

WAKE FOREST UNIVERSITY ANNUAL REPORT TO

The A.J. Fletcher Foundation

2023-2024



To the A.J. Fletcher Foundation,

I am pleased to submit this report on the impact of the Fletcher Foundation's support at Wake Forest University School of Law. Since I joined Wake Forest Law as dean last July, I have had the privilege of meeting Jim, Barbara, and Damon and learning more about the Foundation's work. I am not only grateful for your contributions to the Law School; I am heartened by the investments you make for the greater good across all of North Carolina.

The successful conclusion of the academic year is the perfect time to step back and survey all that has taken place this year at Wake Forest Law. Our students competed and placed in regional and national Moot Court competitions. We hired exceptional new faculty in the fields of business, constitutional, and election law. Forty-seven of our alumni were admitted to the U.S. Supreme Court Bar. And students in the Intellectual Property Law Clinic helped local entrepreneurs trademark their company and launch new careers — one of the countless highlights of our community-centered work.

The year has also given me the opportunity to meet alumni in Winston-Salem, Charlotte, Raleigh, and beyond. I've spoken with graduates who now serve as judges, associates, public defenders, and legal advocates. Time and time again, I hear about the transformative impact of scholarships as our graduates navigate their careers. The A.J. Fletcher Scholarship is among the most prestigious scholarships that Wake Forest Law offers, and, with their academic interests and extracurricular

pursuits, the 2023-24 students are exemplars of the Foundation's values.

As you'll read in the pages that follow, Donny Stewart (JD '24), Faiza Ali (JD '25), and Jakob Jackson (JD '26) have taken advantage of all that Wake Forest Law has to offer — and the School and community have benefited in return. While their interests will take them in different directions when they leave Wake Forest Law, they will always have in common the Fletcher Scholarship and the opportunities it afforded them.

Donny, Faiza, and Jakob join me in thanking you for your support of their legal education and for helping to change the trajectory of their lives.

Best regards,



Andrew R. Klein
Dean, Wake Forest University School of Law



FLETCHER SCHOLARS PROGRAM

The Fletcher Scholars Program has provided scholarships for students since 1981. Today, the partnership of the A.J. Fletcher Foundation continues to provide transformational support for each Fletcher Scholar through a full-tuition scholarship, allowing the opportunity to pursue a legal education and the freedom to explore unpaid internships; pro bono and clinic work; and, ultimately, the freedom to seek the legal career of their choice upon graduation. These exceptional, diverse student leaders enrich Wake Forest Law and continually seek engagement in activities that benefit the public good. Through the A.J. Fletcher Foundation's support, Fletcher Scholars in turn support our community.

2023-2024

Fletcher Scholars

DONNY STEWART (JD '24)

Donny arrived at Wake Forest with experience organizing educational and events-driven social justice programming in addition to an undergraduate background in pre-law, criminal law, and psychology, and a vision of working in appellate advocacy, representing in cases of wrongful conviction or serving as a federal public defender. With supplemental support from the Fletcher Foundation for a summer internship, Donny worked at the Forsyth County Public Defender's Office in summer 2022. His duties included transcribing and summarizing complex law enforcement body camera footage into usable court transcripts; performing legal research and drafting memoranda to determine the strength of potential arguments and defenses; and observing legal proceedings in various stages of the adversarial process.

In addition to his classes at Wake Forest Law and work as a teaching and research assistant, Donny has been an active member of the legal community. He serves as Vice President of the Black Law Students Association and has competed in the organization's regional and national Moot Court Competitions. He is also a member of the Society for Criminal Justice Reform; the Wake Forest Law Ambassadors; and the Chief Justice Joseph Branch Inn of Court, which provides Wake Forest students with the opportunity to learn about the law and to meet members of the bench and bar.

Donny will begin his legal career working in the office of Philadelphia District Attorney Larry Krasner.

Donny Stewart (JD '24)
New Bern, N.C.





Faiza Ali (JD '25)
Cary, N.C.

FAIZA ALI (JD '25)

After completing her bachelor's degree in International Criminal Justice from Appalachian State University with concentrations in Arabic, Turkish, and French, Faiza spent nearly five years working in North Carolina law firms. She initially served as a legal intern at criminal law firm Tom Speed in Boone before moving to Durham, where she worked as a trial resource legal assistant at the state of North Carolina's Trial Resource Unit and, later, as a legal assistant at the Office of the Capital Defender.

Faiza has been actively involved in many organizations and activities while at Wake Forest Law. She has participated as a member of the North Carolina

Muslim Bar Association, the Black Law Student Association, and Women in Law as well as an active, elected member of the Honor Council. In addition, Faiza has competed in Trial Bar, Transactional Law Competition, and Moot Court Competition and has worked in the Wills Clinic and as a Research Assistant to Professor Zaneta Robinson.

