

THE GBA NEWS DOCKET

VOLUME 75, NUMBER 4; DECEMBER 2025



GREENSBORO BAR ASSOCIATION



Hon. Bill Davis,
President of the
Greensboro Bar
Association

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You can contribute news or topics
of interest to the GBA by contacting
Editor Preston Edwards:
preston@denclaw.com

Message from the President

"And in despair I bowed my head;

'There is no peace on earth,' I said;

For hate is strong,

And mocks the song

Of peace on earth, good-will to men!"

Then pealed the bells more loud and deep:

'God is not dead, nor doth He sleep;

The Wrong shall fail,

The Right prevail,

With peace on earth, good-will to men."

Christmas Bells, by Henry Wadsworth Longfellow, 1863

The desire and prayer for peace seems eternal. Running just alongside it is the history of conflict and war, seeming equally eternal. We live in a time that is marked by all manners of discord and division. Although our nation is not as divided nor our crisis as acute as in Longfellow's time, we cannot turn our heads from events of global and political violence.

We have seen figures on all sides of the political spectrum targeted for their beliefs and their speech. Some prominent figures turn a deaf ear to rhetoric that kindles such violence, or give in to the temptation to speak too harshly or too quickly without considering the impact of their words. We even hear whispered speculation on whether our country is becoming so divided that we may face a new civil war – not of North and South, but of left and right.

Longfellow wrote his poem themed on the bells of Christmas, and focused on good will to men. These days, we would say good will to all. And the sentiment is not limited to those who celebrate Christmas. Whatever your religion, or if you have none, the end-of-year holiday period offers a chance to reexamine and recommit ourselves to our best selves and highest goals. Hopefully, we have a small break from the office or the courtroom. We connect with family and loved ones. We share a meal, we bring a gift, we offer a prayer, we open our hearts.

Lawyers often encounter conflict through the nature of our work. However, we also learn that we can engage these conflicts under rules of professionalism and decorum. We can disagree, even strongly, without personal attacks on opposing counsel and certainly without resorting to violence. In the event we sometimes lose patience or our temper (haven't we all at some points?), we can correct ourselves and do better for the future. Saying that we are sorry doesn't mean that we are weak, or that we won't continue to work hard for our clients.

So, in the spirit of the season, I hope you will join us for GBA's Holiday Party on December 9. Have a bite to eat, and a couple of drinks. Enjoy the fellowship of our colleagues. Maybe shake the hand of the opposing counsel that made you mad recently. And reflect on all the things that we can do to make a difference in the world. Remember the ways that in the midst of disagreements, we can work toward a greater goal: Peace on earth, good will to all.

Hon. Bill Davis
President, Greensboro Bar Association
and the 24th Judicial District Bar

CALENDAR NOTES

December 9 GBA Board Meeting,
4:00 PM, Zoom

December 9 Holiday Party,
5:30 PM, Yvonne J. Johnson Event Center
at Barber Park

December 17 YLS Board Meeting,
12:00 PM, Self-Help Building

January 6 GBA Board Meeting,
4:00 PM, Self-Help Building

January 15 GBA Member Dinner,
5:30 PM, Starmount Forest Country Club

January 21 YLS Board Meeting,
12:00 PM, Self-Help Building

[GBA Events Online](#) [Legal Community Events](#)

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NEW MEMBERS

Approved on November 12, 2025

Joshua Lee Bowers
Greensboro City Attorney's Office
Category: Public Service
Endorser: Rosetta Davis

John Graham Monroe
Guilford Public Defender's Office
Category: Public Service
Endorser: Alex Snow

Kiera Payton Connolly
Triad Legal Group, Inc.
Category: Newly Licensed
Endorser: Sharon E. Dunmore

Elijah James Stephens
Guilford Co. DA's Office
Category: Newly Licensed
Endorser: Sarah H. Roane

Darley J. Solomon, III
Fox Rothschild, LLP
Category: Newly Licensed
Endorser: Cordon M. Smart

Bryan Hernandez
Chapman & Roberts, P.A.
Category: Newly Licensed
Endorser: Adam K. Roberts

Noah McDuff
Fox Rothschild, LLP
Category: Newly Licensed
Endorser: Evan Kent Auberry

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®

NOTICE

Submissions for consideration for the Greensboro Bar Association Newsletter should be made to Preston Edwards at preston@denclaw.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.



Jonathan Parisi is President of the Greensboro Bar Association's Young Lawyers Section and Attorney at [Spangler Estate Planning](#)

Young Lawyers Section: Connections

As we move into the holiday season, the Young Lawyers Section is filled with gratitude for the opportunities we've had to connect with our colleagues and serve our community throughout the year. November has been a quieter month for us, but we're looking forward to gathering with everyone at the GBA Holiday Party on December 9, 2025.

