

# THE GBA NEWS DOCKET

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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](mailto:preston@denclaw.com)

## Message from the President

Greetings, friends!

Last month, I shared a few thoughts on why we have the Greensboro Bar Association and why it remains such an important organization. This month, I'd like to follow up with some reflections on how we come together to make the GBA the best it can be. Once we've clarified our purpose, the next step is to turn those ideas into action.

At the heart of this effort is participation. We live in a time when attendance at civic and professional organizations is declining across the board. Many of us have faced that familiar internal debate: Should I attend this bar event, or should I catch up on work—or just head home and relax? I'll admit, there have been moments when I've seen a GBA event on my calendar and thought, "Do I really need to go to this?" Without exception, every single time I've shown up, I've been glad I did. Whether it's hearing from an engaging speaker, learning from a CLE, contributing to a service project, or reconnecting with friends and colleagues, there's always value in showing up. I hope your experiences have been just as rewarding, and that I'll continue to see many of you at our GBA events!

Of course, these events and meetings don't come together by accident. Behind the scenes, our outstanding Board, committee chairs, and section leaders are hard at work planning programs designed to offer something meaningful for every member. If you're looking for a way to expand your involvement, I encourage you to consider joining a committee ([Committee Description and Sign-Up](#)) or section ([Section Description and Sign-Up](#)). It's a great opportunity to shape the kinds of programs and events that will have the most impact for you and others. If you're interested, please reach out to me or to Diane Lowe; we'd be happy to help you find the right fit.

Finally, the strength of GBA lies in its membership. One of the key purposes I highlighted last month was our commitment to serving the community. As individuals our impact is limited, but as a group our reach is far greater. Other goals, such as fostering community and mutual support, also depend on having an engaged and diverse membership. If you're reading this, you're likely already a member and actively involved, but you may know colleagues who aren't. I encourage you to invite them to an event, introduce them to the GBA, and share why you've chosen to be part of this organization. By continuing to grow our membership, we ensure GBA remains a dynamic and effective organization that makes important contributions to our profession and our community!

Thank you for all that you do to support the GBA. I look forward to seeing you soon!

Sincerely,

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

October 1	Mix & Mingle, 5:30 PM, Grapes & Grains
October 1	Pro Bono Award Nominations Submission Deadline
October 7	GBA Board Meeting, 4:00 PM, Self-Help Building
October 15	YLS Board Meeting, 12:00 PM, Self-Help Building
October 16	GBA Member Lunch, 12:30 PM, Greensboro Country Club
October 17	Swearing-in Ceremony, 3:00 PM, Old Guilford County Courthouse
October 31	Centennial Award Nominations Submission Deadline
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

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

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## NEW MEMBERS

Approved on September 9, 2025

Caroline A. DeCarvalho  
*Bovis, Kyle, Burch & Medlin, LLC*  
Category: Newly Licensed  
Endorser: Camilla F. DeBoard

Brooks Duane Godbold  
*Revolution Law Group*  
Category: Newly Licensed  
Endorser: Karen McKeithen Schaede

Martin McAullife  
*Elon University School of Law*  
Category: Regular  
Endorser: Patricia C. Perkins

Joseph Michael Korin  
*Bagwell, Holt, Smith P.A.*  
Category: Newly Licensed  
Endorser: Andrea L. Davis

Leigh Trigilio  
Category: Regular  
Endorser: Marc E. Trigilio

Stacey Dawn Rubain  
*Office of the Federal Public Defender*  
Category: Public Service  
Endorser: Ames C. Chamberlin

## 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 Preston Edwards at [preston@denclaw.com](mailto: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

On September 17, 2025, the YLS held its monthly executive board meeting to revisit its goals for the year and its commitment to providing various programming, service-related, and social opportunities for its members. In addition to fostering strong relationships with its current partners, like Hunter Elementary School and Greensboro Urban Ministry, the executive board discussed additional opportunities to connect and build relationships with other organizations in our community. Be on the lookout for more exciting information about how YLS is broadening its impact!