Faiza's professional interests include entertainment law, and this year, she was the first-ever extern with the legal team at the Academy Museum in Los Angeles. In summer 2024, Faiza will work in Charlotte with James, McElroy, and Diehl.

JAKOB JACKSON (JD '26)

Jakob is a member of the Lumbee tribe of North Carolina and former vice president of Phi Sigma Nu, the first national Native American fraternity in the United States. A University of North Carolina-Chapel Hill alumnus, Jakob worked as a front-office intern at the LeShore Law Firm in Lumberton, North Carolina, before enrolling at Wake Forest Law. At Wake Forest, he has participated in the Pro Bono Project and is a member of the Chief Justice Joseph Branch Inn of Court.

In summer 2024, Jakob will join the School's month-long London program, where he will take Comparative Advanced Torts and History of the Common Law courses. The program will be led by Professor Jonathan Cardi, whose first-year Torts course Jakob took this year, and will include readings, outings, and discussions about public advocacy, access to justice, and the various ethical and justice concerns that arise in multiple countries' legal approaches.

Jakob Jackson ('26)
Lumberton, NC



AMY PUCKETT (JD '11)

Amy Puckett (JD '11) briefly contemplated a career as a professor of British and French history, and that might have been rewarding and exciting and compelling in its own way. Just one problem: She didn't want to wait what seemed like the length of the standard monarch's reign to make an impact.

The legal profession is nobody's idea of a lightning-fast track, but for Puckett, the A.J. Fletcher Scholarship to Wake Forest made it a clear one.

"I was already leaning in this direction," Puckett said, "and that sealed the deal. Right there."

Her clients — in a nonprofit and two firms — and the Law School itself have been among the beneficiaries.

Puckett always had the law on her plate even as she considered a career in academia. The similarities were more numerous than you might imagine. To put it another way, Puckett realized her previous pursuits had prepared her for law school and that everything would congeal to make her a successful attorney one day.

"Not that law hasn't been challenging, but the Masters thesis in history was most daunting in terms of a larger writing assignment," she recalled. "You had to go in front of professors and defend. You could find parallels to law. Going in front of an appeals court, for example."

More importantly, Puckett knew a career in the legal profession would give her a chance to change lives for the better and to see results in short order if not real time.

"In college," she said, "one of my roommates had cerebral palsy. She has had to hire an attorney to get equal treatment in all stages of her career. She was already used to navigating the legal system. Living with her made me appreciate how important the law is."

Wake Forest appealed to Puckett because she had heard its atmosphere was collaborative, not cutthroat. And she knew the A.J. Fletcher Foundation's support would give her professional flexibility when she was ready to pursue a career.

Indeed, Puckett has pivoted between firms and a nonprofit, all of them in Charlotte, during her career, specializing in employment law.

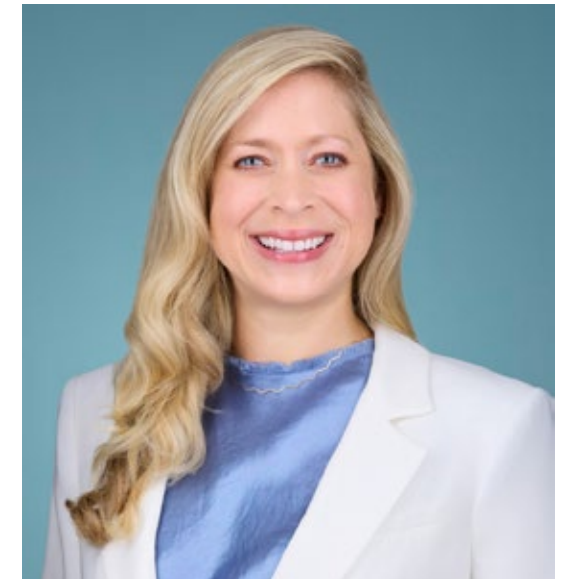
"I had some debt from undergrad," she said. "Not crushing, but enough that it made me cautious about not taking on too much more. (Having the Fletcher) was such a load off of my mind, and it enabled me to start my career

off with a manageable amount. And that freed me up to take a position at a nonprofit. It was incredible for me at Wake Forest. And I have seen the impact. I have seen when folks don't have that freedom."

Her second employer, E4E Relief, is a wholly owned subsidiary of the Foundation for the Carolinas. In her work as a vice president, Puckett helped companies establish employee-assistance programs that would go to work in times of disaster or financial hardship.

"It can be \$500. Or \$1,000. Something to help people get on their feet," she said. "The employer funds it and the organization runs it. I did legal compliance work, making sure we were in agreement with compliance and relationship management."

"I had some debt from undergrad... enough that it made me cautious about not taking on too much more. (Having the Fletcher) was such a load off of my mind, and it enabled me to start my career off with a manageable amount. And that freed me up to take a position at a nonprofit."

