

THE GBA NEWS DOCKET

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Gerald L. Walden, Jr.
*President of the
Greensboro Bar
Association*

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Message from the President

Hello GBA Members!

We are approaching the final stretch of the 2023-24 bar year, and it has been quite a ride thus far. Before taking a look at April, let’s briefly reflect on March.

March was another testament of the vibrancy of the GBA. From the Corporate/ Business Law Section’s networking breakfast social to a joint reception with the High Point Bar Association, alongside myriad other activities, our association thrived. Notably, during a memorable virtual membership meeting, we celebrated Attorney Erik Albright’s outstanding community service by bestowing upon him the Centennial Award, as well as welcomed the insightful perspectives of the Sisters Who Rule. These four women in the judiciary led a profound discussion centered around the word “JUSTICE” during which they challenged us all to

- (i) be Judicious in our approach to the law,
- (ii) embrace our Unique characteristics and ideas,
- (iii) challenge the Status quo,
- (iv) not be afraid to seek Therapy, if needed, and ultimately
- (v) recognize that the ICE-ing on any successful legal career is knowing the law.

A great way to cap off Women’s History Month.

As we enter April and start embracing the shift in seasons, you may find yourself drawn to the warming temperatures outdoors, eager to shed the confines of your office, the courtroom or simply being inside. While, like many of you, I welcome the opportunity to start participating in various outdoor activities and events, please remember the upcoming GBA activities that will offer the chance to foster camaraderie and connection with peers. To name a few, the two upcoming presentations for which CLE credit is being sought, the Legal Aid annual fundraiser, and the GBA’s joint April Member Meeting with the 24th Judicial Bar. These events and others are further outlined in this newsletter.

In closing, your active participation in our activities and endeavors not only enriches our collective experience but also strengthens the very foundation of the GBA. Let us continue to collaborate and inspire one another, as we strive towards even greater heights.

All the best!

Gerald L. Walden, Jr.

GBA President, 2023-2024

You can contribute news or topics of interest to the GBA by contacting Editor Jonathan M. Parisi:
jparisi@spanglerestateplanning.com

APRIL CALENDAR NOTES

- April 3** Guardian ad Litem CLE,
12:30 PM, Zoom or Fox Rothschild
- April 10** GBA Board Meeting,
4:00 PM, Self Help Building
- April 11** Odyssey eCourts Presentation,
12:30 PM, Zoom
- April 13** Benefit for Legal Aid,
5:00 PM, Boxcar Bar + Arcade
- April 17** YLS Board Meeting,
12:00 PM, CR Legal Team Office
- April 18** Annual Joint Meeting
of GBA and 24th Judicial District Bar,
5:30 PM, Starmount
- April 20** May Newsletter
Submission Deadline

[Click to keep up with GBA Events Online](#)

[Click Here for Legal Community Events](#)

Wellness Corner

BarCARES is a confidential, short-term intervention program provided cost-free to members of the 24th Judicial District Bar and other participating judicial district bars, voluntary bar associations and law schools. If you would like additional information about the program and/or its availability in your area, please contact the BarCARES coordinator at 919.929.1227 or 1.800.640.0735 or click on the icon below.

BarCARES®

Connect with us!



[GBA Young Lawyers Section](#)

[Greensboro Bar Association](#)



NOTICE

Submissions for consideration for the Greensboro Bar Association Newsletter should be made to Jonathan M. Parisi at jparisi@spanglerestateplanning.com. All written submissions should be made in Word format and should be in complete and final form, and any photographs should be submitted in jpeg format. Any photographs submitted should contain a caption identifying the person or persons in the photograph and, where applicable, other information necessary to understand the context of the photograph. Submissions made in other formats, including e-mail text submissions, may not be considered for publication.

Young Lawyers Section: Connections



Elizabeth Robertson is President of the Greensboro Bar Association's Young Lawyers Section and Personal Injury Litigation Attorney at [CR Legal Team, LLP](#)

An Update from YLS: YLS hosts a Successful Service Week!