If you are an attorney under forty years of age or have been practicing for less than five years, we would love to connect with you! If you have questions about YLS or how to get involved, please reach out to any board member or contact us at [younglawyerssection@greensborobar.org](mailto:younglawyerssection@greensborobar.org).

## YLS Welcomes New Bar Year at Abbey Taphouse

On September 25, 2025, the YLS kicked off the 2025–2026 bar year with its annual “Kick-Off” event at The Abbey Taphouse, bringing together newly admitted attorneys and fellow legal professionals for an evening of networking and community building. The event offered attendees a chance to connect, learn about upcoming YLS initiatives, and get involved in the year ahead. With strong attendance and a welcoming atmosphere, the kick-off was a great success and set the tone for an exciting year of programming and engagement.

## Newly Licensed Attorneys to Take Oath at Fall 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 17, 2025, at 3:00 p.m.

The ceremony will be held in the Board Chambers Room on the 2nd floor of the Old Guilford County Courthouse, located at 301 W. Market St., Greensboro, NC 27401.

We welcome the support and attendance of GBA members at the swearing-in ceremony to support our newly licensed attorneys. If you are a newly licensed attorney, or you know a newly licensed attorney that may want to participate, please email [Jonathan M. Parisi](mailto:Jonathan.M.Parisi) for application materials. Applications are due by October 10, 2025.



Photo courtesy of Elon University School of Law

## YLS Member Spotlight: Hunter A. H. Amos, Tuggle Duggins P.A.



Hunter Amos

Hunter is an Associate Attorney at Tuggle Duggins P.A. and practices corporate law. A large part of his practice is focused on mergers and acquisitions. He also drafts and reviews contracts, sets up business entities, assists clients with their corporate structure, and other legal business issues.

### What advice would you give to law students or new lawyers?

The best advice I would give to new lawyers is to make yourself available and open to new projects even if it may not be exactly what you want to practice. Do not be afraid to ask questions even if you

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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.

# MALPRACTICE CLAIMS TRENDS: INSIGHTS FROM THE 2025 ABA LPL STUDY

Legal malpractice continues to evolve alongside technological, demographic, and societal shifts. The 2025 ABA Lawyers Professional Liability Spring Conference highlighted key national trends that every law firm should be watching. From the impact of aging populations to the growing role of artificial intelligence, the following are examples of the most pressing developments influencing claims in the legal profession today.

## The Big Three: Trusts, Business Transactions, and Securities

Recent surveys, including one by Ames & Gough, confirm that legal malpractice claims continue to arise most frequently from three practice areas:

- Trusts and Estates
- Business Transactional Work
- Corporate Securities

These areas inherently involve complex, high-stake matters where even small errors can lead to substantial financial consequences. In fact, despite claims frequency holding steady, 2023 - 2024 saw legal malpractice payouts hit an all-time high. Some insurers reported individual claim payouts exceeding \$100 million.

## Cybersecurity: A Persistent and Evolving Risk

Cybersecurity continues to pose serious challenges for the legal sector. Social engineering, wire fraud, and related cybercrimes are not yesterday's issues—they remain today's threats and are expected to persist into the future. As law firms handle sensitive client information and manage large financial transactions, the need for robust cybersecurity protocols has never been greater.

Lawyers Mutual continues to see law firms with no cyber security insurance coverage, no systems in place to guard against cyber threats, and risky behavior by attorneys and staff resulting in cyber-attacks on law firms in North Carolina.

We have many risk management resources on our website, visit [lawyersmutualinc.com](http://lawyersmutualinc.com). Talk

with Adam Pierce at our subsidiary, Lawyers Insurance, to get a quote on cyber coverage.

