

# ELON LAW

ALUMNI NEWS BULLETIN

## *Message from the Dean*

**This is the last message I write to you as Dean of Elon University School of Law. Serving in the Dean's role since August 2008 has been one of my greatest professional experiences, in no small measure because of the opportunities I have had to meet, to teach, to work with, and to learn from so many of you.** The energy, enthusiasm, and insights that you give to Elon have helped to shape our young law school's early successes.

I thank you for all the support you have given Elon Law. Also, I am really grateful, not only for the opportunity to work among you to build and advance Elon Law in its early years, but also for the opportunity to know so many of you personally, to observe your journeys from fledgling law students to becoming accomplished professionals and leaders among us. I will continue to follow your lives and careers with great interest and affection.

Since I joined Elon in 2006 as a member of the founding faculty, I have marveled each year at the caliber of students, now alumni, who are drawn to Elon. You have done so much to make this law school a remarkable and innovative

institution. It has been a great experience for me. I look forward to deepening my relationships with you as I step down to rejoin the faculty.

Law schools face many challenges today. Elon is no exception. Nevertheless, with the continued support of the university, the commitment of the faculty and staff, and the indefatigable determination that I have witnessed among you, I have nothing but optimism for the prospects for Elon University School of Law. We have only begun to make our mark. Your pioneering spirit, your commitment to service, your capacity for leadership, your professionalism already are redounding to the benefit of Elon and to the world beyond the law school. You remain our greatest ambassadors and the best advertisement for this law school with a difference. Continue to support Elon and make it proud because of your service to the profession and in communities where you live and work.

We have the makings of a really great law school. To propel our law school forward to the great heights we all envision for it, we will all need both

tenacity and patience. I have no doubt about the success of this law school because I have great confidence in you, the alumni, who have already made Elon Law a success and who continue to strengthen the law school through your service, leadership and professionalism.

Finally, a word about a great colleague and a wonderful friend. As most of you know, Dean Eugenia Leggett will leave the law school at the end of this academic year. Dean Leggett has been an indescribable force in the development of the law school and this wonderful alumni group you are forming. She has been a great source of energy for so many of Elon Law's activities and initiatives. We, the Elon community, owe her an enormous debt of gratitude for all that she has done. We will miss her. We can never thank her enough. She has been truly magnificent. As she approaches this next chapter of her life, we offer her our best wishes.

*Onward!*  
George R. Johnson, Jr.  
Dean and Professor of Law



## From the *Alumni President*

**It has been a privilege to serve as the president of your Alumni Association these last few months.** As you know, BIG things are happening at the law school. As we prepare to say “goodbye” (for now) to Dean Johnson and Dean Leggett, two people instrumental in the success of our law school since its inception, we also prepare to say “welcome” to the new dean of the law school. I have had the opportunity to meet and speak with Luke Bierman on several occasions, and all I can say is WOW. He is energetic, enthusiastic, and ready to get things done. His drive and ideas for our law school are truly empowering.

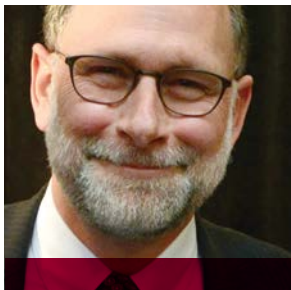
As in years past, our association has hosted a number of events statewide over the last year. As you will see in this newsletter, Reunion Weekend, held in Greensboro, was a huge success. The Association was also able to sponsor events in Raleigh and Charlotte, both strong alumni communities. I hope that each

of you either attended or will consider attending in the future. You may not realize it, but our law school's alumni are its most precious resource.

If you are interested in becoming more active in the alumni association, I invite you to email me at [aldharrell@gmail.com](mailto:aldharrell@gmail.com). I am able to speak with you further about any ideas you may have, as well as any concerns you would like to share. Feel free to call me at 336-275-0512. Visit [law.elon.edu/alumni](http://law.elon.edu/alumni) to download an Alumni Council Membership Application.

Again, I am thrilled at the opportunity to serve as your president, and look forward to making contact with each of you this year.

