

THE GBA NEWS DOCKET

VOLUME 76, NUMBER 1; SEPT 2026



Abigail E. Peoples,
*President of the
Greensboro Bar
Association*

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Message from the President

It is my privilege and pleasure to welcome you to a new Bar Year with the Greensboro Bar Association. Whether you are a longtime member returning after a busy summer, a new member joining us for the first time, or someone reconnecting with the GBA after time away, I am grateful that you are part of this professional community. The strength of our Bar has always come from the people who show up for one another, for our profession, and for the broader Greensboro community, and I am excited for all that we will do together in the year ahead.

As I begin my term as President, I do so with deep appreciation for those who have led before me and with great enthusiasm for the opportunities ahead. The Greensboro Bar Association has long been a place where attorneys can build relationships, strengthen their practices, serve the public, and support the rule of law. This year, I hope we will continue that important work while also placing intentional emphasis on the health and wellbeing of the lawyers who make that work possible.

My focus for this Bar Year is attorney health and wellness in its fullest sense. That includes personal mental health and well-being, the connection and purpose that come from pro bono service and community involvement, and the professional well-being that helps us practice with excellence, resilience, and integrity. The demands of our profession are real. Many of us are balancing heavy caseloads, client needs, court obligations, family responsibilities, leadership roles, and the constant pressure to be responsive and prepared. In the midst of those demands, it is easy to put ourselves last. But our well-being is not separate from our work as attorneys; it is essential to sustaining it.

This year, I hope the GBA will create space for honest conversation, practical resources, and meaningful opportunities to support one another. We will look for ways to encourage healthy practices, reduce isolation, and remind each other that seeking support is a sign of strength, not weakness. We will also continue to lift up the value of service, including through pro bono and community work, because service connects us to the reasons many of us entered this profession in the first place. When we use our skills to help others, we strengthen not only our community, but also our own sense of purpose and belonging.

Professional well-being also means building a Bar culture where attorneys can thrive at every stage of practice. New attorneys should feel welcomed and supported. Experienced attorneys should feel valued and engaged. Solo and small firm practitioners, government attorneys, in-house counsel, nonprofit lawyers, judges, and attorneys in every practice setting should see the GBA as a place where they can find connection, encouragement, and practical support. I hope this year brings new opportunities for mentorship, collaboration, leadership development, and fellowship across our membership.

Of course, the success of this year will depend on all of us. I encourage you to attend a meeting, join a committee, invite a colleague, participate in a service project, volunteer for a pro bono opportunity, and make time to connect with

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You can contribute news or topics
of interest to the GBA by contacting
Editor [Antoinette Stone](#).

CALENDAR NOTES

September 1 YLS Board Meeting,
12:00 PM, Self Help Building Suite 515

September 9 GBA Board Meeting,
4:00 PM, Self Help Building Suite 820

September 10 Member Lunch,
12:30 PM, Greensboro Country Club
[REGISTER HERE](#)

September 10 Real Property Section Meeting,
5:30 PM, Tuggle Duggins

September 20 Submission Deadline
for October Newsletter

October 6 YLS Board Meeting,
12:00 PM, Self-Help Building

October 8 Swearing-in Ceremony,
3:00 PM, Old Guilford County Courthouse

October 14 GBA Board Meeting,
4:00 PM, Self-Help Building

October 15 GBA Member Lunch,
12:30 PM, Greensboro Country Club

[GBA Online Calendar of Events](#)

NEW MEMBER

Approved on May 12, 2026

Alyson M. Hanlon
Law Firm of Abigail E. Peoples
Category: Newly Licensed
Endorser: Taniya D. Reaves

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®

GBA MEMBER MEETING SCHEDULE SCRAMBLE

We are mixing things up this year! Since 2018, we have held all lunch meetings at Greensboro Country Club and all dinner meetings at Starmount Forest Country Club. However, due to unusual club scheduling conflicts, we will hold lunches and dinners at both GCC and SFCC this bar year. Please pay close attention to the location of each meeting.

