

# THE GBA NEWS DOCKET

VOLUME 74, NUMBER 3; NOVEMBER 2024



Manisha P. Patel, Esq.  
*President of the  
Greensboro Bar  
Association*

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## Message from the President

### GRATITUDE IN ACTION THROUGH SERVICE

As November arrives, so does a season dedicated to reflection and gratitude. This time of Thanksgiving encourages us to appreciate the many blessings in our lives and to extend that gratitude outward by serving those in need. As members of the Greensboro Bar Association, we have a unique opportunity to make a difference, especially for communities facing hardships.

In the spirit of service, I am proud to announce that the Greensboro Bar Association Foundation has made contributions to Pisgah Legal Services and the Community Foundation of Western North Carolina to support Tropical Storm Helene relief efforts. This financial support will aid legal services to families and communities in Western North Carolina as they work to rebuild after the devastating impacts of the storm. Pisgah Legal Services and the Community Foundation are deeply rooted in the region, providing vital resources, legal assistance, and support to those most affected, and our contributions will help extend their reach.

Along with these donations, let us continue to embrace the power of service here at home. Thanksgiving reminds us not only to be thankful for our own good fortune but also to share our time, skills, and resources with others. Pro bono work, volunteering, and community engagement are some of the most impactful ways we can uplift those around us. I encourage you to consider how you can give back this season, whether by supporting storm relief efforts, offering your expertise to individuals and organizations in need, or financially.

This season, let's also take time to express gratitude to those who support us in our work—the families, friends, and colleagues who stand behind us. It is through their encouragement and understanding that we are able to meet the demands of our profession and continue to grow both personally and professionally. I am deeply grateful for each of you and for the dedication you bring to the Greensboro Bar Association's mission of service. Together, we can make a meaningful difference for those affected by Tropical Storm Helene and continue to support our own community in countless ways.

With gratitude,

Manisha P. Patel, Esq.

President, Greensboro Bar Association and the 24th Judicial District

You can contribute news or topics of interest to the GBA by contacting Editor Jonathan M. Parisi:  
[jparisi@spanglerestateplanning.com](mailto:jparisi@spanglerestateplanning.com)

# NOVEMBER CALENDAR NOTES

- November 11** Submission Deadline for Pro Bono and Centennial Awards
- November 13** GBA Board Meeting, 4:00 PM, Self Help Building
- November 20** YLS Board Meeting, 12:00 PM, CR Legal Team Office
- November 20** Submission Deadline for December Newsletter
- November 21** Member Lunch & Bar Councilor Election, 12:30 PM, Greensboro Country Club
- November 21** GBA Work Night, 5:00 PM, Out of the Garden Project

[Click to keep up with GBA Events Online](#)

[Click Here for Legal Community Events](#)

## NEW JOTFORM FOR AWARD NOMINATIONS!

The Greensboro Bar Association is excited to announce the launch of a new Jotform for submitting nominations for our annual awards! This user-friendly online platform simplifies the nomination process, making it easier than ever for members to recognize their peers for outstanding contributions to the legal community.

To submit your nominations, simply click the link below and follow the prompts. Let's celebrate the excellence within our Association!

[\*\*Nominate Here!\*\*](#)

*Thank you for your participation!*

## VOLUNTEER WITH THE GBA!

Ready to roll up your sleeves and dive into some delightful do-gooding? Not only will you be volunteering your time, but you'll also be building connections, sharing ideas, and making a splash in your community. So, why not take the plunge? Let's make some waves together and turn those good intentions into action! After all, "volunteer" is just another way of saying "I'm here to lend a helping hand and have a blast while doing it!"

Scan the QR code or click on the link to view 2024-25 volunteer opportunities including the Legal Aid fundraiser, mentoring, the elementary school project and much more!



[\*\*SIGN UP TODAY!\*\*](#)

### 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 Jonathan M. Parisi at [jparisi@spanglerestateplanning.com](mailto:jparisi@spanglerestateplanning.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.

# Young Lawyers Section: Connections



Tyler Nullmeyer is President of the Greensboro Bar Association's Young Lawyers Section and Associate Attorney at [Turning Point Litigation](#).



