THE GBA NEWS DOCKET

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

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

jparisi@spanglerestateplanning.com

Message from the President

Hello GBA Members!

Our 2023-24 bar year is off to a strong start! September saw the return of our CLE Lunch and Learns with an informative CLE centered on bankruptcy for non-bankruptcy attorneys hosted by the law firm of Ellis & Winters LLP. During our September Member Meeting, North Carolina Supreme Court Associate Justice Anita Earls served as our guest speaker. During her remarks, Justice Earls recognized Greensboro's own Judge Elreta Melton Alexander (the first Black woman to practice law in North Carolina and elected as a judge in this State), provided a judiciary update, and discussed the legal needs of underserved populations in North Carolina.

Regarding the latter, Justice Earls shared data from a comprehensive civil legal needs assessment resulting from a partnership with UNC Greensboro's Center for Housing and Community Studies, the North Carolina Equal Access to Justice Commission and the Equal Justice Alliance. Personally, much of the data was disheartening. Specifically, I was surprised to learn that nearly 86% of civil legal needs of North Carolinians go unmet due to a variety of reasons such as geographic and racial disparities, attorney costs, lack of resources available to legal aid providers, etc. As I listened to the data being shared, I was reminded of one of my favorite quotes by Martin L. King, Jr. which states, "Life's most persistent and urgent question is: What are you doing for others?" As lawyers and members of the GBA, we certainly have the talents and training to address some of these civil legal needs in our communities. As a result, I've reached out to our Pro Bono and Community Involvement Committees to explore ideas on how we can address some of the unmet legal needs in Guilford County. I invite our members to join these committees and/or share ideas to further assist the GBA in this endeavor.

As we journey into October, please be on the lookout for a GBA communication in which you can identify whether you currently align with any of our existing sections (Young Lawyers, Real Estate Law, Family Law and Business/Corporate Law), as well as your interest in joining any of our 15 committees (including the two previously named above). Also, we will welcome Attorney Patti Ramseur, President of the North Carolina Bar Association, as the guest speaker during our October Member Meeting to provide current updates related to that association. I hope to see you at the meeting.

Thank you for membership in and support of the GBA!

All the best.

Gerald L. Walden, Jr.

President, Greensboro Bar Association 2023-2024

OCTOBER CALENDAR NOTES

October 4 GBA Board Orientation,

4:00 PM, Zoom

October 11 GBA Board Meeting,

4:00 PM, Zoom

October 18 YLS Board Meeting,

12:00 PM, CR Legal Team Office

October 19 Member Lunch,

12:30 PM, Greensboro Country Club

October 20 Submission Deadline

for November Newsletter

October 27 Swearing-In Ceremony,

3:00 PM, Location TBD

Click to keep up with GBA Events Online
Click Here for Legal Community Events

MEMBERS INVITED TO JOIN A GBA COMMITTEE OR SECTION

In an effort to bring greater value to our members and achieve the goals of the GBA, we invite you to learn more about committee and section offerings. Please complete the short questionnaire (approximate 1 minute) by clicking on the link or scanning the QR code below. Email <u>Diane Lowe</u> for additional information.



https://form.jotform.com/232605269702051

CELEBRATION OF RETIREMENT FOR JOHN NIEMAN

Guilford County Chief Public Defender and a prominent leader in our legal community, John Nieman, is celebrating his retirement! A celebration of his service to Guilford County and the legal profession is scheduled for October 5th at 5:15pm at the law offices of Garrett Walker Aycoth & Olson. All members are invited and encouraged to attend.

GBA MENTORING PROGRAM

GBA's Mentoring Program is back this Fall with fresh new ideas for how to bring Greensboro attorneys of various experience levels together to learn from each other! Be on the lookout for the registration form that will be coming soon. For more information, please contact Hillary Kies at hkies@turningpointlit.com or Jeffrey Jones at <a href="jeffrey@jeffrey

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.



NOTICE

Submissions for consideration for the Greensboro Bar Association Newsletter should be made to Jonathan M. Parisi at <u>jparisi@spanglerestateplanning.com</u>. 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.





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

Young Lawyers Section: Connections

An Update from YLS

During the month of August, YLS hosted an event at the Grasshoppers game (see below) & had a blast. The YLS board also hosted its first meeting and discussed the following goals for the year: 1) Establish the strength of YLS in the GBA & the community; 2) Promote YLS members; 3) Create a YLS experience that is meaningful throughout all stages of life.