Sept 10, 2026 12:30 PM Greensboro Country Club (lunch)

Oct 15, 2026 12:30 PM Greensboro Country Club (lunch)

Nov 19, 2026 5:30 PM Greensboro Country Club (dinner)

December Holiday Party TBD

Jan 21, 2027 12:30 PM Starmount Forest CC (lunch)

Feb 18, 2027 5:30 PM Starmount Forest CC (dinner)

Mar 18, 2027 12:30 PM Starmount Forest CC (lunch)

Apr 15, 2027 5:30 PM Starmount Forest CC (dinner)

May Picnic at the Ballpark TBD

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



My name is Casey Robinson, and I am a Family Law Attorney at Garrett, Walker, Aycoth and Olson. I am honored to introduce myself as President of the Young Lawyers Section for the 2026-2027 bar year! I am happy to announce that YLS is off to a quick start this year, as we are already working towards our Kickoff Event and Fall Swearing-In Ceremony! We hope that all YLS members will make it to the September kickoff event to connect and hear more about our plans for this upcoming year. We look forward to growing our section and increasing our impact in the community through our leadership and volunteer efforts!

YLS Announces 2026-2027 Board Members

YLS is pleased to announce its board for the 2026-2027 year: Casey Robinson (President), Ben Rafte (President-Elect), Jonathan Parisi (Immediate Past President), Zachary Kovach (Secretary), Hunter Amos (Treasurer), Tekia Bazemore, Allison Dunlap, Alexis Holloway, Bryan Hernandez, Morgan Faries, Tyler Nullmeyer, and Elizabeth Robertson.

YLS End-of-the-Year Event, Spring Swearing-In Ceremony & Summer Baseball Game

On May 14, 2026, YLS hosted its End-of-the-Year Event at Oden Brewing Co. During this event, YLS' annual election was conducted. YLS thanks its members and their families for attending and making the event a success!

On May 21, 2026, YLS coordinated a Spring Swearing-In Ceremony at the United States Courthouse. Congratulations to the 23 individuals that were sworn into state or federal court! Thank you to all the volunteers who aided in sponsoring the newly admitted attorneys, came to support, and helped coordinate the event!

Members and their families attended a Greensboro Grasshoppers game. It was a great turnout and a lot of fun!

Upcoming YLS Events:

Kickoff Event – Keep an eye out on your emails for the Annual YLS Kickoff Event at Abbey Taphouse! More details to follow soon!

Fall Swearing-In Ceremony – YLS is planning a Fall Swearing-In Ceremony for 3:00 PM on October 8, 2026. Additional details, application materials, and instructions will be available in the near future. If you know any newly licensed attorneys, please let them know of this event.

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

YLS Member Spotlight: Morgan Faries - Garrett, Walker, Aycoth and Olson



Morgan Faries

Morgan Faries is an Associate Attorney at Garrett, Walker, Aycoth and Olson. Her practice focuses in the area of family law. Before joining her current firm, Morgan worked as a prosecutor with the Rockingham County District Attorney's Office. It was during her work as a prosecutor that she developed a passion for working on domestic cases and with families to help solve their problems.

When Morgan is not working, you can find her exploring new coffee spots, or with her poodle, Goose. She also enjoys traveling and staying active by running, attending Orange Theory, or going out on a hike. Morgan is a self-proclaimed "bravo-holic" and aficionado of all things reality television. YLS is lucky to welcome Morgan to the board for the 2026-2027 year!

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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
via [email](#) or calling
800.662.8843.

SMALL FIRMS CAN COMPETE FOR GREAT ASSOCIATES, JUST NOT ON BIG LAW'S TERMS

For many small law firm owners, hiring an associate can feel like entering a competition they have already lost.