*Best,  
Andrea Dancy Harrell '09  
President, Elon Law Alumni Association*



## Meet Dean Bierman

**Alumni and Friends of Elon Law Reception  
North Carolina Bar Association Annual Meeting**

- > Friday, June 20 from 5 to 7 p.m.  
At the Wilmington Hilton  
Wilmington, NC

*If you can't attend, please know that Elon is planning a series of opportunities for Elon Law alumni to meet and engage in dialogue with Dean Bierman. These events will be announced via email invitations, social media and online at [law.elon.edu/alumni](http://law.elon.edu/alumni).*

# DRIVE TO 25!

## Hello fellow Alum!

The Drive to 25 Campaign for 2013-2014 has been underway and is coming to a close on May 31st. As we end our fiscal year still short of our 25% participation goal, I am asking that you consider making your gift today. We ask that you consider donating at least the amount of your graduation year, however there is no minimum requirement. Class of 2009= \$20.09; Class of 2010: \$20.10, etc.

Thanks to each and every one of you who continue to support the Drive to 25 Campaign with your yearly gifts.

The Drive to 25 campaign is our annual alumni giving campaign where we raise awareness of the Alumni Scholarship and develop the habit of alumni giving. Our focus is not on the amount given, but the participation of each alumni member. Over the past five years, through word of mouth and social media our Elon Law alumni base has come together and exceeded our donation goal of 25% alumni participation. While we are still a young Alumni Association, we have grown tremendously.



Please join us in this Elon tradition and help us Drive to 25! We need your support today.

*Sarah Robinson Lucente '09*  
Alumni Giving Coordinator

> *Make your gift online: [www.elon.edu/makeagift](http://www.elon.edu/makeagift). Designate your gift to "School of Law" and note "DRIVE to 25" in comments section.*



## Looking Forward

**Dean-Designate Luke Bierman, a highly accomplished attorney, legal scholar and teacher, and a national leader in experiential legal education, begins his deanship on June 1.**

He has already begun collaborations with members of the Elon Law community, including faculty, students, alumni, friends and supporters of the law school, to chart the next phase of Elon Law's development as a national leader in innovative legal education. In the months ahead, Elon Law will organize a series of opportunities for alumni to converse with Dean Bierman about future opportunities for the law school.

### *Highlights of Luke Beirman's experience in law and legal education:*

- > Associate Dean for Experiential Education and Distinguished Professor of the Practice of Law, Northeastern University School of Law
- > General Counsel, Office of the New York State Comptroller
- > Executive Director, Institute for Emerging Issues, North Carolina State University
- > Founder, Justice Center, and Director, Judicial Division, American Bar Association
- > Chief Attorney, Appellate Division, New York Supreme Court



# ELON LAW ALUMNI COUNCIL



Members of the Elon Law Alumni Council, pictured from left to right on front row: Gwendolyn Lewis L'13, Leslie Price Lasher L'09, Sarah Robinson Lucente L'09, Jenny Reutter L'10, Ivy Oakley Waterhouse L'11, Andrea Harrell L'09 President, Jason Aycoth L'09 Past-President, Melanie Crenshaw L'09, Joseph Doren L'13, Janison Dillon L'13, Tiffany Atkins L'11 President-Elect

Members of the Elon Law Alumni Council, pictured from left to right on back row: Tamaya Davis Franks L'11, Sherea Burnett L'13, Beth Klein L'12, Jason Spitzer L'12, Barron Thompson L'09, Damon Duncan L'09, Eric Meredith L'09, Justin Ervin L'10, Steven Lucente L'09

Members of the Elon Law Alumni Council, not pictured: Bill Aycok L'11, Andrea Davis L'12, Heather Deal L'12, Daniel Donovan L'09, Melissa Duncan L'09, Samantha Gilman L'11, Danny Lyon L'11, Erin O'Connell L'09, Mital Patel L'09, Erin Rega L'12, Megan Silver L'09, Megan Connole Siragusa L'12, David Stephens L'11, Will Warhays L'10

**94%** of students graduate with practical experience from clinics, externships, clerkships or internships.

## Key Facts About Elon Law

*Note: This year, Elon Law added In-House Counsel and Semester-in-Practice Externship programs to its array of experiential learning opportunities.*

