

# THE GBA NEWS DOCKET

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Marcus Allen Shields  
*President of the  
Greensboro Bar  
Association*

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## Message from the President

Dear Members,

Thank you all for attending the Holiday Party held on December 7, 2022. We hope each of you enjoyed being back in person! We are actively working to fulfill our mission and still need help to finish the Habitat House Build. As we embark

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As we embark on 2023 let us remember that we are charged with doing good for mankind and being of service.

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on 2023 let us remember that we are charged with doing good for mankind and being of service. Stay tuned for our Annual CLE which will be held on February 16, 2023. If you have not signed up to assist a committee and you are interested, please visit our website and find a committee that suits your interests. I look forward to seeing each of you at our next meeting which will be held on January 19, 2023, at 12:30pm at the Greensboro Country Club.

Sincerely,

Marcus Allen Shields

President, Greensboro Bar Association 2022-2023

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

# JANUARY CALENDAR NOTES

- January 7 YLS CLE,  
12:00 PM, Zoom
- January 11 GBA Board Meeting,  
4:00 PM, Self Help Building
- January 18 YLS Board Meeting, 12:00 PM,  
Sigmon Klein
- January 19 Member Lunch, 12:30 PM,  
Greensboro Country Club
- January 20 Submission Deadline  
for February Newsletter

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

[Click Here for Legal Community Events](#)

Connect with us!



[GBA Young Lawyers Section](#)

[Greensboro Bar Association](#)

## NEW MEMBER

Approved December, 2022

Melvin Lamont Holland, Jr.  
*CR Legal Team*  
Endorser: Elizabeth Ray

*Editor's note: Last month we mistakenly listed new member Sydney ter Avest as Sylvia. We apologize for the error.*

### Wellness Corner

BarCARES is a confidential, short-term intervention program provided cost-free to members of the 24<sup>th</sup> 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 Jonathan M. Parisi at [jparisi@spanglerestateplanning.com](mailto: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.



Robert Trimble is President of the Greensboro Bar Association's Young Lawyers Section and is an associate attorney with [Sigmon Klein, PLLC](#).

# Young Lawyers Section: Connections

Happy New Year! The Young Lawyers Section is excited for the new year and for what we have planned in 2023. We look forward celebrating the new year with all of our members and providing even more opportunities for young lawyers to network and to support our community.



During the month of December, the Young Lawyers Section held a donation drive for Backpack Beginnings. The YLS collected even more donations than expected and was able to provide two large boxes full of children's clothes, books, and food to Backpack Beginnings. Thank you to everyone who donated during this event to help those in need.

The Young Lawyers Section also held its annual holiday party during the month of December. The holiday party had a great turnout, delicious food, and lots of holiday themed games. The YLS would like to thank Ward Black Law for hosting the event, and all the Young Lawyers Section and GBA members who were able to join us to share some holiday cheer.



## YLS CLE Event: "Ripped From The Headlines"

The Young Lawyers Section will be sponsoring a free 1-hour CLE on January 17, 2023, from 12:00 pm to 1:00 pm via Zoom. The topic is "Ripped From The Headlines: Ethical Conundrums to Avoid" and will provide attendees with 1-hour ethics credit toward NC Bar CLE requirements. If interested, please RSVP to [Elizabeth Robertson](#) by January 16, 2023.

## Speaker Luncheon

The Young Lawyers Section is hosting a Speaker Luncheon on February 1, 2022, at Undercurrent Restaurant in Downtown Greensboro. The Speaker Luncheon will feature Janet Ward Black, a prominent local attorney, who will offer advice to new and aspiring attorneys on furthering their careers and making the most of the legal profession. This will be a great opportunity to learn while enjoying lunch on the YLS and networking with other young lawyers in the community. If you would like more information or are interested in attending, please contact [Robert Trimble](#) by January 25, 2023. Space is limited.

## BackPack Beginnings Service Opportunity and Networking Event:

The Young Lawyers Section is planning an in-person service opportunity at Backpack Beginnings in Greensboro. The service opportunity will take place on February 23, 2022, from 3:00 pm to 5:00 pm, and volunteers will be packing weekend food bags which will be distributed to children in need at preschools and elementary schools in our community. Following the service opportunity, the YLS will also be hosting a networking event at 5:30 pm. Please keep an eye out for more information on the YLS Facebook page and the February GBA Newsletter.