Big firms can offer eye-popping salaries, substantial bonuses, recognizable names, and recruiting resources that a solo or small firm simply cannot match. Faced with that reality, small firm owners may assume the best candidates will inevitably choose the biggest paycheck.

But what if compensation is not the contest small firms should be trying to win?

On a recent episode of the *Wealthy Woman Lawyer*® podcast, consultant and podcast host Davina Frederick explored what legal recruiters are saying about how solo and small firms are successfully attracting associate attorneys in today's tight hiring market. Her message to small firm owners is encouraging: "You are not losing a compensation war. You were never in one."

Instead of trying to imitate Big Law, small firms should focus on the advantages they already have - and learn how to communicate those advantages to prospective associates.

What Associates Are Really Looking For

Frederick identifies five factors that recruiters say are drawing strong candidates to smaller firms.

1. Flexibility

Flexibility does not necessarily mean fully remote work. It can mean greater control over when and how work gets done, reasonable accommodations for personal responsibilities, or simply a workplace where lawyers are treated like responsible professionals with the ability to plan their way on their schedule when possible.

A smaller firm often has more freedom to design working arrangements around the needs of both the firm and the individual lawyer. That flexibility can be a significant recruiting advantage - if candidates know it exists.

2. Meaningful Client Contact and Responsibility

At a small firm, associates may have opportunities much earlier in their careers to communicate directly with clients, participate meaningfully in matters, appear in court, take depositions, negotiate with opposing counsel, or otherwise develop the skills required to become a well-rounded lawyer.

For candidates who want more than a narrow slice of a large matter, that responsibility can be enormously attractive.

When recruiting, don't simply tell candidates what work they will perform. Explain what they will have an opportunity to *learn, own, and become*.

3. Direct Mentorship

Personal access to experienced lawyers can be another powerful advantage.

Associates want to know who will teach them, answer questions, review their work, and help them develop judgment. Smaller firms may be particularly well positioned to offer direct relationships with firm owners and senior lawyers rather than leaving mentoring to a formal program or an overextended partner.

But mentorship cannot simply be promised. Candidates will want to know what it actually looks like in practice.

Who will review their work? How often will they receive feedback? Will they be able to observe experienced lawyers interacting with clients? Will someone take the time to explain not only what needs to change in a document, but why?

Those details make "mentorship" more than a recruiting buzzword.

4. Culture and Fit

Culture matters in every workplace, but it can be especially important in a small law firm. One person can have an outsized effect, for better or worse, on a small team.

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GBA YOUNG LAWYERS SECTION PARTNERS WITH WARD BLACK LAW FOR PROFESSIONAL CLOTHING DRIVE

The Greensboro Bar Association's Young Lawyers Section is excited to partner with Ward Black Law to support Reading Connections through a professional clothing drive this September!

Reading Connections provides adult literacy services and helps equip adults in our community with the skills and resources needed to pursue educational and workforce opportunities. Through this drive, we are collecting clean, current professional attire in excellent condition to help individuals look and feel prepared as they pursue employment and career advancement.

GBA members are encouraged to participate by donating professional clothing during the September 14–21 collection period. Members may also bring donations to the September 10 GBA Member meeting, where we will collect items in advance of the drive.

Please see the accompanying flyer for additional details. We hope you'll help us support Reading Connections and members of our community who are getting Ready for Work!

To coordinate a donation, please email [Jonathan M. Parisi](mailto:Jonathan.M.Parisi@wardblacklaw.com) or contact by phone at 336/252-1033.



MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

one another. If you are new to the GBA, we are glad you are here. If you have been part of this organization for many years, thank you for helping build the foundation we continue to rely on. If you are looking for a way to become more involved, I hope this is the year you take that step.

I am honored to serve as your President and grateful for the opportunity to work alongside you. I look forward to a year of connection, service, wellness, and renewed energy

for the work we do together as lawyers and as members of the Greensboro community. Thank you for being part of the Greensboro Bar Association, and welcome to a new Bar Year.