The event is always a great chance to unwind, celebrate our collective accomplishments, and enjoy fellowship with members across all sections of our Bar.



Holiday Donation Drive: Supporting The Family Room Triad

This season, the YLS is proud to host a **donation drive** benefiting **The Family Room Triad**, a local organization providing essential resources to children and families involved in temporary and permanent foster care.

We'll be collecting donations **before and at the Holiday Party**. The items most in need are:

- Diapers (sizes 4–5)
- Teen and adult underwear (undergarments)
- Teen sports bras

As a thank-you, each donor will receive a **raffle ticket for a chance to win a prize** during the Holiday Party! Your generosity helps ensure that local families and youth in foster care have the support they need this holiday season.

Upcoming Collaboration: Mentorship & Networking Event

In the spirit of connection and professional growth, the YLS is partnering with the Mentorship and Membership Committees to host an upcoming networking and mentorship event.

This joint effort will bring together attorneys of all ages and practice levels to foster meaningful mentorship relationships and build bridges across our legal community. Stay tuned for more details and event registration information in the coming weeks!



Alexis M. Holloway

YLS Member Spotlight: Alexis M. Holloway, of Constangy, Brooks, Smith & Prophete

Alexis is an Employment Litigation Associate at Constangy, Brooks, Smith & Prophete LLP, where her work involves employment litigation defense and prevention. Additionally, she often conducts workplace investigations, drafts and reviews employment related agreements, and responds to EEOC Charges.

What's a fun or surprising fact about you?

A fun fact is that while in law school, I took a Prisoners' Rights Course with an accompanying study-abroad trip to Johannesburg and Cape Town, South Africa.

Who has been a mentor or influence in your legal career?

A huge mentor and influence in my legal career has been Nicole Patino, who is also a member of GBA and former YLS President. I went to Elon Law where we have a residency program during our 2L year, and I was placed with Nicole at her boutique Labor and Employment law firm. Ever since my residency, she has helped me grow in my career and provided endless support.

Connect with YLS

The Young Lawyers Section would like to celebrate the personal milestones and professional accomplishments of its members. Email YLS at younglawyerssection@greensborobar.org to share achievements that you would like celebrated on our social media platform and in the GBA's member newsletter!

We're excited to close out the year with service, fellowship, and celebration. On behalf of the Young Lawyers Section, I wish all of our members a joyful, restful, and fulfilling holiday season.



Camille Stell
is Vice President
of Risk & Practice
Management for
Lawyers Mutual
Liability Insurance
Co. of NC. Continue
this conversation
by contacting
Camille at camille@lawyersmutualnc.com
or 800.662.8843.

2025 LOOK BACK: ENDING THE YEAR WITH PURPOSE

As the year winds down, many lawyers find themselves caught between finishing client work and preparing for the holidays. The December rush can feel like a sprint - closing files, sending invoices, and checking CLE credits before the calendar turns. But December also offers something rare in the life of a busy lawyer: a natural pause.

For solo and small firm lawyers, this is the perfect time to look back on what worked, what didn't, and what can be improved in the year ahead. Taking a few intentional hours to reflect and plan can turn a routine year-end into a powerful foundation for 2026.

1. Reflect on the Wins and Lessons

Before looking forward, take stock of where you've been. Reflection isn't just about success - it's about clarity. Ask yourself:

- What am I most proud of this year?
- What did I do differently that worked well?
- What challenges did I face repeatedly, and what might I do differently next time?

Write your answers down. Seeing them on paper helps transform vague impressions into actionable insight. You might realize, for example, that investing in a new case management system paid off, or that taking Fridays for administrative work kept your week on track. You may also recognize patterns, like always being overextended in the fourth quarter, that can guide better decision-making next year.

Don't forget to celebrate the wins, large and small. Too often, lawyers move straight from one challenge to the next without acknowledging progress. Whether it's bringing on a new client, meeting a revenue goal, or simply maintaining balance during a hectic year, those victories deserve recognition.

2. Review Your Finances and Practice Metrics

A clear-eyed financial review helps you enter the new year with confidence. Look beyond

your bank balance to understand the health of your practice:

- **Revenue and collections:** Which clients or practice areas were most profitable? Are there accounts receivable that need follow-up?
- **Expenses:** Where did your money go? Identify both necessary costs and potential savings.
- **Budget planning:** Use this year's data to forecast 2026, not just for taxes, but to make informed decisions about hiring, marketing, and technology investments.