## The Silver Tsunami and the Great Wealth Transfer

The demographic shift created by aging baby boomers, known as the “silver tsunami”, is expected to reshape legal needs and malpractice risk. With 63 million Americans currently aged 61 to 79 and baby boomers holding over 50% of the nation's home equity, the potential for legal disputes involving estate planning, property, and wealth management is increasing. Adding to this is the unprecedented \$84 trillion wealth transfer underway, making meticulous attention to trust and estate planning more crucial than ever.

## Remote Work and Its Implications

The pandemic-induced shift to remote and hybrid work has redefined the legal workplace. While many attorneys appreciate the flexibility, remote work presents unique liability risks in areas such as:

- Attorney training and mentorship
- Supervision and oversight
- Well-being and isolation
- Data security and privacy

I'm a firm believer that remote and hybrid work can be done safely. As the profession continues to adapt to these new models, firms must redesign their professional management structure to meet the challenges of the modern world and remain vigilant in maintaining high standards of practice and ethical conduct.

## Conflicts of Interest: A Leading Cause of Claims

Conflicts of interest remain the top cause of legal malpractice claims, as confirmed by the latest Ames & Gough survey. These claims are particularly difficult to defend due to the ambiguity of lawyer conduct and the burden of proving professional default. Once a conflict is established, it can heavily influence how a jury interprets otherwise ambiguous actions - a significant legal vulnerability.

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# 2025-2026 ROBERT C. CONE COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT SOCIETY

The Community Involvement Committee is proud to announce the 2025-2026 Robert C. Cone Community Involvement Society. This will be for service outside of the service as contemplated by the rules of professional conduct. Like the Herb Falk Society, it will be based on service above 75 hours.

Please start keeping track of your hours since the start of 2025. There will be a link available later in the year to submit your hours.

Read more about Robert C. Cone and his exemplary service [HERE](#).

## CENTENNIAL AWARD NOMINATIONS OPEN

Please consider nominating a colleague for the Centennial Award this year.

The Centennial Award, co-sponsored by the North Carolina Bar Association, recognizes a Greensboro Bar Association member who has provided outstanding and exemplary community service. Recent awardees include Gerald L. Walden, Jr., Michael S. Fox, D. Erik Albright, and Kimberly Bullock Gatling.

Nominations for the Centennial Award are due on October 31, 2025, and can be submitted <https://form.jotform.com/252334670933155>. The Centennial Award will be presented at the January GBA meeting.

You may review a list of past recipients at <https://www.greensborobar.org/for-members/member-resources/awards/>.

Please contact Awards Committee Co-chair [Jennifer Mencarini](#) with questions.

## INPUT REQUESTED FOR FUTURE CLE TOPICS

As we work to plan this year's CLE offerings, the CLE Committee is requesting your feedback on topics for future CLEs. Please take a moment to let us know what topics or practice areas you would like to see in the CLE programming this year.

Click on <https://form.jotform.com/252639069362060> to complete the survey.

The CLE Committee appreciates your feedback.  
Thank you.

## MCMILLAN AWARD: HONORING DON VAUGHAN



Don Vaughan

Attorney Don Vaughan received the John B. McMillan Award for Distinguished Service from the North Carolina State Bar Association. It is the only award given by the State Bar. The award was presented at the September meeting of the Greensboro Bar.

Vaughan served Greensboro for seven terms as a member of the Greensboro City Council and two terms as Mayor Pro Tem. He served two terms in the State Senate and was Deputy Leader in the State Senate.

Vaughan has practiced law for over forty years and is an Adjunct Professor of State and Local Government at Wake Forest School of Law.

# ALLIE PETROVA RE-ELECTED AS ABA TAX SECTION'S COUNCIL DIRECTOR



Allie Petrova

Petrova Law is honored to announce that GBA member [Allie Petrova](#) has been re-elected to serve as Council Director of the American Bar Association Section of Taxation. Allie Petrova has been an active member of the ABA Tax Section since 2011.

