The Board of Legal Specialization cordially invites you to several exciting events on Friday, March 10, 2017 at the Grandover Resort in Greensboro. The day’s events will include:

9:30 — 10:30 am: Compassion Fatigue  
(1.0 Mental Health/Substance Abuse CLE)

10:30 — 11:30 am: Ethics and Social Media  
(1.0 Ethics CLE)  
(Specialists pay only the mandatory CLE fee of $3.50 per hour)

12:00 pm: Annual Luncheon  
for Board Certified Specialists including:  
*Recognition of newly certified specialists,  
*Recognition of 25-year specialists and  
*Presentation of Leadership, Excellence and Service Awards.  
(The luncheon and CLE are free to specialists, but an RSVP for both is required.)

2017 Leadership, Excellence and Service Awards

Nominations are now being accepted for the Howard Gum Service Award, James Cross Leadership Award and Sara Davis Excellence Award.

Please consider nominating a colleague who has taken an active leadership role in his/her practice area through presentations as CLE seminars, scholarly writings, participation in groundbreaking cases, or service to an established professional organization for the James Cross Leadership Award. Nominations for the Sara Davis Excellence Award should be submitted for colleagues who have exemplified excellence in daily work as a lawyer and serve as a model for other lawyers.

If you currently serve on a specialization committee, please nominate a fellow committee member for the Howard Gum Service award so that he/she can be recognized for outstanding dedication to the specialization program.

Nomination forms are attached or available on the specialization website forms page. The deadline for submitting nominations is February 10, 2017.
New Board Certified Specialists

The following lawyers met all of the certification requirements and were certified by the North Carolina State Bar Board of Legal Specialization on November 21, 2016.

Appellate Practice
Charles E. Coble, Raleigh
Jess D. Mekeel, Raleigh
Gavin J. Reardon, Greensboro

Criminal Law
Haley S. Boone, Graham; State
Dewey P. Brinkley, Raleigh; State
Damon J. Chetson, Raleigh; Federal/State
Andrew C. Cochran, Salisbury; State
Daniel P. Donahue, Elizabeth City; Federal/State
Milton O. Fletcher, Asheville; State
David L. Spence, Beaufort; State
Beth W. Stang, Hendersonville; State
Thomas R. Wilson, New Bern; Federal/State

Elder Law
Stratford N. Kiger, Charlotte

Estate Planning
Jennifer L. Philbeck, Charlotte
Amy J. Walker, Chapel Hill
Catherine L. Wilson, Durham

Family Law
Janet H. Amburgey, Asheville
Seth A. Glazer, Cornelius
Kristy J. Jackson, Goldsboro
Kristin R. Kelly, Winston-Salem
Autumn D. Osbourne, Durham
Courtney H. Smith, Charlotte
Shannan B. Tuorto, Asheville

Immigration Law
Stacy J. Maynor, Red Springs
Jessica L. Yanez, Greensboro

Real Property Law
John B. Adcock, Fuquay Varina; Commercial
Deleon Parker Jr., Rocky Mount; Commercial
W. Ann Pilkington, Matthews; Residential

Social Security Disability Law
Derrick K. Arrowood, Raleigh

Utilities Law
Edward (Brett) Breitschwerdt, Raleigh
To’Nola D. Brown-Bland, Raleigh
Henry C. Campen Jr., Raleigh
C. Alex Castle, Charlotte
Kimberly W. Duffley, Raleigh
William E. Grantmyre, Bald Head Is.
Daniel C. Higgins, Raleigh
James H. Jeffries, IV., Charlotte
Peter H. Ledford, Raleigh
Susan W. Rabon, Holly Springs
Gisele L. Rankin, Cary
Jo Anne Sanford, Raleigh
M. Gray Styers Jr., Raleigh
Louis (Sam) Watson Jr., Raleigh
Michael D. Youth, Raleigh

Workers’ Compensation
Ryan T. Bliss, Durham
Charles (Trey) Collier III, Charlotte
Daniel B. Eller, Greenville, SC
Casey S. Francis, Greensboro
Hunter Eddins-Gentle, Raleigh
Gemma L. Saluta, Winston-Salem
Bradley H. Smith, Charlotte
Kristina B. Thompson, Raleigh

*Results for the Bankruptcy Exams will be available in Spring, 2017.

Congratulations

Currently there are 1054 board certified specialists in North Carolina, making it one of the largest State sponsored programs in the country.
Specialization Scholarship Update: 
NC LEAF Collaboration

5 New Applicants Awarded Scholarship Funding in 2016

The collaborative program between the Board of Legal Specialization and the NC LEAF Board of Directors continues to assist in retention efforts for public defenders, prosecutors and non-profit public interest attorneys.

