THE GBA NEWS DOCKET

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GBA
GREENSBORO BAR ASSOCIATION

Abigail E. Peoples,
President of the Greensboro Bar Association

IN THIS ISSUE

Calendar Notes 2
Save the Date for Tea! 2
Young Lawyers Section: Connections 3
Stell: Is It Ethical to Use AI? Perhaps We're Asking the Wrong Question 4
New Members 6
Wall Assumes Position with Federal Bar Association 7
Guilford Inn of Court Elects Officers for 2026–2027 Year 8
Attorneys Payne and Hulse Join Law Firm Carolinas 8
GBA Holiday Gathering: Registration Open! 9

You can contribute news or topics of interest to the GBA by contacting Editor Antoinette Stone.

Message from the President

KNOWING WHERE WE CAN TURN—AND REMINDING OURSELVES THAT WE CAN

As lawyers, we are trained to solve other people's problems. We are not always as quick to recognize when stress, anxiety, depression, substance use, family strain, career uncertainty, or another challenge is affecting us. I want to ensure that every Greensboro Bar Association member, and every North Carolina judge, lawyer, law student and paralegal, knows that we have two valuable resources available to us for these times: BarCARES and the North Carolina Lawyer Assistance Program (NCLAP).

I think of these programs as two welcoming doors leading toward the same goal: confidential, cost-free help before a personal concern becomes a professional crisis. They work cooperatively and may refer participants to one another, but they have different sponsors, eligibility rules, service models, and strengths. Knowing those differences can help us choose a useful starting point—and help us support a colleague who may be struggling.

BarCARES: Short-term counseling access

When someone asks me where to begin for counseling, BarCARES is often an excellent answer. It is a confidential, short-term intervention program administered through HRC Behavioral Health & Psychiatry, P.A. and its subcontractors across the state. It serves members of participating judicial district bars (including ours!), voluntary bar associations, and law schools. NCBA members in non-covered areas may qualify through the NCBA BarCARES Initiative.

Eligible users receive three no-cost counseling sessions, regardless of your health insurance coverage. A coordinator helps arrange the first appointment with a provider, either locally or outside the user's area if preferred. Depending on the sponsoring bar group's plan, immediate family members may be able to use one or more sessions; the NCBA Initiative itself is for attorneys only.

NCLAP: Assessment, support, and follow-through

When the situation feels complicated—or when someone is unsure what kind of help would be most useful—I encourage a call to NCLAP. It is a free, confidential, non-disciplinary program of the North Carolina State Bar for North Carolina lawyers, judges, and law students. Its licensed counselors provide assessment, limited direct counseling, referrals, consultation, and ongoing follow-up.

NCLAP can also connect us with trained lawyer or judge volunteers, confidential peer groups, treatment resources, interventions, mentoring, and—in appropriate situations—monitoring or longer-term case management. That combination of clinical guidance and lawyers-helping-lawyers support can be especially meaningful.

Continued on page 6

Calendar Notes

November 1 GBA Centennial Award Nominations Due

November 2 Virtual CLE, 12:00 PM, Zoom

November 3 YLS Board Meeting, 12:00 PM, Self-Help Building

November 5 Fall Social, 5:30 PM, SouthEnd Brewing Co.

November 12 GBA Board Meeting, 4:00 PM, Self-Help Building

November 12 Real Property Section, 5:30 PM, Tuggle Duggins

November 13 Past President's Tea, 11:00 AM, Tuggle Duggins

November 19 GBA Member Dinner, 5:30 PM, Greensboro Country Club
REGISTER HERE

November 20 Submission Deadline for December Newsletter

December 1 YLS Board Meeting, 12:00 PM, Self-Help Building

December 1 Outstanding Young Lawyer Award Nominations Due

December 8 Holiday Party, 5:30 PM, Elon Law

December 9 GBA Board Meeting, 4:00 PM, Self-Help Building

December 20 Submission Deadline for January Newsletter

GBA Online Calendar of Event

Like Us on Facebook!

Follow Us on LinkedIn!

Save the Date for Tea!

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 emailed to Antoinette Stone. 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.