If you haven't met with your accountant yet, schedule that appointment before the holidays. A brief year-end tax review can uncover opportunities to maximize deductions or adjust timing on expenses.

For solos and small firms, consider also tracking non-financial metrics: number of new clients, referral sources, turnaround time on matters, or client satisfaction feedback. These measurements can reveal valuable insights into how your practice is evolving.

3. Reconnect with Your Team and Clients

December is a natural time to express gratitude and strengthen relationships. Take a few minutes to personally thank those who supported your practice - clients, staff, vendors, and referral partners. A handwritten card or note or a short email expressing appreciation can leave a lasting impression.

If you have staff, consider a short "year in review" meeting. Invite everyone to share accomplishments and ideas for improvement. This simple exercise not only boosts morale but also provides insight into what's working day-to-day in your office. This meeting can also be prep for year-end reviews, but in a less stressful setting where the comfort of the team provides for a productive sharing of wins.

For clients, a holiday message or a year-end newsletter can remind them of your services and demonstrate stability and professionalism. Rather than think of

Continued on page 14

GBA PRO BONO AWARD PRESENTED TO RUSSELL M. ROBINSON, III

Russ Robinson received the 2025 Greensboro Bar Association Pro Bono Award at the November 20, 2025 member meeting held at Greensboro Country Club.

Established in 1996, the Greensboro Bar Association's Pro Bono Award recognizes a GBA member for their significant contributions to providing free legal services to those in need. It acknowledges a member who has demonstrated a strong commitment to pro bono work, helping those who lack access to legal representation.

Attorney Robinson was recognized for his outstanding service in the aftermath of Tropical Storm Helene. Russ demonstrated extraordinary dedication, compassion, and perseverance in providing disaster legal services to people in Western North Carolina immediately after Helene and throughout 2025.

Russ went above and beyond by personally traveling to disaster relief centers, where he met face-to-face with survivors and offered not only legal advice, but genuine support and reassurance. He did not limit his work to quick consultations or surface-level guidance. Instead, Russ took on cases directly, following through on complex legal issues that many might have left unresolved. Even when the answers were not straightforward or when others might have stopped at providing basic advice, Russ pushed further—ensuring that clients had real access to justice and meaningful outcomes.



Presenter Karen McKeithen Schaede, Russ Robinson

What sets Russ apart is his unwavering client-centered focus. He consistently placed the needs of survivors above his own, dedicating his time and energy to making sure their voices were heard and their rights protected. His work reflects not only legal excellence but also deep empathy, resilience, and commitment to our mission of serving those most in need.

Please join us in congratulating our colleague for his exemplary service.

MCMILLAN AWARD: HONORING R. STEVE BOWDEN

Attorney R. Steve Bowden received the John B. McMillan Distinguished Service Award, which honors current and retired members of the North Carolina State Bar who have demonstrated exemplary service to the legal profession. The award was presented at the November meeting of the Greensboro Bar Association.

Mr. Bowden has been in private practice (R. Steve Bowden & Associates, PC) for over 40 years, handling civil litigation. His primary areas of practice are Personal Injury and Workers' Compensation.

Throughout his career, Attorney Bowden has served many organizations including Elon University School of Law, Greensboro Chamber of Commerce, Greensboro Sports Council, North Carolina A&T University, Board of Governors of the North Carolina Academy of Trial Lawyers, Guilford County Association of Black Lawyers, and North Carolina Advocates for Justice to name a few. He dedicates numerous hours to pro bono work each year.



Judge Patrice Hinnant (State Bar Councilor) and Steve Bowden



JANET WARD BLACK

February 15, 1959 – November 2, 2025

On November 2, 2025, Janet Ward Black, a beautiful child of God and woman of valor, left the arms of her loving husband and moved into those of her Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ. In addition to her husband, Gerard Davidson, Janet Ward is survived by her brother, Frank Black III (Bonnie); niece, Frances Delgatty (Grant); nephew, Franklin Black IV (Cherise); and numerous nieces, nephews, and cousins. Also surviving her is her aunt, Avis Ridenhour, her sister-in-law, Jan Green, and two stepsons, Clay Davidson and Walker Davidson (Jane).

A graduate of Davidson College and Duke University School of Law, Black has been a leader in several prominent legal organizations. She made history as the third woman to serve as president of the North Carolina Association of Trial Lawyers (now the North Carolina Advocates for Justice) and the fourth woman to hold the presidency of the North Carolina Bar Association. She was only the second lawyer in history to lead both organizations. She was currently serving as the Vice-Chairman of the Board of Legal Aid of North Carolina.