Five scholarships were awarded for the 2016 application cycle, bringing the total to 9 lawyers who have received scholarship funding and met all of the requirements to be board certified since the inception of the program in 2014. Assisting these lawyers to seek board certification recognizes their commitment to public service and encourages them to continue to both serve underrepresented citizens and improve their knowledge and skills in their practice area.

The specialization scholarship program was named in honor and recognition of Jeri L. Whitefield for her long standing service to the Board of Legal Specialization and the Workers’ Compensation Specialty Committee.

The collaboration between our organizations has grown as Senior Resident Superior Court Judge W. Doug Parsons, board certified in federal and state criminal law since 1991 recently joined the NC LEAF Board of Directors. In addition, Robert C. Kemp, board certified in state criminal law since 2005 and Public Defender for Pitt County, was recently elected as Chair of the NC LEAF Board of Directors.

The North Carolina Legal Education Assistance Foundation (NC LEAF) helps North Carolina lawyers pursue careers in public service through educational loan repayment assistance for law school debt. Participating lawyers have accepted positions in which they aid the traditionally underserved populations of North Carolina. They do so at salaries which are often a fraction of those of their counterparts who work at private law firms. Yet they face the same educational debt as their colleagues who enter private practice. A key component of NC LEAF is keeping well-trained attorneys in their jobs, which in turn helps the delivery of justice in the court system and ensures justice for the underrepresented citizens of our state.

Specialization Exams—New Software Launched

The 2016 specialization exams were offered for the first time using an exam software program that was familiar to the recently licensed lawyers. The State Bar joined the NC Board of Law Examiners, along with approximately 40 other States and many law schools, by using ExamSoft and SoTest to store and administer the specialty exams.

More than 90% of the lawyers taking a specialty exam in 2016 chose to use the software instead of handwriting their exam answers. The software received positive reviews from those who used it, with 100% reporting that the software was easy to navigate during the exam.

An additional benefit the software provides is allowing for storage of exam questions. This will help the specialty committees manage their exam questions with better organization and structure in coming years.

If you have a suggested exam topic or question for your specialty area, please forward your ideas to dmullen@ncbar.gov for consideration. Your input is appreciated!
New Utilities Law Specialty

Bringing Wind Energy to NC

Featuring Henry Campen, Board Certified Specialist in Utilities Law and Chair, Utilities Law Committee

North Carolina has established itself as a leader among southeastern states in renewable energy over the past 10 years. According to Business North Carolina, from 2007 - 2015 alone, the state has attracted $6.3 billion in private investments to renewable energy including wind and solar, paving the way for opportunity and innovation in the industry.

A crucial component in renewable and secure energy is wind energy innovation. The US Department of Energy (DOE) projects that by 2050, the country could meet 35 percent of its energy needs through domestically produced wind energy. According to the American Wind Energy Association, at the beginning of this year there were more than 88,000 wind-related jobs nationally and wind turbine projects in 41 states.

Although the United States is No. 1 in the world in wind energy production, with 190 million megawatt-hours produced last year, wind energy is produced on a much smaller scale in North Carolina. With his years of work on the Amazon Wind Farm US East, Henry Campen, leader of Parker Poe’s energy practice based in Raleigh, has emerged as a key champion for wind energy in North Carolina and across the Southeast.

Leveraging three decades' experience in utility law, Campen played an instrumental role in launching the first commercial-scale wind energy project in North Carolina, which broke ground in 2015. Campen partnered with Avangrid Renewables (formerly Iberdrola Renewables) to create and develop the Amazon Wind Farm US East. The first project of its kind in the Southeast, the first phase of the wind farm includes 104 turbines that each reach 492 feet high.

The wind farm sits on approximately 22,000 acres in Perquimans and Pasquotank counties, a rural section of northeastern North Carolina near Elizabeth City. Amazon Wind Farm US East is expected to make enough energy to power about 60,000 typical American homes and is on track to connect to the power grid and begin testing by the end of the year.

The genesis of the project dates back to 2007 when North Carolina enacted a Renewable Portfolio Standard (RPS). The RPS requires that utilities obtain at least 12.5 percent of their power from renewables and energy-efficient practices by 2021. Since then, eastern North Carolina has become a desirable destination for economic development and a hub for renewable energy. Seven eastern counties have each landing $150 million or more in renewable energy investment over the last eight years. This figure is exclusive of the $400 million investment by Avangrid in Perquimans and Pasquotank counties.

