committees launch several other events that will allow opportunities to give back to our community. We are looking forward to seeing these events take off and succeed. As always, we hope to see everyone at our monthly socials — the second Thursday of the month! Have a safe and happy summer! [WBF](#)



#### FROM LEFT TO RIGHT

- 1) YLD Summer Clerk Orientation Chairs Meredith Pace and Jonathan Bogues present to attendees.
- 2) Clerks serving at Raleigh City Farm
- 3) Clerks serving at The Green Chair Project



## WELCOME NEW MEMBERS

Saleisha Averhart | Bowens & Averhart, PLLC

Daniel Becker

Dana Bellingrath | Haas Tharrington PA

Daniel Bensley | Jones Branz & Whitaker LLP

Kerry Boehm | Ellis & Winters LLP

Galen Boerema | Boerema Law PLLC

Lynn Bruce | Solo Practitioner

Patrick Buffkin | N.C. Utilities Commission

Reighlah Collins | Disability Rights NC

Christina Cress | Nichols, Choi & Lee, PLLC

Robert Dillon

Angele Dixon | Law Office of Angele F. Dixon, PLLC

Chad Dunn | Bailey & Dixon LLP

Catharine Edwards | Edwards Kirby LLP

Kimberlee Farr | North Carolina Industrial Commission

Matthew Faucette | Faucette Law Firm, PLLC

Heather Ford | The Ford Firm PLLC

David Ford | The Ford Firm PLLC

Michael Franchi

Lisa Gessler | Disability Rights NC

Amanda Green | National Institute of Environmental Health Sciences

Gagan Gupta | McGuireWoods LLP

Serenity Hargrove | NC Prisoner Legal Services

Rashad Hauter | Dysart Willis PLLC

Anna Hedgepeth | Cranfill Sumner & Hartzog, LLP

Henry Jones | Jordan Price Wall Gray Jones & Carlton

David Knight

Nicholas Livengood | Weatherspoon & Voltz LLP

Kimberly Lott

John-Michael Machuca | Cordell Law LLP

Anna Margius | Wyrick Robbins Yates & Ponton LLP

Carrie McCann

Tanisha McCoy | Legal Aid of NC

Benjamin McLawhorn | Pierce Law Group, PLLC

Emily Meeker | Poyner Spruill LLP

Tiffanie Meyers | The Law Office of Tiffanie C. Meyers

Kathleen Miles

David Morgan | Morgan & Perry Law

Kellie Myers | Trial Court Administrator

Alexander Nicely | NC State Bar

Sanyam Parikh | Wyrick Robbins Yates & Ponton LLP

Roy Pettigrew | Cranfill Sumner & Hartzog LLP

James Piland

Sean Planchard | Wyrick Robbins Yates & Ponton LLP

William Pruden | Cheshire Parker Schneider & Bryan PLLC

Rebecca Rushton | Jones Branz & Whitaker LLP

Caroline Scarff | Kilpatrick Townsend & Stockton LLP

Lisa Schreiner | Stam Law Firm PLLC

Kelly Smith | Cary Close Family Law

Tanja Springsteen | Springsteen Law, PLLC

Kendall Stensvad | State Employees' Credit Union

Sarah Tackett | Legal Aid of North Carolina

Kristina Wilson | Yates McLamb & Weyher LLP

Jenifer Wolfe | Triangle Law Group

Jennifer Wyatt | Dysart Willis PLLC

## FOLLOW US ON SOCIAL MEDIA!





## WELCOME NEW MEMBERS

Delisa Alexander | Red Hat Inc  
 Carol Armstrong  
 Tomomi Atamas  
 Sharon Bey-Christopher | Legal Aid of NC  
 Timothy Clanton  
 Kristy Cook | Cook Legal Services, PLLC  
 Vanessa Duncan | Wake County Sheriff's Office  
 Abigail Eder | Getter Law Offices PA  
 Cala Farina  
 Jennifer Feinstein  
 Macy Fisher | Wake County Attorney's Office  
 Christy Foster  
 Andrew Glaze  
 Russell Guilfoile  
 Robert Hash | Williams Mullen  
 Susan Hauser | NCCU School of Law  
 Levette Hopkins | The Law Offices of Levette H. Hopkins  
 Jennifer Hoverstad | Forrest Firm PC  
 Michael Kaeding | Alston & Bird LLP  
 Daniel Krchnavek

Michelle Lynch | Administrative Office of the Courts  
 Amos Mills, III | Solo Practitioner  
 Caitlin Mitchell | Young Moore & Henderson PA  
 Christopher Moore | Williams Mullens  
 Joshua Morales | Parker Poe Adams & Bernstein LLP  
 Elizabeth Parrott | Parker Poe Adams & Bernstein LLP  
 Stephen Perry | K&L Gates LLP  
 Matthew Petracca | Matthew R. Petracca, Esq.  
 Morgan Pierce  
 Tanya Plekan  
 Victoria Prince  
 Jonathan Richardson | Law Office of Jonathan  
 Stephen Schilling | Alston & Bird LLP  
 Jennifer Schneier | NC League of Municipalities  
 Stacy Shak  
 Ryan Snik | McIlveen Family Law Firm  
 Melissa Taylor | NC Department of Justice  
 Judy Tseng | Wake Law Office  
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## WCBA MEMBER NEWS

Congratulations to all of our Wake County lawyers who were elected to positions or won awards at the North Carolina Bar Association's annual meeting, held June 20-22.