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



ROBERT C. CONE COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT SOCIETY 2026

The Community Involvement Committee would like to invite you to start now and keep track of your hours in service to community organizations that are outside of the eligibility of the Herb Falk Society. We want to recognize the good work GBA members are doing in the community with the distinction of being named a member of the 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, the Community Involvement Society is based on service above 75 hours.

For questions, please contact Community Involvement Committee Chair [Jason Hicks](#).

CONNECT WITH A GBA SECTION TODAY!

Joining a law section is not just about adding another line to your resume; it's about diving headfirst into a vibrant community where legal minds converge. Picture yourself mingling with seasoned professionals and enthusiastic newcomers alike, all eager to share their insights and brainstorm innovative ideas.

This is your chance to expand your network, forge meaningful connections, and perhaps even discover a mentor or a young attorney to mentor. So, unleash your curiosity, and get ready to engage in lively discussions that could spark the next big legal breakthrough.

Scan the QR or click
[For More Information
and Section Registration](#)



GBA ACCEPTING PRO BONO AWARD NOMINATIONS

Established in 1996, the Greensboro Bar Association's Pro Bono Award recognizes a GBA member for their significant contributions to providing free legal services to those in need. The Pro Bono Award acknowledges a member who has demonstrated a strong commitment to pro bono work, helping those who lack access to legal representation. The awardee has made a meaningful impact in supporting the community and upholding the principle of equal justice.

[View the list of past recipients](#)

The deadline to submit nominations for this year's Pro Bono Award is **October 1**.

[Nominations are accepted here](#)



YLS: CONNECTIONS CONTINUED FROM PAGE 3

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](#) to share achievements that you would like celebrated on the [YLS Facebook page](#).





THE HONORABLE FRANK WILLIAM BULLOCK, JR.

November 3, 1938 – August 13, 2026

The Honorable Frank William Bullock, Jr. passed away at home in Greensboro, North Carolina on August 13, 2026. Born November 3, 1938 in Oxford, North Carolina, he was the only child of Frank William Bullock, Sr. and Wilma Jackson Long Bullock. Judge Bullock was cherished by those who knew him as a loving and devoted husband, father, grandfather, and man of faith. He exemplified quiet wisdom and humility, and will be missed by all who had the privilege and pleasure of knowing him.

Judge Bullock was educated in the Oxford, North Carolina public school system. In 1957, he graduated from Oxford High School, where he won numerous academic and athletic honors. Thereafter he attended Duke University and the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill. He earned degrees from the Kenan Flagler School of Business and the UNC School of Law, where he was on the Board of Editors of the North Carolina Law Review and was Vice-President and Salutatorian of his graduating class in 1963.

Following a one-year appointment as a law clerk for the Honorable Algernon Lee Butler of the United States District Court for the Eastern District of North Carolina, he joined the Raleigh law firm of Maupin, Taylor, and Ellis, P.A. In 1968, he was appointed Assistant Director of the Administrative Office of the Courts of North Carolina and Administrative Assistant to the Chief Justice of the North Carolina Supreme Court. He resigned from these positions in 1973 and joined the Douglas Ravenel law firm in Greensboro, North Carolina, where he engaged primarily in federal appellate practice. During this time, Judge Bullock was active in the N.C. Bar Association and was one of the founders of the section on labor and employment law.

In 1982, he was nominated by President Ronald Reagan to be a federal judge with the United States District Court for the Middle District of North Carolina. He was unanimously confirmed by the United States Senate. At that time, he was the youngest federal judge in the country. Judge Bullock joined the bench during the heyday of the Colombian drug cartels and tried a number of high-profile South Florida drug conspiracy cases. Later, he gained nationwide notoriety as a result of his free-market decisions in a number of civil antitrust cases, including the landmark Brook Group antitrust case, which was affirmed by the United States Supreme Court. Judge Bullock had three significant civil rulings affirmed by the United States Supreme Court during his tenure. From 1996 to 2003, Judge Bullock served as Chief Justice William Rehnquist's appointee to the Standing Rules Committee of the Judicial Conference of the United States. He served as chief judge from 1992 to 1999 and assumed senior status in 2005. Judge Bullock frequently sat by designation on the United States Court of Appeals for the Fourth Circuit, where he authored opinions in a wide variety of cases. He retired from the bench in 2006 and joined Womble Carlyle Sandridge & Rice, LLP as a partner. Judge Bullock left Womble Carlyle to hang his own shingle as an arbitrator and mediator. He worked until he was 86 years old.