In addition to the RPS, the state’s good business environment and a University of North Carolina study touting the promise of wind in the region, have attracted the interest of wind developers.
Northeastern North Carolina has the best wind resource in the state because of its flat topography and the way it protrudes further out toward the ocean’s more energetic winds. This geography and new technology innovations allow for greater “harvesting” of wind resources. With all of these factors coming together, Campen saw the possibilities of wind energy across the Southeast.

Leveraging these advantages and his own personal research, Campen set out to persuade wind energy developers that North Carolina should be on their radar. In 2009, he set his sights on a major industry trade show in Chicago, Illinois, and approached Craig Poff, Avangrid Renewables’ mid-Atlantic business development director, and made his case for wind development in North Carolina. Avangrid Renewables has the largest renewable asset base of any company in the world, with more than 14,000 megawatts of renewable energy spread across a dozen countries. Through Campen’s initiative, Avangrid Renewables decided to pursue a project in North Carolina.

Poff met with Campen and his Parker Poe team in Raleigh, directly culminating in the largest economic development project in the region’s history. After a half-decade of tackling numerous economic, political, and legal challenges, the approximately $400 million project is now becoming a reality. Campen and a team of 20 Parker Poe colleagues helped Avangrid Renewables with a full spectrum of legal services to bring the project to fruition including federal, state, and local permitting, government relations, environmental permitting, economic incentives, tax and real estate counsel.

Campen’s passion and persistence were instrumental in advancing wind energy development in North Carolina. To date, Campen and Parker Poe have permitted well over 3,000 megawatts of renewable energy-fueled electrical generation (wind, solar, and biomass). Campen continues to take this commitment beyond his firm, serving in his fourth year as chair of the Southeastern Wind Coalition, a public/private sector advocacy partnership working to advance the land-based and offshore wind industry in 11 southeastern states. Campen is also a frequent speaker at American Wind Energy Association programs on wind siting issues.

Many challenges remain to continue development of this region’s renewable energy resources. As with any type of new development, there is a natural fear of the unknown. After all, until the Amazon Wind Farm US East becomes operational later this year, there are no utility-scale wind farms in North Carolina or anywhere in the southeastern US. However, Campen believes that these concerns are being addressed as the public becomes more educated about wind energy. The economic benefits to local communities and landowners offer one of the most significant economic boosts that rural northeastern communities have available to them. Wind energy and agriculture are a good fit with only approximately one fourth of an acre per turbine taken out of production and a steady “cash crop” for the farmer who leases the land.

Campen is already applying “lessons learned” from the Amazon Wind Farm US East to further other clean energy projects in the pipeline. They include bringing to the region another large-scale wind farm, Apex Clean Energy’s Timbermill Wind, which could provide enough megawatts to power an additional 60,000 homes.
Summary of CLE Standards for the 5-year certification period

Full standards are available and should be viewed online at: [http://www.ncbar.gov/for-lawyers/governing-rules-of-the-state-bar/](http://www.ncbar.gov/for-lawyers/governing-rules-of-the-state-bar/)

**Appellate Practice (AP):** 60 hours of CLE in AP and related fields, 20 in AP courses, no less than 6 credits in any one year.

**Bankruptcy Law:** 60 hours of CLE in bankruptcy law, no less than 6 credits in any one year.

**Criminal Law:** 65 hours of CLE in criminal law, no less than 6 credits in any one year.

**Elder Law:** 75 hours of CLE in elder law and related fields, no less than 10 credits in any one year, limits on estate taxation or administration courses.

**Estate Planning (EP):** 120 hours in EP and related fields, 75 in EP and probate law, limits on elder law, Medicaid and guardianship.

**Family Law:** 60 hours of CLE in family law, 12 can be in related fields, no less than 9 credits in any one year.

**Immigration:** 60 hours of CLE in immigration law, 30 in the first 3 years, 52 in immigration law.

**Juvenile Delinquency (JD):** 65 hours of CLE in criminal law and JD, 20 in JD, no less than 6 credits in any one year.

**Real Property Law:** 60 hours of CLE in real property law and related areas, 50 in real property, no less than 6 credits in any one year.

**Social Security disability law (SSD):** 60 hours of CLE in SSD and related fields, 20 in SSD law, no less than 6 credits in any one year.

**Trademark Law (TM):** 60 hours of CLE in TM and related fields, 34 in TM, no less than 6 credits in any one year.

**Utilities Law (UL):** 60 hours of CLE in UL and related fields, 30 in UL.

**Workers’ Compensation (WC):** 60 hours of CLE in WC and related fields, 30 in WC, no less than 6 credits in WC for any one year.