- > Percent of students to experience comprehensive leadership training = 100.
- > Percent of students to benefit from an attorney mentor from day one = 100.
- > Percent of faculty with legal practice experience = 100.
- > Student/faculty ratio: 14 to 1 and a majority of classes with fewer than 25 students.
- > A strong commitment to diversity, evidenced by a 30 percent minority enrollment rate in the Class of 2016.
- > A Leadership Program selected for "the leading national award recognizing excellence in legal professionalism programming" – American Bar Association's E. Smythe Gambrell Award, 2013.
- > One of five schools profiled for "getting serious about business skills" in legal education - *National Law Journal*, 2013. *Note: In 2013, Elon Law launched a JD/MBA program, a Business Fellows program and a Small Business & Entrepreneurship Clinic.*
- > One of America's 20 most innovative law schools – *National Jurist*, 2012.
- > Part of the #1 master's-level university in the South – U.S. News & World Report, 2014 and the national "Leader in Engaged Learning" – *Newsweek-Kaplan*, 2010.
- > One of the few law schools in the country, and the first in North Carolina, to house a working court, the North Carolina Business Court.
- > The only law school located in Greensboro, N.C. – the hub of the judicial system in central North Carolina as home to U.S. District Court, the U.S. Bankruptcy Court for the Middle District of North Carolina and several branches of the N.C. General Court of Justice.

Visit [law.elon.edu/highlights](http://law.elon.edu/highlights) to learn more about Elon Law's strengths and distinctions

# CONGRATS ALUMNI!

*Elon Law Reunion Weekend featured the announcement of four new awards that will be given out annually to Elon Law alumni by the Elon Law Alumni Association. Recipients were:*

## **Jeb Brooks** L'10

received the George R. Johnson, Jr. Professional Achievement Award, named in honor of the law school's second dean and member of the founding faculty.

The award recognizes Elon Law alumni who have made significant professional contributions while bringing honor and recognition to Elon Law. Brooks is President and CEO of The Brooks Group, a global sales training firm based in North Carolina. Presenting the award, Jennifer Reutter L'10 noted that The Brooks Group has been ranked a top twenty sales training company for five consecutive years by Training Industry, that Brooks was named to the 2011 *Triad Business Journal's* 40 Leaders Under 40 and that he is a fellow in the Institute of Political Leadership.



## **Sarah Robinson**

**Lucente** L'09 received the Distinguished Service to Elon Law School Award, presented to an alumnus who has demonstrated continued exemplary service to the law school.

An associate attorney at Wishart Norris Henninger and Pittman in Charlotte, N.C., Lucente is the Campaign Chair of the Elon Law Alumni Association "Drive to 25" campaign and an active member of the Alumni Council. Lucente hosts annual Elon Law alumni events in Charlotte and works tirelessly as Campaign Chair for "Drive to 25," which supports student scholarships. Lucente supports and participates in many nonprofit organizations, including Down Syndrome Association of Greater Charlotte, Girls on the Run-Dilworth Elementary and Carolina Foster Kids Foundation.



## **Steven Luther "Luke" Spencer, II** L'09

received the F. Leary Davis Service and Leadership in the Community Award, named in honor of the law school's founding dean and professor of law emeritus.

This award is presented to an alumnus of the law school who has demonstrated outstanding service and leadership to the community, state or nation. Presenting the award, Andrea Davis L'12 noted that Spencer is a member of the Air Force JAG Corps, the Company Grade Officer of the Year for the Holloman Air Force Base Wing Staff Agencies and recipient of both the Accelerate Award, an annual award given to a young ACC JAG officer who displays outstanding leadership, and the Air Force Commendation Medal for meritorious service. Based on his performance at Holloman and Eglin Air Force base, Spencer was selected to serve as part of the Special Victims Counsel program, providing advice and representation to sexual assault victims at installations located across the United States.



**Mital Patel** L'09 received the Young Alumni Award, recognizing an alumnus with outstanding professional and service achievements who has graduated within the last five years.

Patel operates his own law firm in Raleigh, N.C., Triangle Business Law. He has been instrumental in cultivating the entrepreneurial ecosystem in North Carolina.