Casey Robinson
is President of the Greensboro Bar Association's Young Lawyers Section and Attorney at Garrett, Walker, Aycoth and Olson

Young Lawyers Section: Connections

An Update from the Young Lawyers Section

The Young Lawyers Section has had an energizing start, and we are bringing the momentum into November! Our executive board gathered on October 6, 2026, 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. Please follow us on Instagram at @gbayounglawyerssection and follow us on Facebook to stay up to date on the events and initiatives we are pursuing!

Welcoming the Next Generation of Attorneys

On October 8th, 2026, the Young Lawyers Section proudly hosted our Swearing-In Ceremony, welcoming 14 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 Lindsey Freeman, United States District Court Judge for the Middle District of North Carolina, and the Honorable Stuart Albright, resident Superior Court Judge for Guilford County. 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 speaker Jason Hicks, President of Guilford County Inn of Court.

YLS President Casey Robinson introduces our esteemed judges and welcomes the newly admitted attorneys to the Swearing-In Ceremony.

Judge Freeman administers the Federal Oath to the newly admitted attorneys seeking admission to the United States District Court of the Middle District of North Carolina.

Judge Albright administered the Oath to the newly licensed attorneys for State Court at the Swearing-In Ceremony on October 8th, 2026.

Connect Over Lunch: A YLS Networking Luncheon

On October 22, 2026, YLS hosted a networking luncheon at New Summit Cafe, a black owned and historical staple in the community! We were able to bring members together to enjoy a meal and meaningful conversation, professional relationships, meet fellow young attorneys, and give back to our community by supporting small businesses in the community. We thank everyone that was able to join us, and hope you'll join us again for luncheons in the future!

Continued on page 7

Camille Stell
is Vice President of Risk & Practice Management for Lawyers Mutual Liability Insurance Co. of NC. Continue this conversation by contacting Camille via email or calling 800.662.8843.

Is It Ethical to Use AI? Perhaps We're Asking the Wrong Question

"Can I use ChatGPT in my law practice?"

"Am I allowed to put client information into an AI tool?"

"Do I have to tell my clients I'm using AI?"

"Which AI products has the State Bar approved?"

These are some of the questions lawyers are asking as artificial intelligence becomes part of everyday law practice. And they are good questions. Lawyers want to take advantage of technology that promises greater efficiency, improved client service, and perhaps even a little relief from the demands of practicing law. But they also want to know that they are meeting their professional obligations.

The good news is that the North Carolina State Bar has provided guidance. In 2024 Formal Ethics Opinion 1, the State Bar addressed lawyers' professional responsibilities when using generative artificial intelligence.

But here's something worth considering: The State Bar's approach to AI isn't particularly new.

In fact, if we look back more than a decade, we can see that the State Bar has been remarkably consistent in how it approaches emerging technology. The technology changes. Our ethical obligations do not.

We've Been Here Before

Remember when lawyers were debating whether it was ethical to store client files in the cloud?

Today, cloud-based practice management systems, document storage, email platforms, and billing software are so commonplace that we rarely stop to question whether we are permitted to use them.

But in 2011, the transition to cloud computing raised many of the same concerns we are hearing about AI today.

Could lawyers trust a third-party vendor with confidential client information? What if the vendor experienced a security breach? What if the technology failed or the company went out of business? Could lawyers fulfill their professional obligations when client information was stored on servers outside their control?

The North Carolina State Bar addressed those questions in 2011 Formal Ethics Opinion 6, which considered whether lawyers could use software as a service (SaaS).

The answer was yes, provided lawyers exercised reasonable care to protect confidential client information and safeguard client property.

What is particularly interesting is what the State Bar chose not to do. Rather than establish a mandatory list of security requirements, the opinion explained:

"This opinion does not set forth specific security requirements because mandatory security measures would create a false sense of security in an environment where the risks are continually changing. Instead, due diligence and frequent and regular education are required."

Think about that statement in the context of today's AI discussions.

Imagine if the State Bar had identified specific cloud storage products or security protocols that lawyers were permitted to use in 2011. Many of those products or protocols would likely be outdated today. Worse, lawyers might have continued relying on an approved checklist without recognizing that the technology and its associated risks had changed.

