

Women's Success Task Force

Brooks Pierce proudly supports the career development of its women lawyers, including through the guidance of our Women's Success Task Force. The Women's Success Task Force seeks to foster a positive professional environment for women lawyers through the identification and creation of development opportunities to facilitate goal achievement and relationship building.

The Voices of Brooks Pierce

Observations on our commitment to promoting women's success.

"The Women's Success Task Force reflects the Firm's commitment to make sure that those efforts are intentional, deliberate, and sustained. Its very existence says to women that we care and that we are not going to leave things to chance. The Task Force is populated by women at various stages in their career which provides a space for communication about issues and an opportunity for leadership development."

— **Jennifer Van Zant**, Partner

"Brooks Pierce's commitment to its women lawyers is exemplified by its commitment to create opportunities for us to talk about issues that impact women and other diverse groups, particularly through firm retreats, seminars, and book club discussions. I believe that discussing the challenges unique to diverse groups benefits all, including me, because we develop greater empathy and understanding for each other. As a young attorney, my days are full of challenges but there are also unique struggles that I often contend with as a diverse attorney that sometimes compound the difficulties. Knowing that my colleagues are familiar with such struggles and are practiced in listening and learning more helps me feel comfortable reaching out to them as I progress in my career."

— **Katie Wong**, Associate

"One of the things that truly sets Brooks Pierce apart from other law firms is its unwavering commitment to the success of its people. The Women's Success Task Force is a concrete example of how the firm strives to create a culture where everyone feels like they can be successful in their own way - emphasizing that success can mean different things to different people and that success can be achieved in a variety of ways at Brooks Pierce."

— **Anna Tison**, Partner

Women's Success Task Force Members

Elizabeth E. Spainhour, Chair
Melissa W. Bailey
Jennifer Griffin Scotton
Kasi W. Robinson
Craig D. Schauer
Adam P.M. Tarleton
Jennifer K. Van Zant

Awards and Recognitions

Our women lawyers have been honored with the following awards and recognitions:

Recognition in *Benchmark Litigation*

Top 250 Women in Litigation in *Benchmark Litigation*

Recognition by *Chambers USA*

Recognition as "Legal Elite" By *Business North Carolina*

Recognition in *North Carolina Super Lawyers*

Named among the "Top 50 Women Attorneys" by *North Carolina Super Lawyers*

Named among the "40 Leaders Under 40" by *Triad Business Journal*

Named "Outstanding Women in Business" by *Triad Business Journal*

Leadership in our Communities

Our women lawyers serve in the following leadership capacities in their communities:

Co-Chair, Communications Committee, Sports & Entertainment Law Section, NCBA

Co-Chair, Diversity and Inclusion Committee, NCBA Young Lawyers Division

Board of Directors, Guilford Green Foundation

Chair, GreenHill Center for North Carolina Art

Global Vice Chair, Labour Law Practice Group, Geneva Group International

Volunteer Attorney, Legal Aid of North Carolina Lawyer on the Line Program

Board of Directors, North Star LGBTQ Community Center

Board of Directors, Triangle Family Services

Chair, Young Lawyer's Committee, NCBA

Community Involvement

Our women lawyers are active members of the following organizations:

Business Women of the Triad

Capital City Lawyers Association

Morehead-Cain Foundation Regional Selection Committee

North Carolina Association of Defense Attorneys

North Carolina Council of School Attorneys

NCBA Pro Bono Committee

Raleigh Professional Women's Forum

Women's White Collar Defense Association

Women's Success Task Force Initiatives

A sampling of initiatives hosted by our Women's Success Task Force, include:

- Book club and discussion on First: Sandra Day O'Connor, by Evan Thomas, accompanied by a presentation by Julia Ambrose on her first-hand experience clerking for Justice Sandra Day O'Connor
- Roundtable discussions on pathways to leadership at Brooks Pierce
- Lunch and learn program on executive presence
- Interactive session on best practices when working with the media