## An Update from YLS

YLS strives to host at least one event for its members each month of the bar year. In September, YLS held its kickoff event at The Abbey Taphouse! We enjoyed the opportunity to meet many of our members. During September, the YLS board also planned multiple upcoming events, including a service event with Greensboro Urban Ministries, a joint networking event with NCBA YLD, and the fall swearing-in ceremony. We are excited to see many of our members at these upcoming events! If you are an attorney under 40 years of age or have been practicing for less than 5 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 our YLS email account, [younglawyerssection@greensborobar.org](mailto:younglawyerssection@greensborobar.org).

## YLS Kickoff Event at The Abbey Taphouse

On Thursday, September 26th, YLS hosted its kickoff event for the year at The Abbey Taphouse. It was a great turnout, and we were able to welcome familiar friends and some new faces! We also enjoyed meeting the partners and children of some of our members. Thank you to all those that made it to the event! We hope to see all of you at future YLS events!



Zachary Kovach

## YLS Member Spotlight: Zachary Kovach, Board Member

Zachary handles landlord-tenant disputes and other litigation involving property law and debt recovery for the Law Offices of Adams and Winfree. Zachary's favorite part of his job is that it allows him "to be a problem solver," "think outside the box for each case," and "be creative." Zachary chose to join the YLS board to "meet and learn from other local attorneys," including attorneys outside of his practice area.

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

## WEATHERING THE STORM: THE POWER OF RESILIENCE IN DISASTER

Western North Carolina is reeling from the impact of Hurricane Helene which brought extreme flooding resulting in massive mudslides, washed-out roads, entire towns destroyed, and rivers re-routed. The economic impact will be felt for years, as will the emotional impact.

Communities that experience natural disasters often band together, supporting one another through shared hardship. This collective resilience is key to recovery. From volunteer efforts to government assistance, the spirit of cooperation fuels the rebuilding process. Resilience isn't only about returning to normalcy—it's about learning from the event and fortifying against future challenges. Individuals often discover inner resources of strength they never knew they had, while communities find ways to make their environments safer and more prepared for future disasters, fostering a culture of prevention alongside recovery.

The U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs, National Center for PTSD, says there are factors that make it more likely that we will recover following either human-caused or natural disasters.

**Social support** is identified as one of the strongest keys to recovery after disasters. "Social support increases well-being and limits distress. Being connected to others makes it easier to obtain knowledge needed for disaster recovery. This can be practical support for solving problems or finding and getting access to recovery services. It can also mean finding comfort in being understood by people who have shared your experience and getting tips about coping."

Social support is one way that a bar association can help. As members, check in on your friends and professional colleagues in your local bar, as well as Western North Carolina. Are they suffering a loss due to the storm's impact? Do they have any family or friends who are suffering a loss? Connecting with them to let them know you care about them, listening as they describe their situation, or their worry, can provide comfort which can help in the healing process.

The Center also cites having **good coping skills** after a disaster as being an important key to recovery. "Coping self-efficacy—the belief in one's ability to get through difficult times—is related to better mental health outcomes for those affected by disasters. When you think that you can cope with the results of a disaster, you tend to do better after a disaster."

This is also great advice for those of us in a stressful career such as law. When we tell ourselves we can cope, and move towards action using our coping skills, we are putting ourselves in a better position to experience resilience. I'm not suggesting positive thinking will solve the crisis in Western North Carolina, but research from the National Institute for Health has found a link between an upbeat mental state and improved physical health including lower blood pressure, reduced risk for heart disease, healthier weight, better blood sugar levels and longer life.

**Hope** is also related to better outcomes following disasters. "A belief that outside sources—such as local community members, volunteer organizations, or government agencies—are acting on your behalf can foster hope. Hope may spring from religious faith, belief in a higher power, or spirituality. Hope may also come from a general sense that things will work out well and that positive things can be expected or even predicted. The presence of practical resources following a natural disaster—like housing, food, water, and clothing—can foster hope."

Knowing how important hope is to recovery is an excellent reason to shut down misinformation. News organizations did this across North Carolina by reporting stories that highlight the comprehensive recovery efforts, along with a direct acknowledgement that misinformation was spreading and local media fact-checked those false stories. Misinformation feeds hopelessness, whether it's surrounding a natural disaster or an election.