I hope you will notice our action plan to reach these goals starting with this newsletter's inclusion of our first *YLS Member Spotlight*. We look forward to highlighting our members and their personal and professional achievements. Additionally, you will see young lawyers wearing YLS pins at the next GBA meeting. If you are an attorney under 40 years of age <u>or</u> have been practicing less than 5 years, please grab a pin to wear during the meeting. We would love to connect with you! If you have questions about YLS or how to get involved, please speak with someone wearing one of these pins!

YLS X Greensboro Grasshoppers

On Thursday, August 31, 2023, YLS enjoyed one of the last Greensboro Grasshoppers games of the year! Members and their families enjoyed being reunited after Summer!



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

THE UNSEEN BENEFITS OF VOLUNTEERISM

In the mid-1980's I graduated from Meredith College and the Meredith College Paralegal Program and began my career as a bright-eyed paralegal. I loved everything about what I was doing, but I especially enjoyed volunteering and building relationships through professional associations.

Fun with Volunteer Work

Sometime during those early years, a group of paralegals and lawyers from the Wake County Bar Association and the Raleigh-Wake Paralegal Association volunteered with a local Boy Scouts chapter in the Law Explorer program. The Law Explorer program was created to allow high school students to learn various roles in the legal profession.

These students approached the Wake County Bar Association with the goal of participating in a mock trial. There were both teenage boys and girls who participated in this project, and parents who served as chaperones.

After rallying our volunteers, we ordered a mock trial kit, and we meet on weeknights with the kids. We took turns hosting the coaching events at the law firms where we worked, and we chipped in for pizza for practice that often lasted several hours.

In no time, we were in the Wake County Courthouse coaching and cheering our teams on to victory. The kids had a blast, the parents were pleased as punch, and we took pride in our role of helping them accomplish their goal.

Today, as I write this, I wonder if any of those kids went on to paralegal school or law school? Even if they didn't, they left with a better understanding of our justice system and they had the confidence-building experience of leading a trial team, making arguments in court, and hopefully they saw our role as volunteers as something to emulate as well.

Building Relationships

At the time, I couldn't begin to see what a 40-year career looked like, and it certainly never occurred to me that my friends would go on to become outstanding leaders in their field.

The paralegals in this group were among my closest friends and Debbie Lawrence is still my "ride or die". Laura Powell Lee and Tricia Diltz Millward were long-time paralegals at Smith Anderson, and both served in local and state paralegal associations in leadership roles, as well as volunteering within their communities.

The volunteer lawyers rose to the top of their profession as well serving as the Assistant U.S. Attorney EDNC (Dan Boyce), Clerk of Court at the N.C. Court of Appeals (John Connell), practice group leader of the Medical Malpractice Defense team at Smith Anderson (John Madden), Senior Resident Superior Court Judge of the 10th Judicial District (Paul Ridgeway), and Assistant U.S. Attorney EDNC (Kieran Shanahan).

I didn't find a study that said helping high school students produce a mock trial correlated to winning a judicial election, but it's no coincidence that those who give of themselves, and their time are also those who are preparing themselves for career and life opportunities.

Health Benefits of Volunteering

Psychology and Aging published a four-year study on the benefits of volunteering in adults 50-years-old and over. The study showed that those who volunteered at least 200 hours the year prior to the study were less likely to develop hypertension.

A CNN Health article reported that volunteering has shown benefit in reducing pain, minimizing stress, improving depression, reducing the risk for cognitive impairment, and that volunteering will help us live longer.

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ABIGAIL SEYMOUR SELECTED BY GOLDMAN SACHS FOR PRESTIGIOUS SMALL BUSINESS PROGRAM



Abigail C. Seymour

Camino Law, a bilingual women-owned family law firm, is honored to announce that its founder and GBA member, attorney Abigail C. Seymour, has been selected to participate in the prestigious Goldman Sachs 10,000 Small Business Program.

One of 170 entrepreneurs nationwide chosen for the program's National Cohort, Seymour will engage in

highly specialized training designed by the banking and investment company, in collaboration with Babson College, designed to empower small businesses around the country.

Seymour, a second-career attorney who graduated from Elon University School of Law in Greensboro at age 50, founded Camino Law in 2019. Her all-female firm is one of the few bilingual family law firms in the Triad. (Seymour herself is fluent in Spanish after living in Spain in her 20s, and the majority of her staff are native Spanish-speakers.) The firm's name derives from her experience walking the 500-mile Camino de Santiago across Spain in 1995.

Now with a staff of 7, and having tripled revenue since 2020, Camino Law is known for its innovative approach to the traditional law firm experience. "Many of our clients are parents, and often have to bring their kids to the office, so we have a bright and cheerful playroom for them and

a Little Free Library," says Seymour. The entire office, a converted Victorian house near Blandwood Mansion, is decorated with artwork, some of it by Seymour, a former photographer and artist. "We represent and advocate for our clients, and sometimes that means helping them avoid litigation entirely. Overall, we want to let them know that our number one priority in everything we do is for the best interests of their children," says Seymour.