Janet Ward's career is a testament to her exceptional leadership, dedication, and commitment to the legal profession and her community. Some of her most remarkable achievements include:

As the president of the North Carolina Bar Association (NCBA), Black created the "4ALL" program, a groundbreaking initiative that provides free legal services to underserved individuals. This telephone call-in day, involving over 1,000 attorneys, has been used as a model for similar programs in the US and Canada. More than 129,000 North Carolinians have received free legal advice from over 7,000 volunteers through this program, solidifying her legacy of public service and access to justice.

The NCBA and its Foundation established the Legal Aid of North Carolina (LANC) – Loan Repayment Assistance Program (LRAP) to help with law school loan repayment for legal aid attorneys at specific law schools. Under Janet Ward's presidency in 2007 – 2008, the fund raised \$863,000 toward a \$1,000,000 goal. The LANC/LRAP fund total as of year-end 2024 was over \$3 million.

Consistently recognized for her expertise and skill, Black was named to The Best Lawyers in America, North Carolina Super Lawyers, and North Carolina's Legal Elite for over a decade. Her law firm, Ward Black Law, has been ranked as one of the Best Law Firms in America by US News & World Report since 2010. She has also been named Personal Injury "Lawyer of the Year" in the Triad region by US News & World Report twice.

In May of this year, Janet Ward was presented the inaugural Trailblazer Award by the Women in Law Section of the NCBA, and as recently as October 2025, she was inducted into the NCBA Hall of Fame.

JANET WARD BLACK

In addition to her legal work, Janet Ward devoted herself to public service, receiving the prestigious Order of the Long Leaf Pine, North Carolina's highest civilian honor, in recognition of her significant contributions to the state. She has been a dedicated volunteer and served on numerous non-profit boards, including Hood Theological Seminary and the International Cooperating Ministries, demonstrating her commitment to both her community and global outreach. She was a member of various professional organizations, including Women's Presidents' Organization and C12, a Christian CEO group.

Janet Ward's work has earned her numerous prestigious awards, including the North Carolina Bar Association Litigation Section's Advocate's Award, the Walter Clark Award from the NC Advocates for Justice, the C12 Hero Award from the Christian CEOs and Business Owners Group and the Greensboro Bar Association Distinguished Service Award in 2012, the highest honor bestowed by the organization. These accolades highlight her dedication to excellence in law, ethics, and community service.

Beyond her professional accolades, Black has served as a motivational speaker, philanthropist, and legal educator, inspiring and mentoring numerous aspiring lawyers and young professionals. She served on various non-profit boards and has been deeply involved in international mission trips. She has spoken at over fifty civic, community, and youth organizations and actively participated in leadership and legal education forums. Except for this year, Black has been the keynote speaker at the American Legion Auxiliary (ALA) Tar Heel Girls State since 1989, speaking to over 200 young women on the topic of the Judiciary and Law as a Profession for Women.

Janet Ward has set a high standard in the legal profession and her community through her remarkable achievements and enduring commitment to justice, leadership, and service. Her contributions have shaped the landscape of North Carolina's legal system and inspired future generations of leaders.

In addition to the recognition noted above, Janet Ward has received numerous honors, awards, and recognition for her exceptional contributions to the legal profession, community service, and leadership.

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These include:

Legal and Professional Recognition:

- North Carolina Bar Association Litigation Section's Advocate's Award (2018) – Recognizing skill, ethics, and dedication to clients and the community.
- Personal Injury "Lawyer of the Year" in the Triad region by US News & World Report (2013, 2020).
- The Walter Clark Award (2021) – The highest award from the NC Advocates for Justice.
- Thurgood Marshall Award (2021) – Presented by NC Advocates for Justice.
- Ebbie Award (2019) – Recognizing outstanding contributions to the legal profession.
- Kellie Crabtree Award (2015) – Awarded by the NC Advocates for Justice.
- Citizen Lawyer Award (2013) – Awarded by the North Carolina Bar Association.
- Woman of Justice Award (2012) – From North Carolina Lawyers Weekly.

JANET WARD BLACK

- Athena Award (2012) – Presented by Partnership Greensboro.
- Duke Law School Distinguished Alumni Award for Public Service (2010).
- North Carolina Bar Distinguished Service Award (2010).
- “Women in Business” Award (2009) – From The Business Journal.
- Super Lawyers Recognition (2006-2024) – Consistently named to North Carolina Super Lawyers, including recognition as one of the top 50 women attorneys in the state (2006-2015, 2018).
- Best Lawyers in America (2007-2024) – Listed annually for excellence in the field of law.
- Named “Largest Women-Led Law Firm” by North Carolina Lawyers Weekly (2024).
- Named “Icon” by North Carolina Lawyers Weekly (2023).
- Named to the “50 Most Influential Women” in North Carolina by North Carolina Lawyers Weekly (2024).