Bar associations can also assist in combating misinformation. The association can share

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# BAR COUNCILOR ELECTION MEETING NOTICE

FROM: Judge William B. Davis  
Vice President, 24th Judicial District Bar  
122 N. Elm St., Ste. 805  
Greensboro, NC 27401  
(336) 209-3902  
William.B.Davis@nccourts.org

DATE: November 21, 2024  
TIME: 12:30 PM  
PLACE: Greensboro Country Club  
410 Sunset Dr.  
Greensboro, NC 27408

The terms of State Bar Councilors Patrice A. Hinnant and Manisha P. Patel expire on December 31, 2024. Patrice A. Hinnant is eligible to serve one (1) additional three-year term; Manisha P. Patel is eligible to serve two (2) additional three-year terms. I am having this official notice sent to you pursuant to Section .0800 of Subchapter 1A of the Rules of the North Carolina State Bar. Take notice that an election will be held as follows:

Any member of Judicial District 24 who desires to submit a nomination for State Bar Councilor may do so by mailing a written request to me, at the address listed above or emailing the nomination to me at the address above, any time prior to the meeting and nominations may be made from the floor the day of the meeting. Election must be by a majority of votes cast by those present by secret ballot. Use of proxies is prohibited.

[Register Here](#)

EVENT: Meeting of the Greensboro Bar Association and Election of State Bar Councilor, Judicial District 24

Should you have any questions, please feel free to contact me.



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# JOIN US IN CELEBRATING JUDGE JOEL OAKLEY'S RETIREMENT!

We are thrilled to invite you to a special gathering honoring Judge Joel N. Oakley as he retires from the bench. In 2023, Judge Oakley was appointed by Governor Roy Cooper to serve as District Court Judge in Judicial District 18, serving Guilford County, in light of the vacancy created by the Honorable Tonia Cutchin's appointment to the Superior Court. This celebration is a wonderful opportunity to express our gratitude for Judge

Oakley's commitment to justice in our community and his service within the legal industry for many years.

Join us as we share stories, enjoy refreshments, and wish Judge Oakley all the best in his next chapter. Your presence will make this occasion truly memorable!


*We hope to see you there!*

Save the Date

## A CELEBRATION OF

Joel Oakley

See Chad Garrett,  
Peter Lamm, or  
Richard Wells for  
tickets & more  
information



Thursday,  
November 21st  
6:00 pm  
Reception  
6:30pm Dinner

UNCG Alumni House  
404 College Ave



# THE OUT OF THE GARDEN PROJECT WORKNIGHT

The GBA Community Involvement Committee is proud to announce that it will be hosting a work night at The Out of the Garden Project warehouse on November 21, 2024 from 5-7 PM.

Please email [Jason Hicks](mailto:Jason.Hicks@gbanet.org) if you would like to volunteer.

The organization works to end childhood hunger in the Piedmont area of North Carolina by providing nutritious food to children and families in need, fostering a supportive community, and ensuring every child has the resources to thrive.

For more information about The Out of the Garden Project and the good work it does in our community: <https://outofthegardenproject.org/>

## GBA HOLIDAY GATHERING: REGISTRATION OPEN!



[Register Here](https://gbanet.org/Events/2024-11-21-Work-Night)

Reservations are required and must be made by Friday, December 6th at 5:00 PM.

## JASON HICKS TO SERVE AS PAD CHIEF ADVISOR



Jason F. Hicks

GBA member Jason F. Hicks, an assistant county attorney for Guilford County, was recently reappointed to serve as the Chief Legal Advisor for the Phi Alpha Delta Legal Fraternity, International. This is Jason's second two-year term serving in this position. Congratulations, Jason!

## YOUR DONATION IS NEEDED FOR THE ELEMENTARY SCHOOL PROJECT

The book program at Jones Elementary School is a wonderful Greensboro Bar Association tradition! This year, GBA member donations will be used to allow the children in grades K-5 of the Traditional English program to select a book of their choice (\$10 or less) at the school's Book Fair, to be held the week after Thanksgiving. We will also provide a gift book for all "graduating" 5th graders in the Spring, both in the Traditional English and Spanish Immersion programs. To do this, we need to raise at least \$2,200. GBA volunteers are welcome to help children shop at the Book Fair this Fall, and to deliver the 5th grade graduation books to the students next Spring.