In 2013, Patel presented on entrepreneurial cultivation in North Carolina to senior federal officials at the White House, participated in an entrepreneurship conference in Rio de Janeiro and was given the opportunity to ring the NASDAQ bell.

Patel's achievements and insights are featured in a Winter 2014 Magazine of Elon article available here: [www.elon.edu/magazine](http://www.elon.edu/magazine).



## CLASS NOTES

### *Elon Law alumni named to Business North Carolina's "Legal Elite"*

**Alvaro De La Calle** L'12 and **Damon Duncan** L'09 were named to *Business North Carolina's* "Legal Elite" for 2014. De La Calle, founder of Calle Law in Greensboro, N.C., was named to the Young Guns section of "Legal Elite." Duncan, an attorney at Duncan Law, PLLC in North Carolina, was named both to the Young Guns section and the Bankruptcy specialty section of "Legal Elite." In its selection of North Carolina's "Legal Elite," *Business North Carolina* seeks the input of more than 20,000 active members of the North Carolina State Bar. Approximately three percent of the state's lawyers were selected "Legal Elite" for 2014.

### *Four Elon Law alumni named Super Lawyers Rising Stars*

**Leslie Lasher** L'09, **Andrew Nettleman** L'09, **Stephen Shaw** L'10 and **Ryan Stewart** L'09 were named 2014 "Rising Stars" by Super Lawyers rating service, a recognition earned by no more than 2.5 percent of attorneys 40 years of age or younger, or in practice for 10 years or fewer.

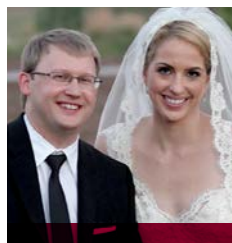
Lasher, an associate with Teague Campbell Dennis & Gorham, L.L.P., in Raleigh, N.C., focuses her practice in areas of employment and labor law and civil litigation defense. Nettleman, managing attorney of Nettleman Law Firm, PLLC in Wilmington, N.C., concentrates his practice on criminal defense, employment and labor law, and consumer law. Shaw, an associate with Womble Carlyle Sandridge & Rice, LLP in Greensboro, N.C., practices in the area of intellectual property law, focusing on copyright, trademark and patent disputes. Stewart, an associate with Womble Carlyle Sandridge & Rice, LLP in Greensboro, N.C., is a business and corporate law attorney representing companies in a wide range of transactions.

### 2009

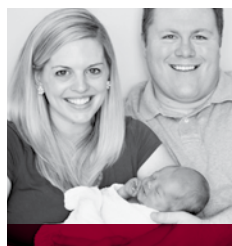
**Molly Anthony** and her husband Chad welcomed daughter Pearson Elizabeth Anthony on November 8, 2013. Molly is an associate attorney at Daly Family Law in Statesville, North Carolina.

**J. Aaron Bennett**, an attorney with Carruthers & Roth, PA, authored "Estate Planning for Digital Assets – Is It Really Necessary?" a supplement to the *Triad Business Journal*, April 18, 2014. Bennett is vice president of programs for the Society of Financial Service Professionals.

**Jon Aust** and **Katie Bobb** were married on November 3, 2012. Jon is an associate attorney with the Bedard Law Group, P.C. in Duluth, Georgia. Katie is the Director of Legal Services for the Gwinnett Sexual Assault and Children's Advocacy Center in Duluth, Georgia.



**Damon** and **Melissa Duncan** welcomed their son Brooks Taylor Duncan on July 31, 2013.



**Erin Enecks** married **Justin Enecks** L'10 in May of 2013. They are co-founders of Enecks & Enecks, PLLC in Morehead City, N.C.

**Jennifer Fleeman** was selected for the 2014 Georgia State Bar Young Lawyers Division Leadership Academy, which aims to develop future leaders of the State Bar, in January 2014. Participants are selected through a competitive application process and are chosen from every corner of the state and every imaginable practice area.

**Erica Hamby**, married to Michael Towery, was recently selected as a Top 40 Criminal Defense Lawyer Under 40 in the State of North Carolina for 2014 by the American Society of Legal Advocates.

