

THE GBA NEWS DOCKET

VOLUME 75, NUMBER 3; NOVEMBER 2025



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

A few years back, I was with some friends, and one raised a question for fun discussion: if you're stranded on a deserted island with 30 people, what are the things that you'd work on first? Naturally, some of the friends were focusing on getting shelter in place, finding food, and similar initial concerns. But the first answer that came to me was: "Deciding how we'll make decisions and work together as a group." You can imagine that this answer was promptly razzed by others in the discussion.

Although it's not the answer that may come first to mind for many people, it is an essential early step. Absent a shared understanding of how decisions will be made, the group risks wasting time on unnecessary conflicts and avoidable disagreements. Some people in the group may be treated unfairly. The group may fracture and be unable to work together at all.

This demonstrates what I see as the most fundamental importance of our profession in the law. The law is our collective process for making decisions and ensuring that people adhere to them. Predictable and consistent laws and legal processes provide people with the fundamental tools necessary to order and plan their lives. They let us know how to form and plan families, what freedoms and protections we have, how we may own and utilize property, how we may enter and maintain contracts, how we can uphold our responsibilities to others, how to seek redress if they do not uphold their responsibilities to us, and so much more. The law is the foundation for an ordered society.

There are many reasons to be proud of a career in the law, but this is the most important of them. However, the significance of this purpose carries equally significant responsibility. We must ensure, both individually and collectively, that we are attentive to this high purpose and our part in it. This is not only true in our legal practice, but also in our work as leaders in the community.

In March of 2025, with the guidance of President Manisha Patel, the Greensboro Bar Association adopted a Statement in Support of the Rule of Law. I hope that all of you have read it, and that each of you supports the major themes that it states on behalf of our organization (echoing statements from other bar organizations). As stated so eloquently in that letter is the principle that "the rule of law is the bedrock of American democracy, ensuring that laws are applied fairly, rights are protected, and justice is accessible to all."

This is not a statement for or against any political party or official; it is a restatement of an essential principle of an ordered society – one which lawyers are uniquely positioned and responsible to protect. I am grateful to President Patel and proud that GBA remains committed to stand in support of the role that the rule of law plays in our lives. This is not only our profession and our livelihood, but also our duty.

If you have not read the GBA's statement, you can view it at the following web address:
<https://www.greensborobar.org/frontpage-article/statement-from-the-gba-in-support-of-the-rule-of-law/>

A handwritten signature in dark ink that reads "Bill Davis".

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

CALENDAR NOTES

- November 5** Business & Corporate Law Section Social,
5:00 PM, Joymongers
- November 12** Ethics Lunch & Learn,
12:00 PM, Zoom
- November 12** GBA Board Meeting,
4:00 PM, Self-Help Building
- November 13** Real Property Section,
5:30 PM, Tuggle Duggins
- November 19** YLS Board Meeting,
12:00 PM, Self-Help Building
- November 20** GBA Member Lunch,
12:30 PM, Greensboro Country Club
-
- December 1** Outstanding Young Lawyer Award Nominations Due
- December 9** GBA Board Meeting,
4:00 PM, Zoom
- December 9** Holiday Party,
5:30 PM, Barber Park Event Center
- December 19** YLS Board Meeting,
12:00 PM, Self-Help Building
- December 31** GBA Foundation Fellows Nominations Due

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

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NEW MEMBERS

Approved on October 7, 2025

- Kit E. Kniss
Church World Service Greensboro
Caregory: Newly Licensed
Endorser: Sarah H. Roane
- Tyson Child
Guilford County District Attorney's Office
Caregory: Newly Licensed
Endorser: Sarah H. Roane
- Gaaron U. Goldsmith
Carruthers & Roth, P.A.
Caregory: Newly Licensed
Endorser: Jeremy S. Shrader
- Troy C. Reid
Carruthers & Roth, P.A.
Caregory: Newly Licensed
Endorser: Robert N. Young

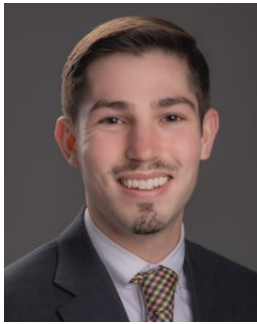
Wellness Corner

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



An Update from the Young Lawyers Section

The Young Lawyers Section has had a productive and energizing start to the bar year. Our executive board gathered on October 15, 2025, for our monthly meeting to discuss ongoing initiatives, upcoming service opportunities, and ways we can continue to support one another and our community. With a strong slate of events already underway and more on the horizon, our members remain committed to making a meaningful impact both within the profession and beyond.