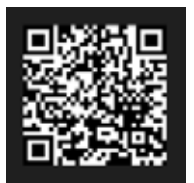
[Donate now online](#), or mail your check made payable to the Greensboro Bar Association Foundation, with "Elementary School Project" in the memo line, to:

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

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

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

[Click to Donate Online Now](#)



# GBA MEMBERS VISIT SCOTUS

After nearly a year of preparation, a small group of GBA members traveled to Washington, D.C. to be sworn in to practice before the Supreme Court of the United States. Presented to the Supreme Court by Movant Superior Court Judge Patrice Hinnant (ret.), the following members were sworn in on October 15, 2024: Carole

Albright, Nichad Davis, Paige Gilliard, Marcus Shields, Megan Spidell, and Gerald Walden, Jr. All the admittees cherished the experience and are grateful to the GBA, especially Judge Hinnant, Afi Johnson-Parris, and Immediate Past President Gerald Walden, for organizing this momentous occasion.



## JOIN A GBA SECTION

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.

[Business & Corporate Law Section Interest Form](#)

[Family Law Section Interest Form](#)

[Real Property Section Interest Form](#)

[Young Lawyers Section Interest Form](#)

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## YOUNG LAWYERS SECTION: CONNECIONS CONTINUED FROM PAGE 3

### New YLS Email Address

YLS has a new email address, [younglawyerssection@greensborobar.org](mailto:younglawyerssection@greensborobar.org). YLS is taking this moment to update its email list. YLS is a free GBA section for attorneys of any age who have been practicing for 5 or less years, or attorneys 40 years of age or younger. If you satisfy one or both of these criteria and would like to be included on emails about upcoming events, please email [younglawyerssection@greensborobar.org](mailto:younglawyerssection@greensborobar.org). We look forward to connecting with all YLS eligible members of GBA!

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

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.



# CHIEF DISTRICT COURT JUDGE TERESA VINCENT NAMED NC ASSOCIATION OF WOMEN ATTORNEYS JUDGE OF THE YEAR

The Honorable Chief District Court Judge Teresa Vincent of Guilford County District Court has been recognized as the North Carolina Association of Women Attorneys (NCAWA) Judge of the Year. Judge Vincent was honored with this prestigious award during the NCAWA's Annual Conference on September 27, 2024.

The NCAWA Judge of the Year award is presented annually by the Judicial Division to a female jurist in North Carolina who exemplifies the highest standards of integrity, legal excellence, and commitment to advancing women in the legal profession. Judge Vincent has been recognized for her outstanding leadership on the bench and her tireless dedication to serving the community.

Throughout her distinguished career, Judge Vincent has been an advocate for justice and fairness, consistently demonstrating compassion and fairness in her courtroom. As Chief District Court Judge, she has implemented initiatives to improve court access and efficiency while fostering a culture of professionalism among her colleagues and staff.

During the presentation, Judge Christine M. Walczyk, District Court Judge for Wake County, shared, "Judge Vincent has spent her career working as a public servant. In addition to her day job running the Guilford County Courthouse, she is the current President of the North Carolina Association of District Court Judges. In this position she helped advocate for higher salaries and increased security for judges. She is also a former president of the Greensboro Bar Association. She serves or has served on the Judicial Standards Commission, the N.C. State Bar Board of Legal Specialization, the Guilford County Black Lawyer's Association, and the N.C. Dispute Resolution Commission. She has worked with multiple community organizations including the Women's Professional Forum, the Greensboro Opera Board, the Junior League of Greensboro, Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, and Jack & Jill of America - just to name a few. Most importantly to us, Judge Vincent has been actively involved with NCAWA. She is a regular speaker at our judicial forums where we encourage young female law students to pursue judicial careers."



Judge Vincent with Wake County District Court Judge and NCAWA Judicial Division Co-Chair, Christine M. Walczyk



GBA President Manisha P. Patel and Judge Vincent



Judge Vincent and her son Drew

# GREENSBORO BAR ASSOCIATION'S 2025 NC LEGAL AID FUNDRAISER SPONSORSHIP PACKAGES

For more information please e-mail Casey Robinson at Casey@gwa-law.com  
or Emily Carico at Emily@camino-law.com

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- Company logo displayed on table cards at event
- Company logo included in sponsor's list on promotional material

\$1,500

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- Company logo included in sponsor's list on promotional material

\$1,000

## SILVER

- 6 Tickets
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- Company name included in sponsor's list on promotional material

\$750

## BRONZE

- 4 Tickets
- Company name included in sponsor's list on promotional material

\$500

## COPPER

- 2 Tickets
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\$250

**SAVE THE DATE: SATURDAY MARCH 29, 2025**

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[Click Here to Become a Sponsor](#)