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[Jennifer Gibert Mencarini](#) is co-chair of the GBA's Diversity Equity and Inclusion Committee and is the Director of Diversity & Inclusion with Fox Rothschild, LLP.



[Gerald L. Walden, Jr.](#) is co-chair of the GBA's Diversity Equity and Inclusion Committee and is the VP-Deputy General Counsel & Head of Diversity with The Fresh Market, Inc.

It's 2023, and the winter holidays of Hanukkah, Christmas, and Kwanzaa have come and gone. Did you know there are other winter holidays celebrated by many folks around the world? In the spirit of diversity and inclusion, here is some information about several that will be celebrated this January.

**Coptic Orthodox Christmas:** The Coptic Orthodox Church originated in the first century, when the Apostle Mark is said to have visited Egypt. Coptic Christians celebrate the birth of Jesus on January 7, according to the Coptic calendar. (The two calendars reflect the centuries-old split between the Catholic Church in Rome and the Eastern Christian churches.) Of the world's Christian communities, the Orthodox churches in Egypt, Russia, Ethiopia, Serbia, and Ukraine are the major ones that celebrate Christmas on this date.

**Mahayana New Year (Buddhist):** Most Buddhists celebrate Mahayana New Year on the first full moon day in January, although the date differs in each majority-Buddhist country based on their cultural traditions. For those who practice Buddhism, the New Year is a time for self-reflection and learning from past mistakes to become a better version of oneself. Celebrations focus on cleaning and decorating homes to make a fresh start for the coming year, large dinner celebrations, and fireworks at midnight.

**Maghi (Sikh):** Celebrated on January 14, Maghi is observed to honor the Sikh Chali Mukte, or the Forty Liberated Ones, who sacrificed their lives defending an attack by the imperial army against Guru Gobind Singh Ji in December 1705. Sikhs celebrate Maghi by reciting the Guru Granth Sahib, the central holy scripture of Sikhism, and attending religious services at gurdwaras (a place of assembly and worship for Sikhs). People of all faiths are welcome in gurdwaras – and we have one in High Point, [the Sikh Association of the Triad](#).

**Chinese New Year:** In 2023, Chinese New Year will be celebrated starting with the Spring Festival on Sunday, January 22 and will culminate with Yuan Xiao, or [Lantern Festival](#) on February 5. Each year is associated with a sign of the Chinese zodiac, a 12-year cycle of animal signs and their attributes, based on the lunar calendar. 2023 is the Year of the Rabbit.

Although not religious holidays, we also celebrate Martin Luther King, Jr. Day on January 16, and [International Holocaust Remembrance Day](#) on January 27.

*Questions about DEI in the legal profession? Interested in joining the DEI committee? Feel free to reach out to the GBA's DEI co-chairs, [Gerald L. Walden, Jr.](#) and [Jennifer Gibert Mencarini](#).*

Happy  
New  
Year

# PROMINENT FAMILY LAW ATTORNEY AFI S. JOHNSON-PARRIS JOINS FOX ROTHSCHILD IN GREENSBORO



Afi S. Johnson-Parris

Fox Rothschild LLP is pleased to welcome Afi S. Johnson-Parris to the Greensboro, NC office as partner in the Family Law Department.

A North Carolina Board Certified Family Law Specialist, Johnson-Parris represents clients in a full range of family law matters. Prior to joining Fox, she was a solo practitioner operating as Johnson-Parris Law, PLLC.

“My decision to join Fox Rothschild represents an opportunity to serve my clients better with a broader base of support through additional staff and resources,” said Johnson-Parris. “It is also a homecoming of sorts, because I began my family law practice 14 years ago at Smith Moore Leatherwood, which combined with Fox Rothschild in 2018. I am excited to embark upon this new chapter and to join an innovative, dynamic and growing firm.”

“Afi is well known throughout the region for her fierce and compassionate representation of clients who are navigating complex and sensitive marital disputes,” said Richard A.

Coughlin, Managing Partner of Fox’s Greensboro office. “We are thrilled to welcome her back to our Greensboro office.”