The first week of March was busy for YLS as we hosted "YLS Service Week!" With over 10 participants for each service project, YLS enjoyed giving back to our community. On Tuesday, March 5, 2024, we celebrated Read Across America Day with the students at Hunter Elementary School by reading to classes in each grade. On Thursday, March 7, 2024, we prepared and served dinner at Greensboro Urban Ministries, feeding over 50 of our neighbors in need. On Friday, YLS raised donations to benefit the students at Hunter Elementary School. This donation fund will continue to be accessible through the Fall and we welcome your generous donations!



Scan here to donate to Hunter Elementary School

Interested in serving on the YLS Leadership Board?


If you are interested in running for a leadership position on the YLS Board, email Incoming President [Tyler Nullmeyer](#).

Upcoming YLS Events:

In May, YLS is planning a Spring Swearing-In Ceremony, in coordination with Elon Law School.


Additionally, YLS will be hosting its end of the year party in the month of May. Our annual meeting and elections will be conducted at this time!

For more information about YLS events & service opportunities, follow us on [Facebook: Greensboro Bar Association's Young Lawyers Section](#).



YLS Volunteering at Backpack Beginnings
Thursday, April 11, 2024
2:30 - 4:30 PM

Let us know you plan to participate by emailing erobertson@crlegalteam.com



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Camille Stell is President and CEO of Lawyers Mutual Consulting & Services. Continue this conversation by contacting Camille at camille@lawyersmutualnc.com or 800.662.8843.

GIVE BLOOD – SAVE LIVES

The American Red Cross reports that the United States is facing an emergency blood shortage, with the lowest number of people donating blood in 20 years.

People report a variety of reasons for not donating blood – they aren’t aware of the need, they struggle to make time in their schedule, or they are nervous about the process, they have a fear of needles or a fear of blood.

Blood donation began dropping in 2022 while the pandemic was ongoing, but blood donor numbers are on their way back to pre-pandemic levels.

My Story

My dad was a life-long blood donor. He worked less than a mile from the local Red Cross office and he would regularly donate during his lunch hour. When I was in high school and a blood drive was scheduled for our gym, I thought I would give it a try. The phlebotomist told me I had small veins, and I would probably bruise, but the process was easy enough. From that point forward, whenever a blood drive took place where I was and it was convenient, I participated. This meant an annual contribution or every other year event, and I felt good about helping.

During the pandemic, I was looking for ways to make a difference and blood donation became one of my projects. I downloaded the Red Cross App and I actively searched for opportunities. I began giving blood every quarter. The Red Cross App encouraged me to be more engaged in the process. I get reminders when I’m eligible to donate and I can track my blood journey.

For example, I gave blood on January 24th of this year. The app notifies me as my blood makes the trip towards saving a life. Within days of donation, my blood was processed and tested. My blood was spun in a centrifuge to separate the transfusable components – the red cells, platelets, and plasma. When my blood passed all the tests, my red cells were stored in a refrigerator at 42.8 degrees for up to 42 days.

Finally, my blood was delivered to the Hospital of the University of Pennsylvania in Philadelphia where it was used to save up to three lives. My blood has traveled up the East Coast as far as Pennsylvania, as far south as Georgia and across North Carolina.

If your preference is for your blood to stay local, there are other organizations such as The Blood Connection that keep the donations in your geographic location.

Who Needs Blood Donations?

Most donations are needed for cancer patients and trauma patients such as those involved in car accidents. Blood transfusions are also needed during childbirth. In the U.S., one out of every 83 mothers delivering babies need blood transfusions.

Why is a Diverse Blood Supply Important?

More than 100,000 people in the U.S. suffer from sickle cell disease which disproportionately affects individuals of African descent. A single patient with sickle cell disease can require thousands of blood transfusions throughout their lifetime.

Patients with sickle cell disease rely on regular blood transfusions to prevent complications such as organ and tissue damage, severe pain, and strokes. Frequent transfusions can make finding compatible blood types more difficult when patients develop an immune response against blood from donors that are not closely matched to the recipient. One in three African American blood donors are a match for individuals with sickle cell disease often saving them from severe complications.