As part of the highly competitive 12-week Goldman Sachs program, which is offered to participants for free, Seymour will join other entrepreneurs in 120 hours of training and mentorship in key areas such as business strategy, financial management, marketing, and leadership development. In addition to the invaluable knowledge gained from the curriculum, Camino Law's participation will also grant access to a vast network of peers, industry experts, and mentors who will provide guidance and support throughout the journey.

"Camino Law remains committed to helping families stay out of court, stay friends and raise happier kids," says Seymour. "Goldman Sachs' program will help us to scale and grow in a way that will allow us to assist even more families in focusing on the well-being of their children rather than battling each other in court. Our participation in this program aligns perfectly with our long-term vision for success. We are excited about the possibilities this program offers and look forward to sharing the benefits with our clients, employees, and the community."

JON WALL NAMED TO 2023 POWER LIST OF EMPLOYMENT LAWYERS



Jonathan Wall

Higgins Benjamin attorney Jonathan "Jon" Wall was named to the 2023 Power List of Employment Lawyers in North Carolina. This year, *North Carolina Lawyers Weekly* recognized 25 lawyers throughout the State on the Power List of Employment Lawyers. Jon also currently serves as the co-chair of the Greensboro Bar Association's Pro Bono Committee.

Wall's practice includes wage & hour class actions, WARN Act class actions, noncompetition agreement litigation, discrimination, and wrongful discharge in violation of public policy. For more information, go to https://nclawyersweekly.com/2023/08/23/power-list-employment-2023/.

Of employment law, Wall said "The law is more fluid and developing than in some other legal pursuits, and interesting legal questions are raised in almost every case."



RON JOHNSON OF CARRUTHERS & ROTH NAMED TO NC BAR'S LEGAL PRACTICE HALL OF FAME



Ron Johnson

GBA member and Carruthers & Roth attorney Ron Johnson has been inducted into the North Carolina Bar Association's Legal Practice Hall of Fame – a recognition honoring outstanding lawyers who exhibit the highest standards of ethics, professional competency, and service to both the bar and the community.

The award was announced during the June annual

meeting of the North Carolina Bar Association, and an induction ceremony was held on September 14.

Davis McDonald, a Carruthers & Roth colleague who nominated Johnson for the award, says he clearly meets the Hall of Fame criteria.

"During his nearly five decades as an attorney, Ron has become well known in Guilford County and beyond for his knowledge, work ethic and generosity," McDonald says. "He has become a trusted advisor to thousands of loyal clients and to a wide range of civic groups and charities."

At Carruthers & Roth, Johnson works closely with clients on matters involving estate planning, estate administration, business law and nonprofit corporations. He is board certified in estate planning and probate law and is a former board member and past president of the Greensboro Estate Planning Council. He also has been repeatedly recognized by *Business North Carolina*'s "Legal Elite" — ranked by his peers for his excellence in tax and estate planning.

In addition to his commitment to his profession, Johnson is well-known for his commitment to the broader community. He has been honored by many charitable and civic organizations for his service, including the Community Foundation of Greater Greensboro, Family Services of the Piedmont, Triad Health Project, Guilford Green Foundation, the Human Rights Campaign, Planned Parenthood, AuthoraCare Collective, Women's Resource Center of Greensboro, and Greensboro Commission on the Status of Women.

Before joining Carruthers & Roth, Johnson was a founding member of Johnson Peddrick & McDonald, a Greensborobased law firm. He and his partners joined Carruthers & Roth in 2021.

YOUNG LAWYERS SECTION: CONNECIONS Continued from page 3

YLS Member Spotlight: Allison Dunlap, Board Member



Allie handles DWIs, traffic and criminal defense cases at Minick Law, P.C. She practices in the following counties: Guilford, Rockingham, Randolph, Forsyth, Davidson and Davie.

Allie's favorite part about her job is getting to help good people in their darkest hour. Allie states, "facing a traffic or criminal offense is stressful and giving people the information and encouragement

they need to get through the process is rewarding."

Fall Swearing-In Ceremony

Each year, the Young Lawyers Section sponsors a Fall Swearing-in Ceremony for the admission of newly licensed attorneys to the state and federal courts. This year, the Young Lawyers Section is hosting its Fall Swearing-in Ceremony on Friday, October 27, 2023, at 3:00 pm. The location is to be determined.