Community and Public Service Recognition:

- Greensboro’s Woman of the Year (2018) – Awarded by the Community Foundation of Greater Greensboro.
- Recipient of the N.C. Jaycees Award of Excellence (1980).
- Named “Business Associate of the Year” by the American Business Women’s Association, Reidsville Chapter (1994).
- Named “Woman Extraordinaire” by BizLife Magazine (2007).
- Recipient of “Outstanding Community Leaders of America” (1987).
- “2008 Impact Law Leader” by Triad Business Leader Magazine.

Educational and Leadership Contributions:

- Recipient of the Charles Murphy Award for Public Service by Duke Law School (2010).
- Named a “2008 Impact Law Leader” by Triad Business Leader Magazine.
- Named a “Woman of Achievement” by the General Federation of Women’s Clubs of North Carolina (2007).

These honors attest to her exceptional leadership in both the legal profession and her broader community, recognizing her advocacy, public service, and the substantial impact she has made throughout her career.

Janet Ward’s life was a living testimony of her faith in Jesus Christ. She devoted her life to serving others — through her work as an attorney, her leadership in the community, and her ministry of generosity and encouragement. Her heart for people reflected her favorite scripture from Matthew 25: “Whatever you did for one of the least of these brothers and sisters of mine, you did for me.” She walked humbly with God, loved deeply, and left behind a legacy of faith in action. Over the course of 33 years, Janet Ward worked tirelessly for the firm’s clients, living up to her mission to seek justice, give generously, and love lavishly. Leading a staff of 28, Janet Ward imparted her dedication and spirit of faithful service to everyone who worked with her. She was a member of First Presbyterian Church of Greensboro and attended the Seekers Sunday School Class, taught by her husband.





ROBERT ONAN KLEPFER, JR.

December 23, 1942 – October 24, 2025

On Friday evening, October 24, 2025, Jesus welcomed a very special man into Heaven. Robert (“Bob”) Onan Klepfer, Jr. died peacefully at Wake Forest Baptist Cancer Center surrounded by his family. He was special indeed. He was kind, generous, dedicated, faithful, funny. He lived for others. He gave himself away to his family and friends, to his community, to his church and Lord, Jesus. He lived his faith. Bob was truly a special man.

Bob was a true Tar Heel, born and bred, and a special fan of the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill. Born in Lenoir, North Carolina, Bob grew up in Mooresville, North Carolina, where his father was the band director for Junior and Senior High Schools. Bob graduated from Mooresville Senior High School with honors in 1961 and went on to UNC-CH where he also graduated with honors. At UNC-CH he continued with band, playing drums when marching and oboe in concert. Bob spent two years and two summers preparing to enter law school under the early admission program. Bob and Joretta married on June 2, 1963; then Joretta went to work and Bob started law school. Bob passed the bar examination in 1966 and proudly arrived in Greensboro ready to start his legal career at the law firm of Stern, Rendleman and Isaacson.

Bob was truly a special man. As a young lawyer Bob soon found ways he could help others, sometimes using his training as a lawyer and other times offering his leadership skills, while always generous with his time and with loving concern for the people he served. Bob’s life’s work serving others included service to Drug Action Council of Greensboro, Greensboro Urban Ministry, Crisis Control Center, Greensboro Native American Association, Bennett College, North Carolina Center for Non-Profits, Action Greensboro (Director June 26 – December, 2007), and Board Chairman and board member of Greensboro Symphony Orchestra for many years. He also served in leadership positions for Mental Health Association of Greensboro and Guilford County, Mental Health Association of North Carolina, and the National Mental Health Association.

As Executive Director of the Tannenbaum-Sternberger Foundation Bob was a special man for the non-profit community of Guilford County, serving with dedication those who needed assistance of any kind, making sure the Board of Directors had the information they needed to make decisions about the requests for grants.

Bob was a special man to the congregation of First Lutheran Church. He taught Sunday School for more than 25 years, served on the Social Ministry and Stewardship Committees and served the Church Council in leadership positions including two separate terms as President. Bob was the “go-to” man of choice for Master of Ceremonies at special events. His sly humor could easily lift the room to raucous laughter and yet his faithful side would always be present to honor and praise God.

In Memoriam

ROBERT ONAN KLEPFER, JR.