My Goal

While 62% of the population is eligible, only 3% of U.S. adults donate blood. Of those who give, individuals on average donate only 1.8 times per year. While I’ve given quarterly for the past three years, my goal is to increase to five donations this year. The maximum you can donate is six times per year – every eight weeks. I’ve already searched out donation spots in my area and have marked my calendar through August.

Continued on page 10

BECOME A VOLUNTEER ATTORNEY FOR CHILDREN'S LAW CENTER

April is Child Abuse Prevention Month. Become a volunteer attorney for Children's Law Center of Central North Carolina and create safer, brighter futures for children

This is an opportunity for local attorneys to work with Children's Law Center (CLC) pro bono and help change the trajectory of a child's life. CLC provides children with quality legal advocacy in civil domestic violence cases and high conflict custody cases. Our simple training and onboarding process will ensure that volunteer attorneys will be trained and supported by CLC staff. Once a volunteer attorney completes this process, they work in a very similar role to our staff attorneys.

Due to the possibility of conflicts, family law attorneys are not eligible for the CLC Volunteer Attorney Program.

Since Children's Law Center's founding, pro bono lawyers have been vital to our ability to serve children and collaborate with community partners. Many committed attorneys have worked with us and served as a voice

for vulnerable children in court. CLC is prioritizing recruiting, training, and supporting volunteer attorneys who are passionate about advocating for children in domestic violence protective order and/or high conflict custody cases in Guilford County.

By listening to children respectfully, understanding the adverse experiences in their lives, and advocating for their best interests, Children's Law Center's staff and volunteers elevate children's voices and provide them with pathways and supports that lead to better outcomes and safer, brighter futures.

To share your time and talents and learn more about CLC's pro bono opportunities, please visit our website and complete the volunteer attorney form.

Thank you.

Paige Bernston Gillard

Director, Custody Advocacy Program & GBA Member

FREE 1-HOUR CLE LUNCH AND LEARN

This CLE will provide training for non-family lawyers to be Guardian ad Litem in cases in district court.

When:
Wednesday, April 3, 2024
12:30 – 1:30 PM

For GBA members only.

Members may attend in person (if one of the first 30 to register) or via Zoom. Space is limited to 30 on site. Lunch will be provided by Fox Rothschild beginning at 12:15 PM. One hour of General CLE credit pending. The presenter will be Iris Sunshine, Executive Director of The Children's Law Center.

Note: Registrants will receive an email from Diane Lowe with a lunch reservation confirmation or the Zoom link.

[Register Here.](#)

ODYSSEY E-FILE PRESENTATION

All Members of the GBA and 24th Judicial Bar are invited to learn about the new eCourts E-file System (Odyssey).

When:
Thursday, April 11, 2024,
12:30 – 1:30 PM

This VIRTUAL presentation will provide an overview, tips and training resources for the new E-file System (AKA Odyssey or Enterprise Justice) that will go live in Guilford County on April 29, 2024. The General Rules of Practice have been changed, requiring all attorneys to use the eCourts E-file system.

One-hour of Technology CLE credit has been applied for. This is a new presentation. Approval is not guaranteed.

Our presenter will be the Honorable Stephanie Reese, Superior Court Judge for District 24B of the North Carolina 4th Superior Court Division.

[Register Here.](#)

THE GREENSBORO BAR ASSOCIATION PRESENTS

A BENEFIT FOR LEGAL AID OF NORTH CAROLINA

Saturday, April 13, 2024
5:00 – 7:30 PM

Boxcar Bar + Arcade
120 W Lewis Street

PLATINUM SPONSORS



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Admission

\$60 in advance
\$75 at the door

or mail a check payable
to *GBA Foundation* to:

P.O. Box 1825
Greensboro, NC 27402

Click or Scan to
Register Online!



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GBA 2024 ANNUAL PICNIC AT THE BALLPARK

Join us for an afternoon of food, fun and baseball as the Greensboro Grasshoppers take on the Winston-Salem Dash!

Every GBA member is invited to attend with your immediate family (spouse/partner and kids) OR one (1) guest. *(This event is not open to your staff, a group of friends or your children's friends.)*

Sunday, May 5

Picnic Buffet: 1:30-3:00 p.m.

Game Time: 2:00 p.m.