The Council is the governing body of the ABA Tax Section, and Council Directors are responsible for directing the

work of the various committees of the Section as well as providing comments to the Internal Revenue Service on behalf of the ABA.

Petrova's commitment to excellence in the legal profession is highlighted by service as Chair of the Closely Held Business Committee of the ABA Tax Section. She currently serves on the ABA Tax Section's Publications and Nominating Committees. She is a John S. Nolan Fellow and has served as a speaker on ABA Tax panels since 2017. Petrova previously served as Chair of the Tax Section of the North Carolina Bar Association.

Earlier this year, Chambers and Partners USA 2025 recognized and ranked [the firm's Tax department](#) and [Allie Petrova](#) in Band 2 for Tax in North Carolina.

## **\*\*Legal Assistant Position Available\*\***



**WE ARE HIRING!**

### **Job Duties:**

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

### **Qualifications:**

- proficient with Microsoft Word and email
- 3–5 years experience in law firm setting preferred
- experience with law firm billing software preferred
- notary preferred
- paralegal certification not required
- coachable team player with a positive attitude

### **Compensation:**

- \$36k - \$44k annually depending on experience and skill set
- health insurance (employee only)
- retirement benefits available after one year

OR

- part-time opportunity available on hourly basis

Send resume to: [hannah@sklawnc.com](mailto:hannah@sklawnc.com)

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## YOUNG LAWYERS SECTION: CONNECTIONS

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think it is an easy question—if you never ask, you may never know.

**What's a fun or surprising fact people might not know about you?**

A surprising fact people may not know about me is that I did software consulting for about five years after undergrad before I decided to go to law school. Stopping that career and going to law school full time was the best career decision I have made thus far.

### Connect with YLS

To provide feedback & suggestions for future events/programming, please email the Young Lawyers Section at [younglawyerssection@greensborobar.org](mailto: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](mailto:younglawyerssection@greensborobar.org) to share achievements that you would like celebrated on our social media platform and in the GBA's member newsletter!

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## MALPRACTICE CLAIMS TRENDS

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### The Rise of Artificial Intelligence in Law

AI has quickly moved from concept to practical application in the legal profession. Already, AI tools are being used to:

- Conduct legal research and draft briefs
- Prepare for depositions, *voir dire*, and trials
- Review documents and transcripts to create timelines and identify key issues

While AI offers efficiencies, it also brings new risks around competence, confidentiality, and ethical boundaries. As its use grows, so does the potential for malpractice claims tied to its deployment.

For solo and small law firms, AI represents not just a challenge but a powerful opportunity. These firms can take meaningful steps to explore and embrace AI by starting with education - attending CLEs, webinars, or bar-sponsored workshops on legal tech. Developing a simple, thoughtful AI policy can help firms stay ahead of regulatory expectations and ethical obligations.

Solo and small firms should also evaluate available tools tailored to their size and practice areas, including AI-powered research tools, practice management platforms, and document automation solutions. Many of these tools offer free trials and low-cost entry points. By approaching AI with curiosity and intention, small firms can improve efficiency, serve clients more effectively, and remain competitive in a fast-changing legal landscape.

Clio has some excellent educational resources on AI – visit [Law Firm AI Policy Template, Tips & Examples | Clio](#). Clio also offers a free AI fundamentals certification – perfect for the legal assistants, paralegals, and young lawyers in your firms - [The Legal AI Fundamentals Certification | Free Video Course | Clio](#).

### Looking Ahead

The legal landscape is being shaped by an array of forces: demographic changes, technological innovation, evolving work models, and persistent ethical pitfalls. Awareness and proactive risk management are key to helping lawyers navigate this environment and minimize exposure to claims.

Lawyers Mutual remains committed to providing resources, education, and support to help North Carolina attorneys adapt and thrive in this ever-changing profession. Call us to schedule a consultation, a lunch and learn, or a law firm retreat presentation.

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