**President-elect:** Mark Holt, Holt Sherlin

**Board of Governors:** Katherine Wilkerson, Lynch & Eatman; Mary Nash Rusher, McGuireWoods; Linda F. Johnson, Senter, Stephenson, Johnson; Charles E. Raynal IV, Parker Poe

**Vice President:** Justice Mark Davis, N.C. Supreme Court

**Judge John J. Parker Award:** Judge Howard E. Manning, Jr.

**Legal Practice Hall of Fame:** Dan Hartzog, Raleigh, Cranfill Sumner & Hartzog  
Deborah Greenblatt Outstanding Legal Services

**Attorney Award:** TeAndra Miller, Legal Aid of NC Law School Pro Bono Service Award: Campbell Law School

**Citizen Lawyer Award:** Niya Fonville, Campbell Law School

**NCBA YLD Robinson O. Everett Professionalism Award:** Jonathan Bogues, Moore & Alphin

**NCBA YLD Chair-elect:** Kristen Kirby, McGuireWoods

**NCBA YLD Secretary:** Will Quick, Brooks Pierce  
McLendon Humphrey & Leonard

**Congratulations to Gerry Hancock of Everett Gaskins Hancock** for receiving the Lifetime Champions of Justice award from the North Carolina Justice Center.

**Smith Anderson** has announced the hiring of Jeb Jeutter, who joins the Firm's Restructuring, Insolvency and Creditors' Rights practice team, making it one of the largest and most seasoned teams of this type in the Triangle. Jeb's practice has a particular emphasis on corporate restructuring and reorganization, both in and outside of Chapter 11.

### Updates from the Bench-Bar Committee

The Bench-Bar committee is a joint Tenth Judicial District Bar and Wake County Bar Association committee which serves as a liaison between the Bar and members of the judiciary in Wake County. The committee held its first meeting of 2019 on April 29 and discussed multiple updates from the court. Of note, discussion included civil volumes, including cases unique to Wake County as the seat of state government; innovations in district court to manage certain types of cases; Raise the Age

and its effects on the courts and public defender's office; AOC data indicating that the Wake County Clerk's staff is the most overworked compared to other districts; types of OHA cases and non-judicial needs served by that office.

Reminders from the Trial Court Administrator's office included staff changes in the office as well as a reminder that new superior court divisions mean new superior court rotations starting in the spring of 2020. The County will be updating the TCA/Business Court lobby as well as the old DA's file room for Superior Court jurors so that they have space to gather outside of court in the Courthouse. Supreme Court updates included information on their 200th anniversary celebrations. In honor of the anniversary, the Supreme Court is holding sessions at various locations state-wide. A gala sponsored by the Supreme Court Historical Society will be held on October 10. The Termination of Parental Rights (TPR/3.1) appeals are going straight to the Supreme Court instead of the Court of Appeals. Call the Clerk of the Supreme Court's office for help with new procedural questions relating to the filing of TPR appeals. Raleigh), Kenneth A. Soo, and Alice Stubbs (Top 50 Women North Carolina). [WBF](#)

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## BarCARES can make a difference for Judicial District & Local Bar Members!

**BarCARES** is a confidential short-term counseling, coaching and crisis intervention program created as a cost-free way of helping attorneys locate assistance to deal with the problems that might be causing stress. BarCARES is provided cost-free to members of bar groups that establish a BarCARES program. A number of judicial district and local bars, law schools and other bar related groups across the state have already chosen to offer this program.

**BarCARES** of North Carolina, Inc. (BCNC) is a nonprofit corporation that works to expand the program to attorneys throughout North Carolina, and it monitors the overall BarCARES program operation. BarCARES, endorsed by the North Carolina Bar Association, is made possible by funding from bar groups that establish a BarCARES program, BCNC, the North Carolina Bar Association and its Foundation, and Lawyers Insurance Agency.

**BarCARES** can be used for problems such as:

### Personal Issues

- crisis intervention
- depression and anxiety
- substance abuse (drug or alcohol)
- financial concerns
- career counseling

### Family Issues

- marriage or relationship issues
- children or adolescents
- parenting
- family conflict

### Work Functions

- professional stressors
- course related stress
- conflict resolution

**BarCARES** provides members of established programs in judicial districts, bar associations, law schools and organizations up to three free visits each year. In some programs the visits may be available to family members. Contact the BarCARES Program Coordinator for information about which BarCARES services are available to you.

**BarCARES** Initiative extends a statewide program offer to any member of the NCBA who lives in an area where BarCARES is not yet available. This is a one-time benefit of three sessions under the program. You may contact the BarCARES Coordinator for information about which BarCARES services are available to you.

**BarCARES** sessions can be used to provide assistance in resolving problems or accessing the appropriate source of help. Sometimes three sessions will be enough to take care of a problem. If it looks like the problem may require a longer term solution, the initial visits may be used to help identify the problem, to develop goals and a plan, and to access an appropriate resource, often covered under your health insurance plan. Every effort will be made for you to see a counselor who is also an approved provider under your group insurance in the event you wish to continue after the program visits are used.

**BarCARES** is a confidential program, no one will know if you access the program but you and anyone you choose to tell. No personally identifiable information is shared with the BarCARES Board; the associated state, local voluntary or judicial district bar association; or any other entity without the permission of the BarCARES client/user. Additionally, any health related information included in the sessions will follow federal HIPAA Privacy & Security Rules as stated in [HRC's HIPAA Privacy & Security statement](#).

**BarCARES** program benefits are accessed by contacting the BarCARES Program Coordinator at HRC Behavioral Health & Psychiatry, PA, at 1.800.640.0735. You may also contact the BarCARES Program Coordinator just to ask questions about the program and the services it provides.