**Andrea Harrell** and her husband Cooper will welcome their first child, a son, in July 2014.

**Miriam Heard**, an attorney at Legal Aid of North Carolina, received the Women's Law Association 2014 Outstanding Alumna in the Profession Award.

**Kerri Sigler** joined the Forsyth County Public Defender's Office in January 2014 as the Juvenile and Mental Health Court Public Defender of the County.

### 2010

**Rebecca Cacaci** and her husband Michael welcomed daughter Avery Grace Cacaci on December 10, 2013.



**Anna Dunkum** '07, L'10 and **Bryan Dunkum** L'10 welcomed son Jackson Bryan Dunkum on August 8, 2013.

**Rachael Dimont** '07 and her husband Brandon '06 welcomed daughter Mary Austin Dimont on October 24, 2013.

**Andrew Hogan**, married to Laurie Hogan, graduated cum laude from the University of Alabama School of Law LL.M. program in Taxation in August of 2013.

**Brack Massey** and his wife Jessie welcomed daughter Mackenzie Lee Massey on July 21, 2013.

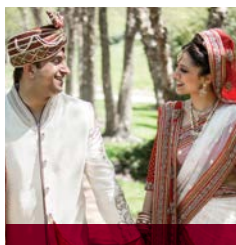




**Seema Shah**

married Nilay Shah in April of 2013. In September 2013, she joined the General

Counsel's Office at American Express as Operations Manager for the Compliance Training Office.

**Stephen F. Shaw**

completed his LL.M in Taxation from New York

University School of Law at the end of 2013. He is currently an associate in the Greensboro office of Womble Carlyle, with broad practice experience in intellectual property, litigation and taxation issues.

**2011**

**Andrew Theyken Bench**, after clerking on the Pennsylvania appellate courts and working as a litigator for a mid-size firm, was offered and accepted the opportunity to earn a Philosophy of Law degree (Ph.D.) at University of Cambridge, Darwin College and to teach as part of the law school. Bench's current research extends Ronald Dworkin's work about "law as integrity." In addition to a J.D. from Elon, Bench earned an A.B. in Physics from Franklin and Marshall College with honors, an S.M. in Bio-physics from Georgetown University and an LL.M from Trinity College Dublin, First Class Honours (Valedictorian).

**Matthew Groves** and his wife Babette welcomed daughter Kennedy Claire Groves on August 6, 2013.

**Brian Hunt** was appointed a partner in Dewey, Ramsay & Hunt, P.A., in February 2014. Dewey, Ramsay & Hunt, P.A. focuses primarily on personal injury in Charlotte, North Carolina and the surrounding areas, and caters to the underserved

Hispanic population in the area with bilingual paralegal service.

**Raymond D. Large III** '04 currently serves as president of the Fisher Park Neighborhood Association and as a board member for the Community Theatre of Greensboro.

**Nathan Standley** and his wife Christi welcomed son Reid Joseph Standley on May 9, 2013.

**2012**

**Brennan Aberle**, assistant public defender in Guilford County, was featured for "fighting for the underdog" in a Feb. 17 *News & Record* article. "I get to be the person who's there for someone when no one else is there," Aberle said. The article notes that the 22-attorney Guilford County Public Defender's Office, which represents people who cannot afford to hire an attorney, handled close to 11,000 clients in 2012.

**Whitney J. Butcher**, an attorney with Whitley Law Firm in Raleigh, North Carolina, represented

her firm at the 2014 American Association for Justice (AAJ) Winter Convention in New Orleans. Butcher, pictured at left, spoke with fellow Kentucky native Alison Lundergan Grimes, Kentucky's Secretary of State and a U.S. Senate candidate.

**Heather Dolan** married Bradley Kaemmer in August of 2012. Heather is an associate attorney at Sullivan & Snow, PLLC in Jacksonville, North Carolina.

**Robert "Hank" Harrawood** was named Associate Athletic Director for Compliance at Florida International University in February. FIU is the seventh largest university in the country. In his position, Harrawood is a member of the athletic department senior staff. He oversees compliance, assists with

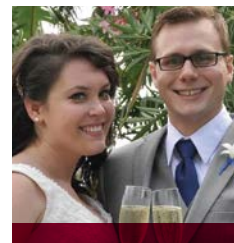


strategic planning for the athletic department and serves as liaison to several campus constituents for the athletic department.