First National Bank Field
408 Bellemeade St.
Greensboro, NC

[Register Here](#)

When registering, please indicate the number of adults age 18+ and the list the AGE OF EACH CHILD under age 18.

Admission tickets and picnic wristbands will be available for pickup on gameday at the Bellemeade Street gate.



YOUNG LAWYERS SECTION: CONNECTIONS CONTINUED FROM PAGE 3

YLS Board Member Spotlight: John Wright



John Wright

John Wright practices at McDonald Wright LLP here in Greensboro. He practices primarily personal injury law on behalf of injured plaintiffs. When asked what he is proud of, John stated: "I'm proud that I've been able to run a successful firm this early in my career, and that I have been able to get my long-time practicing dad to come and join

me. I never thought that would happen, but it's been one of the best times of my life." John's favorite part of his job is the opportunity to problem solve situations and provide real solutions that make his clients' lives better.

For more information about John and his firm, visit <https://mwlawfirm.law/our-people>

Connect with YLS:

To provide feedback & suggestions for future events/programming, please email the Young Lawyers Section at info@greensboroyls.org.

The Young Lawyers Section would like to celebrate the personal milestones and professional accomplishments of its members. Email YLS at info@greensboroyls.org to share achievements that you would like celebrated on the [YLS Facebook page](#).

MANISHA PATEL RECOGNIZED ON THE NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF WOMEN LAWYERS (NAWL) RISING LIST FOR 2024

GBA President-Elect, Manisha Patel, has been named to the prestigious National Association of Women Lawyers (NAWL) Rising List for 2024. This recognition celebrates Patel's outstanding contributions to the legal profession and her commitment to advancing women in law.



Manisha P. Patel

Patel, known for her exceptional legal acumen and dedication to advocating for justice, has been instrumental in championing women's rights and equality within the legal sphere. Her tireless efforts and remarkable achievements have garnered widespread recognition and respect from her peers and the legal community at large. As a recipient of this esteemed honor, Patel joins a select group of rising stars in the legal profession who have demonstrated exemplary leadership, innovation, and dedication to their craft. Through her work, she continues to inspire future generations

of women lawyers to strive for excellence and make meaningful contributions to the legal field.

Commenting on her inclusion in the NAWL Rising List, Manisha Patel said, "It is a tremendous honor to be recognized by the National Association of Women Lawyers. This acknowledgment reaffirms my commitment to promoting diversity, equity, and inclusion within the legal profession and women in and under the law."

The NAWL Rising List recognizes emerging women lawyers, early- to mid-career, who have shown exceptional promise in their careers and have made significant contributions to their respective fields. This prestigious accolade serves as a testament to Patel's dedication, leadership, and unwavering commitment to excellence.

About NAWL:

The National Association of Women Lawyers (NAWL) is a leading organization dedicated to promoting the interests and advancement of women lawyers. Through advocacy, networking, and professional development initiatives, NAWL strives to empower women in the legal profession and promote gender equality in all aspects of the law.



ERIK ALBRIGHT PRESENTED WITH CENTENNIAL AWARD

The Greensboro Bar Association's 2023 Centennial Award for outstanding and exemplary community service was presented to D. Erik Albright at the virtual member meeting on

March 21, 2024. Colleague Rick Coughlin made the presentation.

Erik Albright received his undergraduate degree from Duke University in 1987 and his J.D. from Vanderbilt University Law School in 1990. He started his practice of law in October 1990 at the Smith Moore firm and eventually became a partner there. In 2018, his firm, Smith Moore Leatherwood, combined with Fox Rothschild, and Erik became a member of the firm's national Executive Committee. He has served on the board of directors of several community organizations, including (a) the Community Foundation



D. Erik Albright

of Greater Greensboro on its Executive and Steering Committees and its Future Fund; (b) the Greensboro Sports Council as its past Chair and past President; (c) the Habitat for Humanity of Greater Greensboro; and (d) Tournament Hosts of Greensboro as its past Chair. Erik has developed an extensive civil litigation practice. In the sports industry, Erik's representations include the Atlantic Coast Conference; professional football, baseball and soccer teams; a national amateur sports organization; the local organizers of Greensboro's PGA TOUR golf tournament; and multiple other sports organizations. Erik has also been recognized for his litigation talent, including the Business North Carolina's Legal Elite, North Carolina Super Lawyers, and Best Lawyers in America. Erik is active in regional and national bar organizations and industry groups relating to his practice areas. He also has served as an adjunct professor of law at Wake Forest University's School of Law and at Elon University's School of Law, where he has taught each of their respective sports law classes.