Bob was a special man to his family. He was named after his father and proudly bore his name: Robert O. Klepfer. His mother was Hilda Ethel Montgomery. Both parents are now deceased, as are a sister, Barbara Klepfer Brown, and a nephew, Morris Haywood.

Family members who survive are his wife of 62 years, Joretta Kennerly Klepfer; son, Robert O. Klepfer, III; brother, Walter F. Klepfer (Sherry); nieces and nephew: Kassandra, Cheryl, Lisa, David, and Lauren as well as multiple aunts, uncles and cousins

FOX ROTHSCHILD KEEPS THE STORY GOING FOR READING CONNECTIONS

Fox Rothschild's Greensboro office continues to write its story of community impact through its support of Reading Connections, a nonprofit dedicated to transforming lives through literacy. For 35 years, Reading Connections has helped adults and children in Guilford County read, write, and dream bigger. Fox's support helps ensure that mission keeps moving forward.

At Reading Connections' 35th Anniversary, Fox Partner Terrill Johnson Harris joined community leaders and supporters to honor the organization's achievements. The event featured a keynote from Frank McCain, Jr., CEO of United Way of Greater Greensboro, highlighting the ongoing collaboration needed to strengthen opportunity through education. One in five residents struggles with literacy skills, but thanks to Reading Connections, that story is being rewritten.

Fox Rothschild's support of Reading Connections reflects the spirit of **Generation Fox**, the firm's nationwide initiative to empower youth and create lasting impact. It's all about giving back in meaningful ways—because when communities thrive, everyone wins.



Fox Rothschild Partner Terrill Johnson Harris (pictured on the right) is seen at Reading Connections' 35th Anniversary with Jean Pudlo (on the left), the first Executive Director of Reading Connections. Fox's participation was made possible by Generation Fox.

GREENSBORO BAR ASSOCIATION FOUNDATION IS ACCEPTING NOMINATIONS FOR FELLOWS PROGRAM

The purpose of the Greensboro Bar Association ("GBA") Fellows program is two-fold. First, to recognize members who have distinguished themselves in the profession by electing them to membership as "Fellows." Secondly, to allow the Greensboro Bar Association Foundation to continue to operate and support various law-related charities, as well as to support other purposes for which the Foundation was established.

The membership will be limited to a maximum of ten percent (10%) of the GBA membership (currently 800 members). Each fellow will pledge to contribute \$2,000 in either a one-time gift or over a five (5) year period.

The class of fellows will be announced at the GBA membership meeting in April 2026.

To nominate a fellow use the online nomination form by **December 31, 2025**.

Nominations can be submitted [online here](#).

View the list of GBA Foundation Fellows roster [HERE](#).

The Fellow Committee consists of:

Jason Hicks, Fellow Committee Chair,
Manisha Patel, and Davis McDonald

GBA HOLIDAY GATHERING: REGISTRATION OPEN!



[Register Here](#)

Reservations are required and must be made by Friday, December 5th at 5:00 PM.

GBA'S YOUNG LAWYER SECTION PRESENTS:

DONATION DRIVE * **BENEFITTING THE FAMILY** **ROOM FOSTER CARE** **RESOURCE CENTER**

For more information on this organization, please visit familyroomtriaid.com

What You Can Donate:

- Diapers (all sizes but special need for sizes 4 and 5)
- Underwear (children and adult sizes for teens)
- Sports Bras (adult sizes for teens)
- Socks (children and adult sizes for teens)

Event Details:

12/09/2025 Greensboro Bar Association Holiday Party
Yvonne J. Johnson Event Center at Barber Park
1502 Barber Park Drive, Greensboro, NC 27401
5:30PM – 7:00PM

A QR code located on the right side of the flyer, next to the text "FOR EVERY DONATION OF DIAPERS, YOU WILL BE ENTERED INTO A RAFFLE TO WIN A PRIZE AT THE CBA HOLIDAY PARTY SPONSORED BY VLS!"

CO-PARENTING COURSE AVAILABLE ONLINE



Abigail C. Seymour

Camino Law founder and GBA member Abigail C. Seymour has launched a new online course, *Parenting Together, Apart: A North Carolina Guide to Peaceful Co-Parenting*. The self-paced program is designed to help parents understand the basics of custody, communication, and child-focused decision-making at the start of a separation.

The course is intended as a practical resource for families and a support to attorneys whose clients may benefit from additional education during custody process. More information is available at: learn.theothersideofcomfort.com



****Legal Assistant Position Available****

MADDOX & GORHAM, P.A.
Attorneys and Counsellors at Law

WE ARE HIRING!