Judge Bullock was a member of the Society of the Cincinnati, the Greensboro Sports Council, and the Society of Colonial Wars.

Judge Bullock is survived by his loving wife of 43 years, Frances Haywood Bullock, his son, Frank William Bullock, III, his daughter-in-law, Lace Wayman Bullock, and his adored grandson, Frank William Bullock, IV.



FRANCIS KEVIN GORHAM

April 10, 1958 – August 9, 2026

Francis Kevin Gorham, 68, passed away peacefully at his home in Greensboro, North Carolina, surrounded by his loving family. He will be deeply missed by all who knew and loved him.

Born in 1958 in Richmond, Virginia, Kevin was the son of John J. Gorham and Mary Martin Becken. He grew up in Raleigh, North Carolina, and graduated from Enloe High School. He went on to earn degrees from Appalachian State University and University of Illinois Chicago School of Law, formerly John Marshall Law School, and was admitted to the North Carolina Bar in 1984.

Kevin had a profound passion for the law and a lifelong commitment to helping the underdog. He built his legal practice from the ground up and became a respected and trusted Greensboro attorney. For more than 40 years, he partnered with his close friend and colleague, Tom Maddox, supported by his longtime legal assistant, Michele Grubb, forming a professional bond admired throughout the community.

An avid outdoorsman, Kevin embraced adventure from an early age. He participated in Outward Bound NC during high school and spent many summers in his youth as a lifeguard at Wrightsville Beach and Ocracoke, North Carolina, forging memories and friendships that lasted a lifetime. He loved skiing, surfing, saltwater fishing, and boating. Later in life, he explored the world through scuba diving and developed a deep love for fly fishing, forever in search of prized trout across western North Carolina. His adventurous spirit also led him to the wilds of Alaska and Montana, where he fished, kayaked and trekked through remote, breathtaking landscapes.

Kevin is survived by his devoted wife, Janet Jackson Gorham, and his sons, Sean Gorham of Greensboro and Coleman Gorham of Raleigh. He is also survived by his siblings, Jean Gorham Johnson of Fredericksburg, Virginia, and Patrick Michael Gorham of Wyoming, Delaware; niece Lindsay Gorham; and nephews Thomas Johnson, Matthew Johnson, and Bryan Gorham. He is further survived by his sister-in-law, Tammy Stainback Jackson, niece, Wilma “Billie” Burdis (Joe) and nephew, Carey Ruffin Jackson, and many beloved cousins.

He was preceded in death by his sister, Kathleen L. Gorham; his father, John J. Gorham; his mother, Mary Martin Becken; his brother, John J. Gorham Jr. and brothers-in-law, Mike Jackson and James “Jimmy” Jackson.

Kevin’s life was defined by courage, curiosity, compassion, and an unwavering dedication to those he loved. His memory will be cherished always.