We welcome the support and attendance of the members of the GBA at the Fall Swearing-in Ceremony to support our newly licensed attorneys. Friends and family are also invited to celebrate the occasion. If you are a newly licensed attorney, or you know a newly licensed attorney, please email Tyler Nullmeyer at tnullmeyer@turningpointlit.com to receive application materials. Applications are due by October 20, 2023.

For more information about YLS events & service opportunities, follow us on <u>Facebook: Greensboro Bar</u> Association's Young Lawyers Section.

Connect with YLS:

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

The Young Lawyers Section would like to celebrate the personal milestones and professional accomplishments of it's members. Email YLS at info@greensboroyls.org to share achievements that you would like celebrated on the YLS Facebook page.



THREE CARRUTHERS & ROTH ATTORNEYS NAMED 2024 BEST LAWYERS "LAWYER OF THE YEAR" IN THE TRIAD

Carruthers & Roth, P.A. announced today that three of the firm's attorneys have been named Best Lawyers® 2024 "Lawyer of the Year" in their respective practice areas in the Triad area. Only a single lawyer in each practice area and designated metropolitan area is honored as the "Lawyer of the Year," making this accolade particularly significant.

- June L. Basden 2024 Triad "Lawyer of the Year" for Banking and Finance Law and for Bankruptcy and Creditor Debtor Rights / Insolvency and Reorganization Law
- J. Scott Dillon 2024 Triad "Lawyer of the Year" for Business Organizations (including LLCs and Partnerships)
- Richard L. Vanore 2024 Triad "Lawyer of the Year" for Medical Malpractice Law - Defendants



June L. Badsen

June L. Basden is both an attorney and a Certified Public Accountant with over 35 years of experience in commercial finance and insolvency law. She represents national, regional and community banks, financial institutions and commercial lenders in a variety of finance transactions, with a special focus on commercial lending and creditors' rights.

June was also listed in the 2024 edition of *The Best Lawyers in America* for her work in Commercial Finance Law and Commercial Transactions / UCC Law. She was previously recognized by Best Lawyers as Triad Commercial Finance Law "Lawyer of the Year" in 2021 & 2023, among other esteemed recognitions.



J. Scott Dillon

J. Scott Dillon is the senior attorney in Carruthers & Roth's Business, Tax and Estates department. He has a broadbased business, corporate, and transactional practice that includes handling personal and estate-related matters for the owners and their families. Scott has 40 years of experience dealing with legal issues affecting businesses and

counseling with business owners on such matters, as well as drafting and negotiating business contracts.

Scott was also listed in the 2024 edition of *The Best Lawyers in America* for his work in Closely Held Companies and Family Businesses Law, Corporate Law, and Employee Benefits (ERISA) Law, and was previously recognized by Best Lawyers as Triad Employee Benefits (ERISA) "Lawyer of the Year" for 2021 & 2023, among other esteemed recognitions.



Richard L. Vanore

Richard L. Vanore is a 50year litigator experienced in professional malpractice, health law, personal injury, commercial disputes and other areas of civil litigation. Richard is also certified by the North Carolina Dispute Resolution Commission to conduct Mediated Settlement Conferences in Superior Court cases and utilizes his litigation experience to assist

conflicting parties in resolving their disputes through effective facilitation.

Richard was also listed in the 2024 edition of *The Best Lawyers in America* for his work in Commercial Litigation, Personal Injury Litigation – Defendants, and Professional Malpractice Law – Defendants.

Carruthers & Roth also recently announced that <u>12 of the firm's attorneys have been named to 2024 Best Lawyers and four additional attorneys were named to the 2024 Best Lawyers: Ones to Watch in America lists.</u>



In Memoriam



JAMES BARNES WEEKS

June 23, 1941 - September 14, 2023

James (Jim) Barnes Weeks, age 82, died peacefully on September 14, 2023, following a courageous battle against cancer. He was born in Sampson County, North Carolina, on June 23, 1941, and throughout his remarkable life, touched the hearts of many.

Jim's journey was one of dedication, resilience, connection and fun. Jim graduated as valedictorian from Hobbton High School, then graduated in 1963 from UNC-Chapel Hill with a degree in political science. Although he initially did not pursue the study of law, he began building his family's foundation and relocated to Wilmington, North Carolina, in 1965. It was there that he embarked on a highly successful career as a salesman for Scientific Products. However, Jim's true passion beckoned, and in 1976 he graduated from the UNC School of Law, fulfilling his lifelong dream of becoming an attorney. He and a classmate, Joe Turner, established a successful law practice in Greensboro. Throughout his 46-year career, Jim helped countless individuals in achieving their dreams of home ownership and developing their estate plans, while assisting those in need. He spent much time volunteering with several organizations in Greensboro, while finding great joy in being an active part of the community. Jim also had a fun, quick wit. He was beloved at the courthouse and an admired mentor for countless law students.