**Benjamin Snyder**

married **Johanna Knight** on April 7, 2013. Benjamin is an associate

at McKinney Perry & Coalter, P.A. in Greensboro, North Carolina.

**B.J. Williams**

'09 married **Heather SangtINETTE** on September 7, 2013. Several Elon Law

alumni were in attendance and in the wedding party.

**2013**

**Janison Dillon** was named director of the NC Center for Financial Literacy. The new organization of the North Carolina Bankers Association was created to broaden financial literacy across North Carolina.

**Robert Webster** is in-house counsel for Laboratory Corporation of America.

**Matthew Wilcut** is an attorney with NC VetsCorps, an AmeriCorps program that aims to assist veterans and military families with the transition from military service to civilian life. Wilcut is in charge of the Triad region for the NC VetsCorps program. He practices Veterans Law and provides related services to active-duty and veteran service members. He became VA accredited in April 2014. His practice includes re-entry matters involving the new Veteran's Courts in N.C., expungement proceedings and discharge upgrades, VA benefits and appeals, UI hearings and other assistance for veterans and their families.

# REUNION WEEKEND 2014



Melanie Crenshaw L'09, Jennifer Fleeman, Mark Weaver, Seema Shah L'09 and Nilay Shah

At the March 8 Reunion Weekend reception, Jason Aycoth L'09, past-president of the Elon Law Alumni Association, Damon Duncan '06, L'09 and David Morrow '07, L'10 reflected on the leadership, service and overall contributions of law school dean George R. Johnson, Jr. to the law school.

***“Dean Johnson has been beyond words to this law school.***

He has been a mentor, he has been a friend, he has been an inspiration, but most importantly he has been an example.”

*Jason Aycoth L'09, past-president of the Elon Law Alumni Association*



Newlyweds Andrew Smith L'13 and Kelly (Ayre) Smith L'13





Dean Johnson with, from left, Andrea Dancy Harrell L'09, Andrea Davis L'12 and Jennifer Reutter L'10.



Craig Turner L'10, Jason Burton L'11 and David Morrow '07, L'10



Morgan Canady L'13 and Jessica Armentrout L'13

# REUNION WEEKEND 2014

*Kim Aycoth, Jason Aycoth L'09,  
Nicole Patterson L'10 and  
Byron Patterson*



*Members of Elon Law's Class of 2009  
celebrated their fifth year reunion,  
with Helen Grant, professor of law,  
and Leary Davis, founding dean and  
professor of law emeritus.*



*Elon Law alumni participated  
in the sixth annual Barbara Sullivan  
5K Race for Women's Health,  
sponsored by Elon Law's Women's  
Law Association with support  
from alumni.*





Brian Baker and Alexis Biggers Baker L'11,  
James Knox L'11 and Raymond Large L'12



Andrew Penny L'13, Kristin Seum L'13,  
Bryan Ray L'13 and Zachary Illig L'13



# ELON LAW ALUMNI

201 N. Greene St.  
Greensboro, NC 27401

*Change Service Requested*



## Turn Yourself In!

Share your professional achievements & family news at [law.elon.edu/classnotes](http://law.elon.edu/classnotes) and Stay Connected!



**Onward!**

### LinkedIn

The Elon Law Alumni LinkedIn Group is your best source for professional networking with alumni. To join, go to LinkedIn, search for **"Elon Law Alumni"** and join the group!

### Facebook

The Elon Law Alumni Group:  
**[facebook.com/groups/ElonLawAlumni](https://facebook.com/groups/ElonLawAlumni)**  
The law school's general Facebook page:  
**[facebook.com/ElonLaw](https://facebook.com/ElonLaw)**

### Twitter

The Elon Law Alumni Twitter Page:  
**[twitter.com/ElonLawAlumni](https://twitter.com/ElonLawAlumni)**  
The Elon Law general Twitter page:  
**[twitter.com/ElonLaw](https://twitter.com/ElonLaw)**

### Elon Law Alumni Networking Database

Enter or update your contact information at:  
**<http://www.elon.edu/e-web/law/alumni/database.xhtml>**