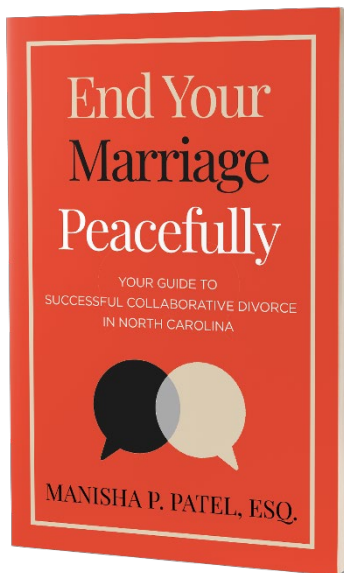
ATTORNEY MANISHA PATEL PUBLISHES NEW BOOK



Manisha Patel

Attorney and community leader Manisha Patel announces the publication of her new book, *End Your Marriage Peacefully: Your Guide to Successful Collaborative Divorce in North Carolina*, a practical and compassionate resource designed to help North Carolina couples navigate divorce with dignity, respect, and reduced conflict.

Drawing on her extensive experience as a family law attorney, Patel provides readers with a clear roadmap to understanding the collaborative divorce process — an alternative to traditional litigation that prioritizes cooperation, transparency, privacy, and family well-being.



The book explains how collaborative divorce can help couples avoid lengthy courtroom battles while creating customized solutions for their families and futures.

“Divorce does not have to be destructive,” said Patel. “My goal with this book is to empower people with information and practical tools so they can make thoughtful decisions and move forward peacefully, especially when children and long-term family relationships are involved.”

The book covers:

- The fundamentals of collaborative divorce in North Carolina
- How the collaborative process differs from litigation and mediation
- Financial, emotional, and parenting considerations during divorce
- Strategies for effective communication and conflict resolution
- How to build a healthier post-divorce future

Patel is a respected North Carolina attorney and has served as President of the Greensboro Bar Association and the North Carolina Association of Women Attorneys. Throughout her legal career, she has been committed to promoting professionalism, service to the community, and access to peaceful dispute resolution options for families.

End Your Marriage Peacefully: Your Guide to Successful Collaborative Divorce in North Carolina is now available for purchase online where books are sold, including but not limited to [Amazon](#), [Barnes and Noble](#), and [Books-A-Million](#).

JASON HICKS APPOINTED TO ABA



Jason Hicks

Jason F. Hicks, a deputy county attorney for Guilford County, has been appointed to serve a three-year appointment on the American Bar Association’s Standing Committee on Professionalism.

The Committee works to encourage, recommend, and provide assistance to ABA entities in the development and coordination of professionalism initiatives; and to encourage and provide assistance to state and local bar associations, the judiciary, law schools, and the legal community.

That makes hiring for fit important for both sides.

Candidates are evaluating how people communicate, how leaders respond when mistakes happen, whether employees appear to enjoy working together, and whether the firm's stated values match its everyday behavior.

Small firms should resist the temptation to present a polished but unrealistic version of themselves. The goal is not to appeal to every candidate. It is to appeal to the right candidate.

5. Transparency

Tell candidates what practicing at your firm actually looks like. What kinds of clients will they serve? What will their days look like? What expectations will they face? What is rewarding about the work, and what is challenging?

An accurate picture helps candidates make informed decisions and distinguishes the firm from employers that reveal little beyond a job description.

Transparency also sets the stage for retention. A lawyer who joins based on realistic expectations is less likely to discover six months later that the job is fundamentally different from the one they thought they accepted.

Recruiting Doesn't End When You Make the Hire

The factors that attract an associate are also closely connected to what keeps that lawyer at the firm.

According to the recruiters discussed in Frederick's podcast, expectations change as associates gain experience. Mid-level associates become increasingly attentive to leadership style, accessibility of partners, and the quality and frequency of feedback. Poor management - not simply compensation - is identified as a major driver of associate attrition as they progress in their career.

That is worth considering before concluding that an associate who leaves was simply lured away by a bigger salary.

Compensation certainly matters. But so do questions such as: Does the lawyer know what is expected? Do they receive useful feedback before the annual review? Do they have access to the firm's leaders? Can they see a future for themselves at the firm?

Those are areas where a small firm can compete.

Before the Job Description, Create a Success Profile

Frederick offers another practical suggestion, before writing the job posting, create a one-page success profile.