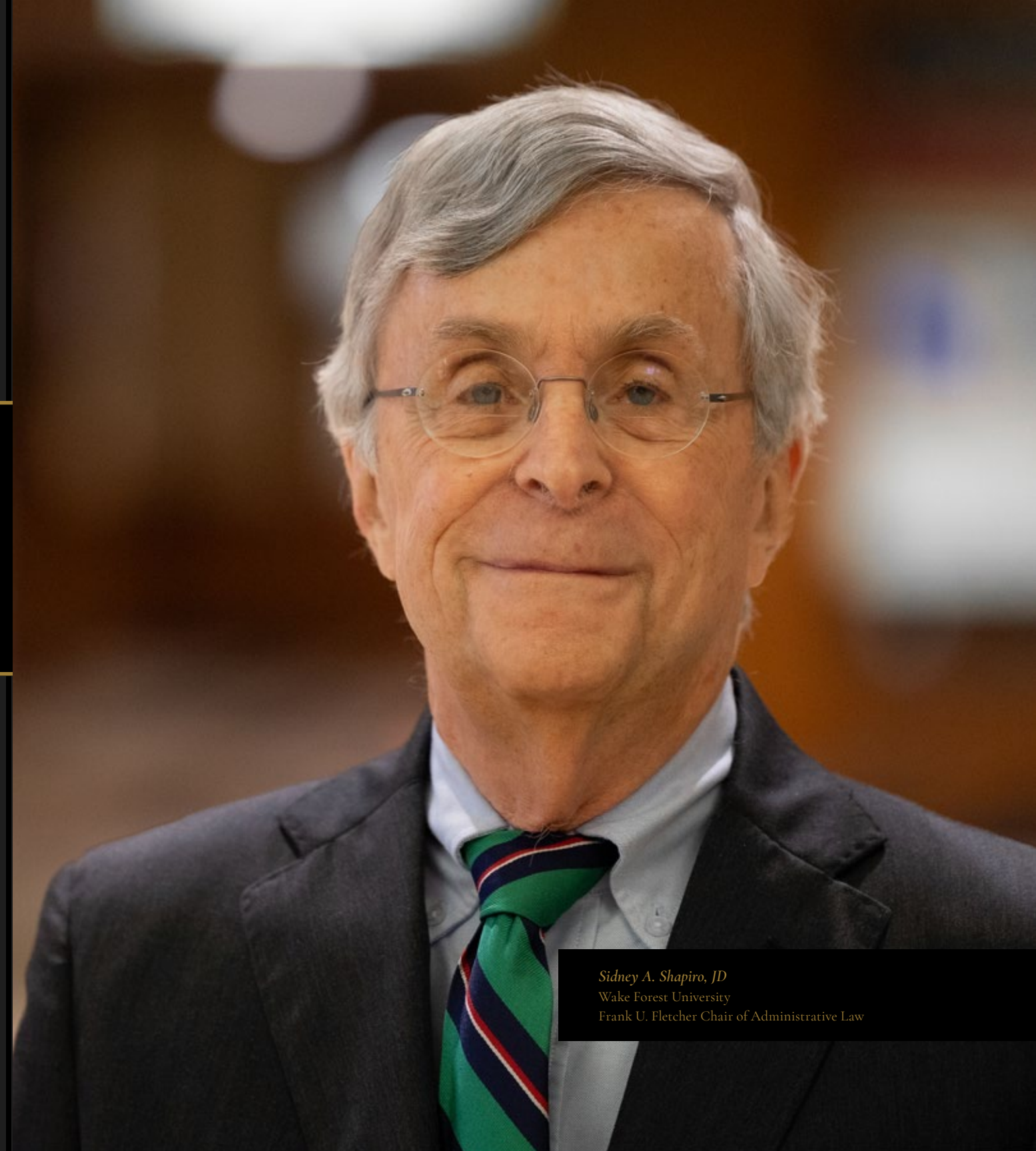


Even with job changes, Puckett, who recently joined Moore and Van Allen's employment law team, has maintained a commitment to something she has always received. She enjoys and benefits from mentoring younger attorneys. She has done that in her workplaces and with Wake Forest students over the years, and she knows it stems from her background as an undergraduate and graduate student and from the atmosphere in Wake Forest Law.

"One thing I enjoy and appreciate most now that I'm at this stage of my career is getting to mentor junior associates or summer associates," she said. "That's something I get fulfillment from, whether it's related directly to their work or whether it's just about how to navigate your career. People interactions are the things I find most rewarding."

FRANK U. FLETCHER

Chair of Administrative Law



Sidney A. Shapiro, JD
Wake Forest University
Frank U. Fletcher Chair of Administrative Law

These updates are but a snapshot in time. The true impact of your generosity is carried forward every day by the dozens of graduates whose careers you have made possible, as well as the thousands of clients they have served. Those beneficiaries will never know of your generosity, but on their behalf, thank you. Every month, new stories are being written thanks to the legacy of A.J. Fletcher and his family.





WAKE FOREST
UNIVERSITY

SCHOOL of LAW