Instead, the State Bar established an enduring principle: Lawyers must exercise reasonable care, understand the risks associated with the technology they use, implement appropriate safeguards, and stay informed as technology evolves.

The opinion provided recommended security measures, but it did not attempt to anticipate every technological development or every possible risk.

That responsibility remained with the lawyer.

Continued on page 5

Fast-Forward to AI

Now consider 2024 Formal Ethics Opinion 1, which addresses lawyers' use of generative artificial intelligence.

Once again, the State Bar did not attempt to identify approved AI products or establish a universal set of technical requirements. Instead, it focused on the professional responsibilities lawyers already have: competence, confidentiality, independent professional judgment, supervision, and appropriate communication with clients.

Sound familiar?

The State Bar isn't telling lawyers which AI tools to purchase. It is telling lawyers that they must understand enough about the technology to use it competently and responsibly.

For example, a lawyer using AI to assist with legal research must recognize that generative AI can produce inaccurate information, including nonexistent cases and citations. The lawyer remains responsible for verifying the work.

A lawyer considering whether to enter confidential client information into an AI platform must evaluate how that information will be stored, protected, and potentially used by the vendor.

And a lawyer whose employees are using AI must establish appropriate expectations and supervision to ensure that their work complies with the firm's professional obligations.

These aren't entirely new ethical duties created by artificial intelligence. They are familiar duties being applied to a new technology.

Reasonable Care Doesn't Mean Zero Risk

One of the most important lessons from these ethics opinions is that the Rules of Professional Conduct do not require lawyers to eliminate every conceivable risk associated with technology.

In 2011 FEO 6, the State Bar reiterated that lawyers are not required to use only perfectly secure methods of communication. Instead, they must exercise reasonable care in selecting methods appropriate to the circumstances.

This distinction matters, particularly when discussing AI.

Some lawyers are reluctant to use AI because they cannot be certain that the technology is completely safe or accurate. Others have embraced it enthusiastically without fully understanding its limitations.

Neither extreme reflects the thoughtful professional judgment contemplated by the ethics opinions.

Reasonable care is not a guarantee that nothing will go wrong. It is an obligation to make informed decisions, take appropriate precautions, and respond responsibly as circumstances change.

And reasonable care depends on context.

Using AI to brainstorm topics for a client newsletter presents different risks from uploading confidential documents into an AI platform or relying on AI-generated legal research in a court filing.

A tool that is appropriate for one task may be inappropriate for another. There is no single answer that applies to every AI product, every law firm, or every client matter.

Five Questions to Ask Before Using AI — or Any New Technology

Rather than asking whether the State Bar has approved a particular AI product, lawyers should consider their approach to technology decisions by asking five questions.

1. Do I understand what this technology does?

Lawyers don't need to become computer programmers or AI engineers. But we do need to understand enough about a tool's capabilities, limitations, and potential risks to use it competently. That may require training, independent research, or assistance from qualified technology professionals.

2. What are the potential risks to my clients?

Could confidential information be exposed? Could the technology produce inaccurate information? Could reliance on the tool compromise our independent professional judgment? What would happen if the technology failed?

3. What safeguards are reasonable under the circumstances?

Depending on the technology and how it will be used, reasonable safeguards might include reviewing vendor security practices, understanding data retention policies, restricting access to sensitive information, verifying AI-generated work, or establishing firm policies governing acceptable uses.

4. Who is responsible for supervising its use?

Technology doesn't eliminate the lawyer's responsibility to supervise work performed on behalf of clients. Lawyers must establish appropriate expectations for employees and other individuals assisting with legal services. That includes understanding how AI tools are being used within the firm and ensuring that appropriate review procedures are in place.