Rather than beginning with credentials required and a list of duties, answer three questions:

1. What outcomes do we need this person to deliver in the first 90 days?
2. What matters will this lawyer work on?
3. How will we distinguish between a good hire and an exceptional hire - and what will be required to meet that standard?

This exercise forces the firm to define what it actually needs.

"Associate attorney with 2–5 years of experience" tells you very little. Do you need someone who can independently manage a caseload? Someone who can inherit existing client relationships? Someone who needs substantive experience but can be trained in your practice area? Someone who could eventually become a successor or partner?

Until you know what success looks like, it is difficult to recognize the right person when they walk through the door.

Ask Better Interview Questions

A clearly defined success profile should also change the interview.

Traditional questions may tell you where a candidate went to school or what appears on their résumé, but they may not tell you whether that lawyer will thrive in your particular environment.

Frederick suggests questions designed to reveal how candidates actually work. For example:

"Tell me about a time you had to figure something out with very little supervision."

The answer can provide insight into initiative, judgment, and autonomy, all especially important in a small firm where someone may not be available to guide an associate through every step.

"What does a bad week look like for you, and how do you handle it?"

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BROOKS PIERCE ATTORNEY BETH LANGLEY SWORN IN AS NCBA PRESIDENT



Beth Langley

Beth Langley of Brooks Pierce in Greensboro has been installed as the 132nd president of the North Carolina Bar Association. The swearing-in ceremony took place on Friday, June 26, at the NCBA Annual Meeting in Charlotte.

Langley will also serve as the 2026-27 president of the North Carolina Bar Foundation.

The oath of office was administered by Justice

Samuel James Ervin IV as Beth's husband, Allen Meeks, held the Bible and their sons, Steven and Wes looked on.

"I love being a lawyer – there is not a better career to have. We can absolutely be proud that we are in a noble profession. We are lucky that we get to have a profound, positive effect on individuals' lives – not everybody can do that, but we do – and it doesn't matter what your area of practice is or where you work, you make a difference," said Langley. "That's the inherent value of the North Carolina Bar Association and our Foundation, because together, collectively, our contributions to our clients, our communities, are multiplied exponentially."

Certified as a North Carolina Superior Court Mediator by the N.C. Dispute Resolution Commission, Langley joined Brooks Pierce in 2018 and focuses her legal and mediation practice on complex employment and business litigation. She previously practiced with Adams Kleemeier Hagan Hannah & Fouts, PLLC, Nexsen Pruet (now Maynard Nexsen), and Hagan Barrett & Langley PLLC.

Langley is a 1986 graduate of Wake Forest University, cum laude, and a 1992 graduate of Wake Forest University School of Law, where she served as editor-in-chief of the Wake Forest Law Review and received the E. McGruder Faris Award as the law student "who exhibited the highest standards of character, leadership, and scholarship."

Langley served on the NCBA Board of Governors and NCBF Board of Directors in 2018-21. She is a past chair of the NCBA Labor & Employment Law Section, NCBA Nominations Committee and NCBF Development Committee, and has served on the Dispute Resolution Section council and numerous other committees.

She is a member of the Federal Bar Association, American Bar Association and Guilford County Bar Association; a Fellow of the Litigation Counsel of America and the American Bar Foundation; a former member of the Magistrate Judge Selection Panel for the U.S. District Court for the Middle District of North Carolina; and serves on the Wake Forest University School of Law Board of Visitors (2007-12, 2024-present).

Within her community and church, Langley has served on the United Way of Greater Greensboro Human Resources Committee, Degrees Matter!, the Bethany Community Middle School Board of Directors and as a member of the Staff Parish Relations Committee and Board of Trustees of Christ United Methodist Church.

Langley and her husband, Allen Meeks, have two sons, Steven and Wes.

*Written by Erin Robbins
NCBA Director of Marketing and Communications*

FOX ROTHSCHILD ADDS TWO NEW PARTNERS



Ashley Barton Chandler

Fox Rothschild has elevated two Greensboro attorneys, Ashley Barton Chandler and Joseph R. Shuford, to partner.