Job Duties

- Drafting basic pleadings, discovery, and correspondence
- electronic filing and service of legal documents
- corresponding with clients, clerks, and paralegals
- providing support to attorney with caseload
- requesting medical records and medical bills from providers in personal injury cases

Qualifications

- proficient with Word Perfect and/or Microsoft Word and email
- law firm experience preferred
- notary preferred
- coachable team player with a positive attitude

Compensation

- \$36k - \$40k annually depending on experience and skill set
- health insurance

OR

- part-time opportunity available on hourly basis

Send resume to: attorney@maddox@bellsouth.net

HONOR THE KING: PARTICIPATE IN THE GBA'S ASK-A-LAWYER EVENT!

Martin Luther King Jr. Day (MLK Day) is the only federal holiday designated as a National Day of Service to encourage all Americans to volunteer to improve their communities. The Greensboro Bar Association is pleased to give you an opportunity to do just that.

On **January 19, 2026**, the Greensboro Bar Association will be hosting the 3rd Annual live Ask-A-Lawyer event. On this day of service, members of the public can meet with volunteer attorneys and seek their guidance on particular legal questions and issues they may be facing. We will be on site at the Greensboro Chamber of Commerce's offices located at 111 W. February One Place, right next to the International Civil Rights Center and Museum, answering questions and offering insights from 11am until 6pm.

WE NEED YOUR HELP!! We are asking members to volunteer for one or more two-hour shifts. We will provide materials before and on site that will prepare you for the questions you may encounter.

Volunteers are needed across all practice areas. Real Estate, Contract Disputes, Landlord-Tenant, Domestic, Estate Administration, Estate Planning, Property Rights, Small Business, Social Security and Criminal are just some of the areas covered in years past. We need attorneys in all of these areas.

[Click Here to Register](#)

If you have any questions, contact your Pro Bono Committee co-chairs [Jonathan Wall](#) and [Theodora Vaporis](#).

CARRUTHERS & ROTH WELCOMES TWO NEW ASSOCIATES TO COMMERCIAL REAL ESTATE AND LITIGATION TEAMS

Carruthers & Roth, P.A. has announced the addition of two new associate attorneys – [Gaaron Goldsmith](#) and [Troy Reid](#) – further strengthening the firm's commercial real estate and litigation practices.



Gaaron Goldsmith

About Gaaron Goldsmith

An associate attorney on the firm's Commercial Real Estate team, Goldsmith assists clients with a wide range of commercial real estate matters, including the purchase, sale, development, and leasing of property.

Before joining Carruthers & Roth, he clerked for a local firm focusing on construction, insurance and banking; served as a clerk for a North Carolina Superior Court Judge in Wake County; and worked as a legal intern for a nonprofit organization.

"We are looking forward to Gaaron's work with our clients on a broad range of commercial real estate needs," said Jeremy Shrader, commercial real estate attorney and director at Carruthers & Roth. "His focus on personalized service, paired with practical legal guidance, will provide a key advantage to those we serve."

Goldsmith earned both his bachelor's degree with distinction and his law degree from the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill, where he was a Dean's Fellow, a mentor to first-year law students, and a staff member of the North Carolina Journal of International Law.

Goldsmith can be reached at 336.478.1150 or gug@crlaw.com.



Troy Reid

About Troy Reid

As an associate attorney on the firm's Litigation team, Reid advises clients on commercial and business litigation, employment, construction disputes, estate disputes and other litigation matters.

Reid began his career with Carruthers & Roth as a summer litigation clerk, where he drafted briefs and pleadings, conducted legal research, analyzed discovery documentation, and assisted in depositions. He also worked as a legal intern and legal assistant for companies in both Charlotte and Greensboro.

"Troy's broad range of experience and commitment to client service will be a great addition to our team," said Robert Young, commercial litigator and director at Carruthers & Roth. "Our clients will benefit from his trusted, collaborative and results-driven approach."

A summa cum laude graduate of North Carolina State University, Reid went on to earn his law degree from the University of North Carolina School of Law, where he chaired the Dean's Advisory Council, served as president of the Carolina Law Ambassadors, participated in the Pro Bono Program, and competed on the Holderness Moot Court Appellate Advocacy Team. He also holds a North Carolina Real Estate License and is a licensed private pilot.

Reid can be reached at 336.478.1125 or tcr@crlaw.com.

GREENSBORO BAR ASSOCIATION'S 2026 NC LEGAL AID FUNDRAISER SPONSORSHIP PACKAGES

For more information please email Jeanna Cooper, jcooper@lanierlawgroup.com
or Emily Carico, ecarico@lanierlawgroup.com

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SAVE THE DATE: SATURDAY APRIL 11, 2026
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2025 LOOK BACK: ENDING THE YEAR WITH PURPOSE

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 4

this as a marketing to-do list item, consider this as an act of connection that fosters authentic and reciprocal relationships.