A dedicated member of West Market Street United Methodist Church, Jim found purpose in teaching Sunday School. He was an avid Tar Heel fan, and seldom missed a game. He also had a zest for travel and, at the age of 60, took up the game of golf with enthusiasm.

Jim is preceded in death by his parents, James and Louise (Sutton) Weeks, his wife, Linda Willis Weeks, his son-in-law Toby Skemp, and his cherished friend, Matt Hunoval.

He is survived by his four devoted daughters: Lisa Weeks (Jay Cole), Lori Boldt (Terry), Kelley Tucker (Steven), and Shelley Roupas-Cantrell (Todd). He is also survived by his sister, Sylvia Cox, and nephews Alan Cox and Ken Cox (Samantha), and several grandchildren: Jack, Luke, Liz, and Patrick Boldt; Mackenzie and Austin Tucker; Thomas and David Roupas; and McLaren and Baxter Cantrell, as well as nieces Lindley and Kate.



VOLUNTEERS NEEDED FOR THE GBA WELCOME WAGON

The Membership Committee (Judge Bill Davis and Sarah Roane) needs your help! In an effort to encourage new members to participate in the GBA's programming and meet other members, we are once again initiating the Welcome Wagon program where we pair existing members with new members who are attending their first lunch or dinner meeting. Your participation would involve contacting the new member to introduce yourself and make arrangements to meet at the meeting, as well as taking the new member around during the social hour

to introduce them to other members. If the new member prefers, you could also sit with them during the meeting. You would not be expected to be available for every meeting, you would just be volunteering to be in a pool of folks who we would reach out to as needed to see if a pairing could be made.

If you would like to participate, please reach out to Sarah Roane at sarahroane@gmail.com.

THE UNSEEN BENEFITS OF VOLUNTEERISM Continued from page 4

Loneliness and isolation are recognized as epidemic in our world today. Volunteering allows us to feel closer to one another, expand our community, and strengthen bonds between co-workers, friends, and family. One study found that people who volunteer over 100 hours a year are some of the healthiest people in the U.S. and find volunteering a way to counteract the effects of anxiety, depression, and stress.

Conclusion

Volunteerism is the engine that keeps our communities healthy and vibrant and makes us healthier and happier. In my personal experience, volunteering expanded my relationships within the legal community which helped me as my career developed and expanded my friend circle.

There are so many opportunities for giving back. Find the opportunities that work for you and reap the rewards of volunteering!

Camille Stell is the President of Lawyers Mutual Consulting & Services and the co-author of "RESPECT – An Insight to Attorney Compensation Plans" published in December 2022. Continue this conversation by contacting Camille at camille@lawyersmutualconsulting.com or 919.677.8900.





NEW MEMBERS

Approved September 2023

Charles F Royster III Charles F Royster III Endorser: Sarah H. Roane

Jeremiah Kwame Opata *City of Greensboro*

Endorser: Polly D. Sizemore

Courtney Bachman
Deuterman Law Group

Endorser: Daniel L. Deuterman

Alexander Dawson III District Attorney's Office Endorser: Randle L. Jones

James Patrick Ellington *Elon University School of Law* Endorser: Peter R. Lamm

M. Gray Styers, Jr.
Fox Rothschild LLP
Endorser: Amy S. Klass

Jason Francis Hicks Guilford County Attorney's Office Endorser: Andrea Leslie-Fite

Taylor Squires

Kreider Attorneys at Law Endorser: Jonathan G. Kreider

Lance W. Behnke Lance W. Behnke Endorser: Susan Liemer

Christopher C. Barnes Law Firm Carolinas

Endorser: Carole R. Albright

Jordan Terry

Legal Aid of North Carolina Endorser: Janet McAuley-Blue

Camila Rivadeneira *Legal Aid of North Carolina* Endorser: Emily V. Carico

Dara Longoria

McKinney Immigration Law Endorser: Sarah H. Roane

Mary Jean Charlene Segal Not Your Average Law Firm Endorser: Melissa A. Duncan

Raven C. Ash

Revolution Law Group

Endorser: Karen McKeithen Schaede

Jesse Offchiss Schell Bray PLLC

Endorser: Andrew D. Steffensen

Beth Harshman

Endorser: Sarah H. Roane

Joel R. White Fox Rothschild LLP Endorser: Lisa M. Williford

John W. Cox

John W. Cox, Attorney at Law, PLLC

Endorser: Carole R. Albright





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