Ashley Barton Chandler represents companies and their shareholders in a variety of commercial disputes. She focuses her practice on complex business litigation with an emphasis on trade secret, restrictive covenant, and shareholder litigation.



Joseph R. Shuford

Joseph R. Shuford is a construction law attorney with experience representing public and private entities who resolve disputes in a practical and efficient manner. He also drafts comprehensive contracts that allocate risks to reduce the likelihood of later disputes.



**All members are invited to serve on a Greensboro Bar Association committee.
Join the fun! Sign up today using the link below.**

Awards & Recognitions - Researches and makes recommendations to the Executive Board for annual awards, award recipients, and member recognitions.

Centennial Celebration - Plans event(s) to commemorate the GBA's 100th anniversary in 2029.

CLE - Plans and presents the GBA's CLE programs; expands and enhances the number of CLE offerings of GBA.

Community Involvement - Recommends community service projects to the Association to adopt and runs such projects.

Elementary School Project - Arranges a program or project for the benefit of students to enhance interest in learning; coordinates the elementary book drive where students are gifted a book at the holidays.

History & Archives - Conducts interviews with senior members of the Association; preserves GBA history and records.

Holiday Party - Decides on venue, menus, prizes and entertainment for the annual holiday party.

Legal Aid Fundraiser - Identifies a fundraiser project to benefit Legal Aid of NC, and organizes the event.

Membership - Recruits, retains, and engages members; focuses on participation by young lawyers; coordinates Welcome Wagon onboarding; plans Mix & Mingles.

Mentoring - Plans networking activities that pair newly licensed and veteran attorneys.

Newsletter/Print & Social Media - Edits the monthly newsletter; submits press releases.

Nominating - Presents a slate of candidates for new officers and directors for the upcoming year, to be presented to the Executive Committee in March, published in the newsletter, and voted on at the April Annual Meeting of the Association.

Pro Bono - Publicizes pro bono opportunities to the membership; recognizes Herb Falk Society inductees; works with Legal Aid on pro bono projects.

Scholarships (Elon Law) - Evaluates applicants for eligibility and worthiness, assessing achievements, academic record, and letters of recommendation in order to identify the most deserving applicant(s).

Summer Law Connect - Plans summer mixers for members and law students with placements at law firms, public employers and corporate legal departments located in Guilford County.

Sign up online at <https://form.jotform.com/262106909182154> or scan the QR code --->>



Legal practice brings difficult clients, unexpected deadlines, adverse rulings, mistakes, and competing demands. This question can help reveal what rattles a candidate and how that person responds under pressure.

And perhaps the simplest question:

“What part of practicing law do you enjoy?”

Listen carefully to the answer. What energizes the candidate? Is it working directly with clients? Research and writing? Being in court? Solving complicated problems? Building relationships?

Then ask whether your firm can give that lawyer opportunities to do more of it.

Use Your Size as an Advantage

Small firms may have one final advantage in today's hiring market: speed.

A large organization may require multiple interviews, layers of approval, and weeks between the first conversation and an offer. A small firm that knows what it wants can move quickly - meeting a promising candidate on Tuesday and potentially making an offer by Thursday.

Speed, however, should come from preparation rather than desperation. Know what success looks like, know what you can offer, and have your decision-makers ready to act when the right candidate appears.

The larger lesson from Frederick's podcast is that small firms should stop defining themselves by what they cannot offer.

You may not be able to match a Big Law salary. But you may be able to offer flexibility, meaningful responsibility, direct access to experienced lawyers, frequent feedback, a healthy culture, transparency, and a career in which an associate can see the impact of their work.

Those aren't consolation prizes.

For the right lawyer, they may be exactly what makes your firm the better opportunity.

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 via [email](mailto:admin@greensborobar.org) or at 800.662.8843.