Johnson-Parris advises clients on a variety of complex legal issues related to absolute and collaborative divorce, equitable distribution, alimony, child custody and support and name changes. She also has significant experience guiding clients through matters involving children, including relative caregiver adoptions, paternity/legitimation and international kidnapping matters.

Johnson-Parris sits on the boards of the NC Equal Access to Justice Foundation, Community Foundation of Greater Greensboro, Guilford Education Alliance and Junior League of Greensboro. She is also active in various committees and initiatives of the Greensboro Bar Association, North Carolina Bar Association, Legal Aid of North Carolina and the American Bar Association.

An Air Force veteran who served for several years as a communications computer systems analysis officer, Johnson-Parris earned her J.D. from the University of Virginia School of Law, her M.B.A. from the University of Phoenix, Southern Colorado and her B.B.A. from University of Miami.



# GREENSBORO BAR ASSOCIATION'S ANNUAL CLE SEMINAR



Thursday, February 16, 2023

12:30 PM – 5:15 PM

Starmount Country Club

The Greensboro Bar Association, in conjunction with Fox Rothschild LLP, invites you to join us for our Annual CLE Seminar covering the topics identified below. We have applied for 4.5 hours of CLE credit which includes 1 hour of ethics credit and 3.5 hours of general credit. **GBA members can register for \$110; non-GBA members can register for \$130.**

**Proceeds:** This seminar is a fundraiser for the Greensboro Bar Association Foundation, providing support for its community grants program.

Lunch will **NOT** be served. Please eat prior to arrival.

## Family Law for Non-Family Lawyers

Presenter: Attorney Afi Johnson-Parris

1 Hour General Credit (pending approval)

## How to Leverage Allyship to Build & Communicate Diversity and Refute Implicit Bias in Your Legal Practice

Confirmed Panelists:

Attorneys Kimberly Gatling & Gerald Walden

1 Hour General Credit (pending approval)

## Ethical Considerations Faced by Small Firms and Solo Practitioners

Presenter: Attorney Nichole McLaughlin

1 Hour Ethics Credit (pending approval)

## A View from the Bench – Top Mistakes Attorneys Make in Criminal & Civil Litigation

Confirmed Panelists:

Judges Michelle Fletcher, Bill Davis & Lora Cubbage

1.5 Hour General Credit (pending approval)

[Click to Register Today](#)

## YLS Kickball Team

The Young Lawyers Section is recruiting for its 2023 Kickball team! In 2022, the YLS premiered its coed beginner league kickball team, "Torts Illustrated." 21 members strong, the team had a fun-filled season and was celebrated at the YLS End of the Year Party! We look forward to growing our team and camaraderie in the 2023 spring season. Membership and jerseys are FREE, courtesy of the YLS. SPOTS ARE LIMITED, so sign up today



**Back row, left to right:** Tyler Nullmeyer, Mike Henson, Loche Saslow, Gunnar Robertson, Benjamin Raffte, Robert Trimble, Kris Quaa, Jonathan M. Paris; **Front row, left to right:** Sarah Nullmeyer, Betty Toussaint, Elizabeth Robertson, Carole Trimble, Chimeaka White, Lauren Quaa

at [YLS Kickball Team Interest Survey \(surveyMonkey.com\)](#). We are also accepting submissions for the 2023 team logo/t-shirt design. Please submit all suggestions to Team Manager, [Elizabeth Robertson](#). We look forward to seeing you on the field! Let's play ball!

### Connect with YLS:

YLS is in the process of scheduling a social event for our members. An e-mail blast will be sent out in the coming weeks regarding this event. We hope you can join us!

Do you have an idea for a future YLS event, service project, and/or social activity? Please share by emailing [Robert Trimble](#).

Do you want more information about upcoming YLS events or to find out how you can get involved? Check us out and follow our [Facebook](#) page (Greensboro Bar Association's Young Lawyers Section).

If you would like to be added to the YLS email list, please email [Robert Trimble](#).

YLS would like to celebrate life's milestones with our members. Email [info@greensboroyls.org](mailto:info@greensboroyls.org) to share personal and professional updates about yourself that you would like celebrated on the YLS Facebook page.