Welcoming the Next Generation of Attorneys

In October, the Young Lawyers Section proudly hosted our Swearing-In Ceremony, welcoming fourteen newly licensed attorneys to the practice of law in North Carolina—whether in state, federal, or both jurisdictions. It was an inspiring and memorable event, presided over by the Honorable Catherine C. Eagles, the Honorable Bill Wood, and the Honorable Bill Davis. We are grateful to these distinguished judges for joining us in celebrating this important milestone in the careers of our newest colleagues. We were also joined by guest speakers Hillary Kies on behalf of the GBA, Butch Segal on behalf of the North Carolina Bar Association, and Dean Zachary Kramer on behalf of Elon University School of Law.

Looking Ahead: Service and Impact

Looking ahead, our Section is excited to continue giving back to the community through upcoming service initiatives. We are preparing for our next Urban Ministries dinner, where members will join together to cook and serve a meal to those in need in our community. Additionally, we're continuing to explore meaningful ways to strengthen our impact at Hunter Elementary School, building on the strong partnership we've cultivated over the years.

Stay tuned—more updates and opportunities to get involved are just around the corner!

Connect with YLS

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

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!

SEND US YOUR YOUNG LAWYER AWARD NOMINATIONS

We hope you will consider nominating someone for the GBA's Outstanding Young Lawyer Award on or before the **December 1, 2025** deadline. First awarded in 2024, the Outstanding Young Lawyer Award is bestowed upon an attorney with fewer than 10 years of practice experience. The awardee must be a member in good standing of the North Carolina State Bar and an active member of both

the GBA and its Young Lawyers Section. The award recipient will exhibit professional excellence, service to the profession and the bar, service to the community, and a reputation for advancing legal ethics, personal professionalism, and professional responsibility. You may view the list of past recipients [here](#). Nominations can be submitted [here](#).



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@
lawyersmutualinc.com](mailto:camille@lawyersmutualinc.com)
or 800.662.8843.

UNLOCKING CREATIVITY: THE POWER OF MIND MAPPING IN LEGAL WRITING

In the fast-paced world of law, clear and effective writing is essential. But legal professionals often find themselves stuck - trying to fit complex ideas into rigid outlines that don't reflect how their minds naturally work. Enter mind mapping: a dynamic, visual approach to organizing ideas that can unlock creativity, speed up your process, and improve your writing.

What Is Mind Mapping?

Mind mapping is a visual tool for brainstorming and structuring ideas around a central concept. Instead of writing in a straight line from top to bottom, you start in the middle of the page (or screen) and branch outwards, connecting related ideas like a spider web. This mirrors how the brain actually processes information - non-linearly.

Daphne Gray-Grant on Mind Mapping

I first learned about mind mapping through my writing coach Daphne Gray-Grant, a longtime advocate of mind mapping. She explains:

"Outlining forces you into a logical, linear way of thinking. That's not a totally bad thing of course, but it's not very creative. When you write you want your brain to operate in the most creative way possible."

Here is a free guide on mind mapping from Daphne - [Resilient Writers - Mindmapping - Publication Coach](#)

She encourages mind mapping not just to organize ideas but to generate them, especially when you're facing writer's block or trying to tackle a complex subject.

How Lawyers Can Use Mind Mapping

Mind mapping is especially powerful for legal professionals who work with dense material and high-stakes communication. Here are just a few examples of how mind mapping can enhance your practice:

- **Legal Writing:** Use mind maps to plan motions, briefs, and memos. Seeing your argument visually helps identify weak points and redundancy.
- **Case Analysis:** Plot out timelines, evidence, parties, and key legal questions.

- **Client Strategy:** Map a client's legal issues and potential responses to organize your case approach.
- **CLE & Presentation Planning:** Outline presentations for continuing legal education or client seminars.
- **Succession Planning:** Visualize firm leadership, roles, and future needs to prepare for transitions.

Online Mind Mapping Tools to Try

When I use mind mapping, my preference is a spiral notebook of blank paper. However, you don't need to start with pen and paper. There are powerful digital tools that make it easy to mind map, save your work, and collaborate with others:

1. **MindMeister** – Intuitive, cloud-based, and good for collaboration.
2. **Miro** – A versatile online whiteboard with mind mapping capabilities.
3. **XMind** – A sleek desktop app ideal for detailed professional maps.
4. **Lucidchart** – Combines mind mapping with flowcharts and diagrams.
5. **Whimsical** – Clean and simple, great for fast mind maps with minimal distractions.
6. **Coggle** – A user-friendly browser-based tool with real-time collaboration.