4. Assess Your Professional and Personal Growth

Lawyers spend most of the year focused on others - clients, colleagues, and cases. December is a good time to ask, *How am I doing?*

Review your continuing legal education credits and ethics requirements. Did you attend courses that genuinely advanced your practice, or were they just boxes checked for compliance? Look ahead to 2026 and choose CLEs that align with your goals - perhaps on leadership, technology, or a new practice area.

Also consider the personal side:

- Did you maintain a reasonable work-life balance?
- What habits supported your wellbeing, and which ones drained your energy?
- How do you want to show up differently in the new year - as a lawyer, leader, or colleague?

Professional fulfillment often starts with personal clarity.

5. Set Three Meaningful Goals for 2026

Now comes the fun part - looking ahead. Instead of an overwhelming list of resolutions, focus on **three meaningful goals** for the coming year. Keep them simple, measurable, and aligned with your larger vision. Examples might include:

- Expanding a practice area or introducing a new service.
- Delegating more administrative work to free up client time.
- Scheduling quarterly retreats or planning sessions to stay intentional.
- Beginning (or revisiting) a succession plan to ensure long-term stability.

Once you've chosen your goals, outline the first small step for each - something you can do in January to create momentum.

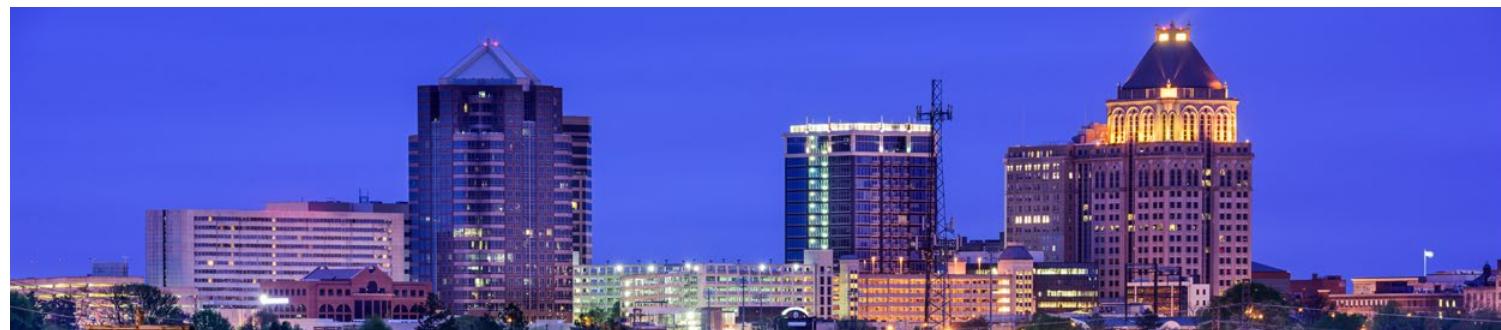
A Fresh Start

There's something energizing about closing out a year with purpose. While it's tempting to rush through December consider that slowing down to reflect, recalibrate, and plan gives you an edge. You'll start 2026 not in catch-up mode, but with direction and confidence.

In this season, many traditions observe Advent - a time of waiting, reflection, and intentional preparation. Even outside its Christian roots, Advent offers a universal reminder that slowing down has value. For people of any faith or spiritual practice, this idea of thoughtful anticipation invites us to pause before stepping into the next chapter. In a profession that prizes urgency and productivity, embracing a moment of quiet reflection can help us reconnect with our purpose, ground ourselves in what matters, and approach the coming year with a clearer, calmer mindset.

So before the decorations come down and the calendar resets, take a quiet hour, perhaps with a cup of coffee and a blank notepad, to look back at what you've built and look ahead to what's next. Your future self (and your future firm) will thank you.

Camille Stell is Vice President of Risk & Practice Management for Lawyers Mutual Liability Insurance Co. of NC and is the co-author of the book, RESPECT – An Insight to Attorney Compensation Plans, 2nd Edition published October 2024. Continue this conversation by contacting Camille at camille@lawyersmutualnc.com or 800.662.8843.



GREENSBORO BAR ASSOCIATION
24th JUDICIAL DISTRICT BAR
122 North Elm Street, Suite 805
Greensboro, NC 27401

Mail: Post Office Box 1825
Greensboro, NC 27402

Email: admin@greensborobar.org
Phone: 336.378.0300
Website: www.greensborobar.org