Continued on page 10

New Members

Approved on October 14, 2026

Chloe B. Anderson
DC Capital Law, LLP
Endorser: Gabriel A. Kussin
Category: Newly Licensed

Kristin E. Ewan
Endorser: Margaret Hay
Category: Newly Licensed

April Franklin
The Fresh Market
Endorser: Gerald L. Walden, Jr.
Category: Newly Licensed

Shilanka I. Lewis
Elon University School of Law
Endorser: Kristen Covington
Category: Regular

Rebecca Millian
Guilford County District Attorney's Office
Endorser: Leah M. Howell
Category: Regular

Ashton H. Roberts
Guilford County Attorney's Office
Endorser: Reko M. Currie
Category: Regular

Brittney Jasmine Robinson
Sue, Anderson, & Bordman, LLP
Endorser: Audrey Z. Snyder
Category: Newly Licensed

Marion A. White, II
R. Steve Bowden & Associates
Endorser: Jennifer E. Bowden
Category: Newly Licensed

MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

Common ground

Confidential, free, and built for our legal community

What reassures me most is how much the programs share. Both assist with concerns such as stress and burnout, depression and anxiety, substance use, relationship or family problems, career questions, and other pressures that can affect our well-being or work. Both are free to eligible participants, protect confidentiality, and understand the particular demands of legal practice.

Neither program is a silo. BarCARES can connect us efficiently with a counselor, while NCLAP can assess broader needs and add peer, recovery, or longer-term support. With appropriate authorization, they can coordinate and cross-refer so that a lawyer receives the combination of services that fits the situation.

How to use these services

Choose a door—you do not have to diagnose the problem first

- **If you want to start with BarCARES:** Call the confidential assistance line at **1-800-640-0735** or **919-929-1227**. Urgent calls are received 24 hours a day, seven days a week. I suggest asking the coordinator to confirm your eligibility, family coverage if relevant, and provider options.
- **If you want to start with NCLAP:** Contact the counselor serving your area through the NCLAP contact page. Office hours are Monday through Friday, 9:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.; in-person consultations are by appointment. You do not have to know what kind of assistance you need before calling.
- **If you are worried about someone else:** NCLAP consults confidentially with colleagues, friends, partners, judges, and family members. You may make a referral without having your name revealed.
- **If one program is not the complete answer:** Ask about coordination or a referral to the other program. Using both may provide counseling together with the peer and longer-term support that recovery or sustained change sometimes requires.

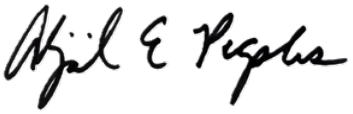
My message is simple: Please do not wait for a crisis. You do not need to know exactly what kind of help you need before making the call – just make the call.

In an immediate crisis: Please call 911 or go to the nearest emergency room. For the Suicide & Crisis Lifeline, call or text 988.

I hope each of us will save these numbers, share these resources, and remember that seeking help is a sign of good judgment—not weakness.

Learn more

- **BarCARES:** www.barcares.org
- BarCARES overview and eligibility — Program description, participating groups, and access information.
- BarCARES frequently asked questions — Details about sessions, family access, funding, and coordination with NCLAP.
- North Carolina Lawyer Assistance Program — Services, who NCLAP helps, and how to make contact.
- NCLAP frequently asked questions — Confidentiality, services, referrals, and separation from the State Bar's disciplinary function.
- BarCARES and LAP—Working in Harmony — How the programs complement and cross-refer to one another.



Abigail E. Peoples
President, Greensboro Bar Association
and the 24th Judicial District Bar

Wall Assumes Position with Federal Bar Association

Jon Wall

Higgins Benjamin partner Jon Wall was installed as the Chair of the Labor & Employment Law Section of the Federal Bar Association (FBA) in Richmond, Virginia on September 19, 2026. The FBA was founded in 1920 and has about 19,000 members organized into almost 100 chapters. The Labor & Employment Law Section is comprised of about 1,500 lawyers and law students spanning this diverse, multifaceted and ever-evolving field; members include plaintiff's and defense counsel, public sector lawyers, judges, human resources professionals, and in-house counsel. Wall also serves on the Board of the Greensboro Bar Association.