Choosing the Best Tool for You

When selecting a mind mapping tool, consider the following:

- **Ease of Use:** Is the interface intuitive, or does it require a learning curve?
- **Collaboration Features:** Do you need to share or co-edit with a team?
- **Export Options:** Can you download or integrate your mind map with other tools like Word or PDF?
- **Price:** Many tools have free versions, but paid tiers offer more features and typically better privacy features (e.g., version history, templates, integrations).
- **Templates and Design:** Do you prefer structured templates or a blank canvas?

For most solo or small firm lawyers, MindMeister, Miro, or Coggle are great starting points due to their ease of use and low cost.

Continued on page 10

CHILDREN'S LAW CENTER OF NORTH CAROLINA (CLC) NEEDS YOUR SUPPORT

Dear Colleagues,

As members of the Greensboro Bar Association, we understand the critical role that access to justice plays in the health and strength of our community. Today, I am reaching out as both a colleague and a friend of the Children's Law Center of Central North Carolina (CLC) to share an urgent need.

For two decades, CLC has advocated for children in high-conflict custody and civil domestic violence cases, children whose voices would otherwise go unheard in court. Their work not only safeguards vulnerable children but also strengthens families and promotes stability in our community.

Like many nonprofit organizations across our state that provide essential services, it is facing increased financial pressure and despite higher demand for CLC's services, public funding has significantly decreased in 2025. Most recently, the North Carolina General Assembly reappropriated NC IOLTA funds away from Civil Legal Aid, removing one of the few consistent streams of support available to organizations like CLC.

But the reality is this: without broader financial support from the legal community, these vital services are at risk.

That is why I am asking you, as a fellow member of the Bar, to stand with Children's Law Center. You can do this in two important ways:

Make a Financial Contribution

Your gift will directly support advocacy for children who cannot otherwise afford representation. Every dollar makes an impact in ensuring that CLC continues its mission.

Volunteer Your Time

CLC welcomes attorneys who are willing to contribute pro bono hours. By lending your expertise, you not only provide relief to an overburdened system but also experience firsthand the profound impact this work has on children and families.

The need is urgent. The children CLC serves cannot wait, and neither should we. Together, as a community of legal professionals, we can ensure that justice is not a privilege for the few, but a right for all, especially for those most vulnerable.

I hope you will join me in supporting Children's Law Center today.

—Marcus A. Shields

MAKE YOUR DONATION NOW FOR THE ELEMENTARY SCHOOL PROJECT



SCAN TO DONATE

The book program at Jones Elementary School is a wonderful Greensboro Bar Association holiday tradition! This year we will be continuing with the successful change to using GBA member donations to allow all children in grades K-5 of the Traditional English program to select a book of their choice (we are aiming for \$15 or less) at the school's Book Fair, to be

held December 1-5. We will also provide a gift book for all "graduating" 5th graders in the spring, both in the Traditional English and Spanish Immersion programs. To do this, we need to raise at least \$3,500. GBA volunteers are also needed to help children shop at the Book Fair this fall, and to deliver the 5th grade graduation books to the students next Spring.

[Donate now online](#), or mail your check made payable to the Greensboro Bar Association Foundation, with "Elementary School Project" in the memo line, to:

Greensboro Bar Association Foundation
P.O. Box 1825
Greensboro, NC 27402

To volunteer or for more information, please contact Elementary School Project committee co-chairs [Adam Kerr](#) or [Erin Reis](#).

Donations are tax-deductible, with receipts sent to each donor. Thank you in advance for your continuing support – the children and teachers at Jones thank you too!

[Click to Donate Online Now](#)

In Memoriam



BRINTON DOUGLAS WRIGHT

February 8, 1949 – October 18, 2025

Brinton “Brint” Douglas Wright crossed the finish line of his earthly race with Jesus Christ on Saturday morning, October 18, 2025, after a brief battle with illness. He was 76. Born in Springhill, Louisiana on February 8, 1949, to Ed and Martea Wright he was the proud son of a World War II Army Air Corps veteran and lived in Pittsburgh, Buffalo, and Ellicott City, Maryland while growing up. While attending Johns Hopkins University he fell in love with his next-door neighbor Barbara and the two were happily married for 53 years. Brint graduated from Johns Hopkins with a degree in Economics and received his MBA degree from the University of New Hampshire, after which he earned his Juris Doctorate degree at Wake Forest University.

He began his law career with Stern, Graham, and Klepfer following his graduation and worked in business law, real estate law, estate planning, and tax law before shifting much of his focus to being a pioneer in the field of adoption law in North Carolina following the adoption of his two beloved children Cliff and Rachel through the Children’s Home Society of North Carolina.