# JOIN THE GBA MEMBERSHIP COMMITTEE'S MEMBERSHIP CHALLENGE FOR 2024-25!

We challenge YOU to participate in at least 15 of the events and activities in the list below during the current programming year! Check off each activity you participate in and write in the date of participation and any other relevant information. For events that recur, such as member meetings, you will get credit for each event you attend. We have included some write-in lines to cover any additional activities scheduled as the year progresses. All successful challenge participants will be recognized at the final meeting of the year and in the GBA's newsletter, as well as receive a prize of special GBA merchandise! We look forward to seeing you at many of these events!

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

- Attend a lunch meeting \_\_\_\_\_
- Attend a dinner meeting \_\_\_\_\_
- Donate to the elementary school book project \_\_\_\_\_
- Attend a Lunch & Learn \_\_\_\_\_
- Attend the GBA's Annual CLE \_\_\_\_\_
- Attend the Annual Picnic at the Grasshoppers \_\_\_\_\_
- Attend the Holiday Party \_\_\_\_\_
- Participate on a GBA committee \_\_\_\_\_
- Qualify for the Herb Falk Society \_\_\_\_\_
- Volunteer as a mentor \_\_\_\_\_
- Volunteer in the Welcome Wagon program \_\_\_\_\_
- Attend a Mix-n-Mingle (including mixers during the summer of 2024 for interns) \_\_\_\_\_
- Participate in an event planned by the community involvement committee \_\_\_\_\_
- Attend the Legal Aid Fundraiser \_\_\_\_\_
- Provide a raffle item for the Legal Aid Fundraiser \_\_\_\_\_
- Sponsor the Legal Aid Fundraiser \_\_\_\_\_
- Recruit a new member \_\_\_\_\_
- Join the Young Lawyers Section \_\_\_\_\_
- Attend a meeting/event of the Business/Corporate Law, Real Estate, or Family Law Sections \_\_\_\_\_
- Participate in an event planned by the pro bono committee \_\_\_\_\_
- \_\_\_\_\_
- \_\_\_\_\_
- \_\_\_\_\_

Any Questions? Please reach out to the Membership Committee Co-Chairs: [Alicia Edwards](#) or [Sarah Roane](#).



# NEW MEMBERS

Approved on October 9, 2024

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Kaylee B. Faw  
*Endorser: Alan D. Woodlief, Jr.*  
Category: Newly Licensed

Jeffrey J. Harnden  
Cordell Law, LLP  
*Endorser: Grace E. Lay*  
Category: Newly Licensed

Emily A. Mundt  
Legal Aid of North Carolina  
*Endorser: Christopher C. Avery*  
Category: Public Service

Emilee G. Stohl  
Legal Aid of North Carolina  
*Endorser: Christopher C. Avery*  
Category: Public Service

Antoinette A. Stone  
Toussaint Law, PLLC  
*Endorser: Betty Toussaint*  
Category: Newly Licensed

Jennifer K. Payne  
24th Judicial District Guardian ad Litem Program  
*Endorser: Sarah H. Roane*  
Category: Regular

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## WEATHERING THE STORM: THE POWER OF RESILIENCE IN DISASTER CONTINUED FROM PAGE 4

educational resources online or via social, members can write op-ed pieces for local media, members can volunteer for civics training in classrooms or senior centers. Those in the legal profession can also model good social and community behavior. Show family and friends the power of negotiation and hearing both sides of an argument, how to take in information and analyze it for truthfulness, as well as by participating in civil discussions around differences.

Resilience in the wake of a natural disaster is not just about survival—it's about transformation. The journey from devastation to recovery is long and complex, requiring both inner strength and external support. But as individuals and communities rebuild their lives, they

often emerge stronger, more connected, and more prepared to face whatever challenges lie ahead. Through resilience, we see that the human capacity for hope and renewal is boundless, even in the face of nature's most destructive forces.

*Camille Stell is the President of Lawyers Mutual Consulting & Services and the co-author of "RESPECT – An Insight to Attorney Compensation Plans". The second edition is available from Amazon beginning in October 2024. Continue this conversation by contacting Camille at [camille@lawyersmutualconsulting.com](mailto:camille@lawyersmutualconsulting.com) or 919.677.8900.*



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