YLS: Connections

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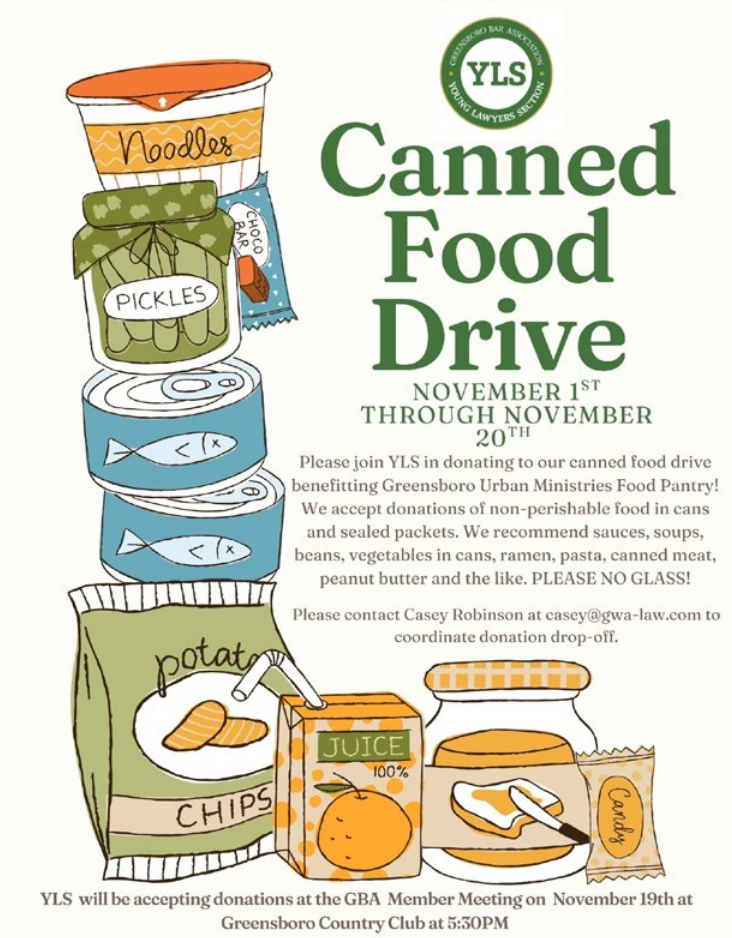

YLS is hosting a canned food drive and is accepting donations! Please contact Casey Robinson for more information and follow YLS on socials for more information!

Greensboro Urban Ministries: Service and Impact

On October 28th, 2026, our Section continued our partnership with Greensboro Urban Ministries. This initiative is one of our cornerstones in giving back to the community we serve. We were able to join together to cook and serve a hot meal consisting of lasagna, garlic bread, caesar salad, and a sweet treat to those in need in our community.

Looking Ahead: Fall Mix and Mingle

Kick off the Fall Season by reconnecting with your colleagues! The Membership Committee and Young Lawyers Section are collaborating to host a Fall Social on November 5th, 2026, at Southend Brewing in downtown Greensboro. All current and prospective Greensboro Bar Association members are welcome, and we look forward to mingling with you!

Date: November 5th, 2026
Time: 5:30PM – 7:30PM
Location: Southend Brewing
117 W. Lewis Street, Greensboro

***First drink is on GBA, and snacks will be provided!**
Please RSVP here!

Continued on page 9

Guilford Inn of Court Elects Officers for 2026–2027 Year

The Guilford Inn of Court recently elected its officers for the 2026–2027 year and held its first meeting. The newly elected officers are Jason Hicks, President; Sarah Roane, Vice President; and Eugene "Gene" Lester, Secretary/ Treasurer. All three are Greensboro attorneys and members of the Greensboro Bar Association.

The Inn meets monthly in September, October, January, February, March, and April at Sedgefield Country Club. Meetings feature presentations by Inn members or programs with outside speakers, providing opportunities for professional development and the exchange of ideas.

The Guilford Inn of Court is dedicated to promoting civility, professionalism, and mentorship within the legal community. As part of that mission, the Inn regularly welcomes law students from Elon University School of Law and High Point University School of Law, fostering connections between law students and practicing attorneys.

For more information about the Guilford Inn of Court, please contact President Jason Hicks.

Jason Hicks

Gene Lester

Sarah Roane

Attorneys Payne and Hulse Join Law Firm Carolinas

Law Firm Carolinas welcomes Jennifer K. Payne and Frederick C. "Fred" Hulse to its Greensboro office.