Brint was an avid reader, known for being insightful, witty, and having the gift of insatiable intellectual curiosity. He loved his family, collecting guitars, animals of all kinds, working outside, taking road trips, studying history, antique cars, and attending folk music festivals. In recent years he traveled the state to watch his grandsons play soccer. This past year he and Barbara joyfully traveled to California to meet his newest granddaughter, Adeline.

He was an excellent brother, a steady husband, a wise father, and a warm grandfather. He is survived by his wife, Barbara, his sister Marcia (husband Norm), his son Cliff (wife Laura and grandchildren Keller, Asher, Pryor, and Ryder), his daughter Rachel (husband Brian and granddaughter Adeline) as well as many aunts, uncles, and cousins.

FREE 1-HOUR VIRTUAL ETHICS CLE LUNCH & LEARN

Professional Responsibility and Technology Competence in a New World

This session explores the impact of evolving technology on ethics obligations in legal practice.

Competency, confidentiality, duties to supervise, duties to potential/current/former clients, and other rules of professional conduct help frame how law firms choose and implement technology in their law practice. We also look at ethics opinions that help law firms consider hypotheticals on different technology may enhance or hinder a firm's ethical responsibilities, including the proposed opinion on the use of AI in practice.

Finally, we explore security best practices and real-world pitfalls that can lead to inadvertent disclosures.

Presented by Catherine Sanders Reach of the NCBA

This CLE is free to GBA members; \$20 for non-members.

[Register Here](#)

GBA HOLIDAY GATHERING: REGISTRATION OPEN!

GBA MEMBERS INVITED TO CORPORATE CONNECT

Please join the GBA Business & Corporate Law Section for a FALL SOCIAL

Wednesday, November 5, 2025

5:00 to 7:00 PM

Joymongers Brewing Company
576 N. Eugene Street, Greensboro

RSVP to [Ben Edwards](#)



[Register Here](#)

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

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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the *Greensboro Bar Association Foundation* and Mail to:

Greensboro Bar Association Foundation
PO BOX 1825, Greensboro, NC 27402

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GUILFORD INN OF COURT CELEBRATES 30TH ANNIVERSARY



Steve Carihfield, Judge Robby Hassell

The Guilford Inn of Court recently celebrated its 30th Anniversary. To celebrate the milestone the Inn hosted a panel of founding members, Steve Carihfield, Larry Moore, and Trey Aycock. There was discussion about the Inns of Court in England, the Inns of Court movement in the United States, how the Guilford Inn got started, and the changes they have seen over the years.

At the conclusion of the program, the Inn President, Jon Wall, and member, Judge Robbie Hassell, presented founding President Steve Carihfield with a plaque honoring his accomplishments, service to the Inn, and his vision in creating the Guilford Inn.

The purpose of the American Inns of Court is to encourage professional growth, mentoring, and reconnecting with the profession.

For information on the American Inns of Court you can visit <https://www.innsofcourt.org/> and for information about the Guilford Inn of Court reach out to President, [Jon Wall](#); Vice-President, [Jason Hicks](#); or Secretary/Treasurer, [Sarah Roane](#).

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](#).

The Fellow Committee consists of:
Jason Hicks, Fellow Committee Chair,
Manisha Patel, and Davis McDonald

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

JASON F. HICKS TO RECEIVE INNS OF COURT AWARD



Jason F. Hicks

Jason F. Hicks, a deputy county attorney for Guilford County, has been appointed to serve as the Chair of the Program Review Committee for the American Inns of Court. The Committee reviews programs submitted from Inns across the country and selects winners for the annual program awards. This is his fourth year on the committee.

CAMINO LAW HONORED AS “UP AND COMING” FIRM

North Carolina Lawyers Weekly has named Camino Law to its 2025 Up and Coming Law Firms list. This recognition highlights firms across the state that are making an impact through innovation, client service, and community involvement.

Founded by GBA member Abigail C. Seymour, Camino Law focuses on family law, guardianships, and estate administration, with a mission of guiding families through transition with compassion and clarity. The team is honored to be recognized for their work in Greensboro and beyond.

[Click to learn more.](#)

OCTOBER MIX-N-MINGLE HIGHLIGHTS



UNLOCKING CREATIVITY: THE POWER OF MIND MAPPING IN LEGAL WRITING CONTINUED FROM PAGE 4

Conclusion

Mind mapping offers a flexible and creative alternative to traditional outlining. Whether you're writing a brief, advising a client, or planning a CLE presentation, this tool can help you organize ideas quickly and effectively. As Daphne says, "Mind mapping gives your brain the space it needs to do its best thinking." And in the practice of law, good thinking is everything.

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