We are pleased to recognize Erik for his dedicated service to the community and his commitment to making it a better place for all.

JIM SLAUGHTER RECEIVES LIFETIME CONTRIBUTION AWARD



Jim Slaughter

Jim Slaughter, a partner at Law Firm Carolinas, received the Don Buck Lifetime Contribution Award at the 2024 Community Association Law Seminar in Las Vegas. The award recognizes attorneys who have demonstrated exceptional commitment to the community association industry. Jim is a past President of the national College of Community Association Lawyers as well as the North Carolina Chapter of the Community Associations Institute. He has written four books on association meeting procedure, including the recent *Robert's Rules of Order Fast Track*.

ANNOUNCING SLATE OF GBA OFFICERS & DIRECTORS 2024-2025

The nominations were submitted by the 2023-2024 Nominating Committee:

Marcus Shields (Chair), Gerald Walden, Manisha Patel, Judge Bill Davis, Afi Johnson-Parris, Elizabeth Robertson and Jon Wall.

Voting will take place at the Annual Joint Meeting of the Greensboro Bar Association and the 24th Judicial District Bar on **April 18, 2024** at Starmount Forest Country Club.

The following members have been nominated to serve as officers of the Greensboro Bar Association for June 1, 2024 to May 31, 2025:

GBA President Elect (24th JD VP): Judge William B. Davis

GBA/24th JD Secretary: Hillary M. Kies

GBA/24th JD Treasurer: Davis McDonald

The following members have been nominated to serve as directors of the Greensboro Bar Association for a second 3-year term starting June 1, 2024 and ending in May 31, 2027:

Judge K. Michelle Fletcher

L. Nicole Patino

Nicole R. Scallon

GIVE BLOOD - SAVE LIVES CONTINUED FROM PAGE 4

Donors must be 17 years and older, weigh at least 110 pounds and be in good health. Prior to donating, you should be fully hydrated, have eaten a full meal including iron rich foods, and have enjoyed some form of exercise. I take a brisk walk and drink water all morning before donating.

Make sure you have your photo ID with you as well as your medication list. You can save time by completing the RapidPass questionnaire via the Red Cross App on the day of your appointment.

When I arrive, a Red Cross team member will take my temperature, pulse, blood pressure and hemoglobin level. I must answer a few questions in addition to the RapidPass documentation, then I'm ready to donate. It typically takes me 20 minutes to donate once I'm on the donation table, though times vary among individuals.

I typically donate at churches or community centers. In January I donated in Zebulon, and the local middle school provided student volunteers who greeted donors, made nametags (and decorated them!), and provided us with snacks afterwards. There's usually music playing and a sociable vibe. I always have a podcast ready for listening, but I usually engage in conversation with the employees and other donors instead.

Afterwards, donors are encouraged to rest for 15 minutes at the donation location with a snack and water or juice which is provided. Avoid alcohol over the next 24 hours and avoid heavy lifting or vigorous exercise for the rest of the day.

Be a Donor or Host a Blood Drive

I would encourage you to become a blood donor. Download the Red Cross app or go online and find a donation site near you. Invite a friend to join you for support as well as double the donation. Or even better, encourage the Greensboro Bar Association, Elon Law School, or your own law firm or company to host a blood drive. Usually, you only need to provide the location, the Red Cross provides everything else.

Help reduce the blood shortage, increase the number of blood donors and donations per donor, and save lives at the same time.

Camille Stell is the President of Lawyers Mutual Consulting & Services and the co-author of the book, RESPECT – An Insight to Attorney Compensation Plans available from Amazon. Continue this conversation by contacting Camille at camille@lawyersmutualconsulting.com or 800.662.8843.



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