Jennifer K. Payne

Jennifer, a graduate of Wake Forest University School of Law, brings more than 15 years of family law experience and is a Certified Family Financial Mediator and Certified Collaborative Law Professional.

Fred, a graduate of Elon University School of Law, represents homeowner, condominium, and townhouse associations, with a particular focus on assessment collections. His prior experience includes employment and labor law, civil litigation, and real estate law.

Frederick C. Hulse

Law Firm Carolinas has five offices across North and South Carolina. For more information, visit lawfirmcarolinas.com.

GBA Holiday Gathering: Registration Open!

Register Here

Reservations are required and must be made by Thursday, December 3rd at 5:00 PM.

YLS CONNECTIONS CONTINUED FROM PAGE 7

YLS Member Spotlight: Andrea A. Pascal, of Chapman & Roberts, P.A.

Andrea A. Pascal

Andrea is an associate attorney at Chapman & Roberts, P.A., where she practices federal immigration law. Her work ranges from helping businesses bring international talent to the U.S. to guiding individuals and families through the immigration process and advocating for those seeking humanitarian protection. Andrea's favorite part about immigration law is the opportunity to connect with people from all over the world and learn about their experiences. She finds that every client brings a different story, perspective, and set of challenges, which makes the work both interesting and rewarding. Andrea enjoys being able to guide someone through a complicated process and make a difference in their future.

What's a fun or surprising fact about you?

A surprising fact about me is that I own a 1934 Ford Woody. My grandfather collected antique Fords, and I was lucky enough to inherit one when he passed away. Cars have always been a big part of my family, so having a 92-year-old piece of automotive history with sentimental value is pretty special. Not your typical family heirloom, but certainly one of my favorites!

What skills do you think are most important for young lawyers today?

Adaptability, communication, and empathy. You have to be willing to learn, because the law is constantly changing and you're never going to know everything. You also have to know how to take something complicated and explain it in a way that actually makes sense to your client. Knowing the law is obviously important, but knowing how to listen, communicate, and connect with people is just as important. At the end of the day, there's a real person behind every case, and sometimes they're coming to you during one of the most stressful moments of their life. I think being curious, adaptable, and genuinely willing to listen will take a young lawyer a long way.

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 platforms and in the GBA's member newsletter!

IS IT ETHICAL TO USE AI?: CONTINUED FROM PAGE 5

5. How will I stay informed?

This may be the most important question of all.

AI products are evolving rapidly. Features change, vendors update their terms of service, and new risks emerge. A technology that was appropriate when a firm first adopted it may require reevaluation as the product or its use changes.

Technology competence is not something we achieve once and check off our list. It is an ongoing professional responsibility.

These five questions aren't a substitute for the Rules of Professional Conduct or the guidance provided in ethics opinions. But they offer a practical starting point for evaluating new technology through the lens of our existing obligations.

The Next Technology Is Already Coming

Artificial intelligence is generating enormous attention today, and for good reason. It has the potential to change how lawyers research, draft, communicate, manage their practices, and serve their clients.

But AI will not be the last technological development to challenge the way we practice law.

New tools will continue to emerge, promising greater efficiency while introducing unfamiliar risks. We cannot expect the State Bar to issue a new ethics opinion every time a product enters the marketplace. Nor should we want a regulatory framework so prescriptive that its guidance becomes obsolete almost as soon as it is published.

What we need are enduring principles that help us make sound decisions as circumstances change. Our ethical obligations don't disappear when we adopt new technology. But those obligations don't necessarily prevent us from embracing innovation, either.

Instead, they require us to bring the same diligence, competence, and professional judgment to our technology decisions that we bring to the representation of our clients.

So, the next time someone asks, "Is it ethical to use ChatGPT?" or "Which AI tool has the State Bar approved?" perhaps we should reframe the conversation.

The question isn't whether the technology is ethical. The question is whether our use of the technology is ethical. And answering that question will always require more than checking a box.

Camille Stell is the Vice President of Risk & Practice Management for Lawyers Mutual 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@lawyersmutualnc.com *or 800.662.8843.*