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## **Administration and Faculty**

### **B. Keith Faulkner, President and Dean**

B. Keith Faulkner joined the Appalachian School of Law as president and dean July 1, 2021. Prior to coming to ASL, Faulkner gained valuable experience during his tenures as dean at Liberty University School of Law, Campbell University School of Business, and Campbell Law School. He enjoyed a varied private law practice that included work in a general practice and at a large civil litigation firm in North Carolina.

Leading from the front, Faulkner's teams have been very successful in preparing students for practice and business. Professionalism and practical training have been the hallmark of his work. At Campbell and Liberty law schools, he has been part of teams that have pioneered new and innovative approaches to student success, bar passage, and employment outcomes. Under his leadership, Campbell Law realized the institution's highest ranking as a top-tier law school in U.S. News & World Report's Best Graduate Schools 2014 guidebook, and while leading Liberty Law, Liberty achieved the seventh highest bar passage in the country in 2018.

Faulkner holds the Juris Doctor (J.D.) and Master of Business Administration (M.B.A.) from Campbell University. He has also earned the Master of Laws (LL.M.) in Litigation Management from Baylor University School of Law, the B.S. in business administration (finance emphasis) from Charleston Southern University, and he completed the United States Navy Nuclear Power Training Pipeline. His service included a tour aboard the U.S.S. Billfish (SSN 676), and he was an instructor at Nuclear Power Training Unit (MTS 635).

Professionally, Faulkner enjoys being a lawyer and remaining active in the profession and practice. From a leadership perspective, developing effective and exceptional teams that deliver superior education and support to students is what drives his love of leading law schools and higher education. Personally, he enjoys spending time with his wife, Patty, and his three children, Hannah, Erin, and Ryan.

### **Laura E. Wilson, Chief Academic Officer and Associate Professor of Law**

B.A., Transylvania University, 1988; J.D., University of Kentucky College of Law, 1991. Dean Wilson earned a B.A. in Accounting from Transylvania University in Lexington, Kentucky, and her J.D. from the University of Kentucky College of Law, where she was a member of the law school's Moot Court team. She is also a graduate of the William & Mary Summer School of Law in England through the Marshall-Wythe School of Law, during which she also completed a legal clerkship in Exeter.

Dean Wilson previously practiced law in the Abingdon and Bristol offices of Penn, Stuart & Eskridge, where her practice primarily focused on commercial and personal injury litigation in state and federal courts, and included appearing before the Supreme Court of Virginia and the Fourth Circuit Court of Appeals. She also has extensive experience in natural resources law including mineral title examinations and transactional matters for clients in the natural resources industry. She served as law clerk to the Honorable Elizabeth A. McClanahan at both the Court of Appeals in Virginia and the Supreme Court of Virginia and, in private practice, was admitted to the bars of Virginia, Tennessee, and Kentucky.

Dean Wilson has served as an Adjunct Professor at Emory & Henry College, teaching Constitutional Law, and at ASL, teaching Conflict of Laws, Virginia Law Foundations, and Virginia Bar Preparation. She joined the ASL faculty on a full-time basis in the Fall of 2019, where she serves as Associate Dean of Students and Assistant Professor of Law.

Courses taught include: Conflict of Laws; Intentional Torts; Negligence; Advanced Torts; Virginia Civil Procedure and Practice.

### Mark Belleville, Associate Professor of Law, Director of the Natural Resource Law Center

B.A., Philosophy, Miami University, with Departmental and University Honors; J.D. with Honors from the Ohio State University College of Law. Formerly: 12 years as a business litigator and counselor with the well- respected law firms of Woods Rogers PLC in Blacksburg and Calfee Halter & Griswold LLP in Cleveland and Columbus. His litigation practice focused on commercial contract disputes, tort and products liability, environmental litigation, a variety of business torts, labor litigation and premises liability. On behalf of a utility client, Professor Belleville obtained the first summary judgment in Ohio in defense of a premises liability asbestos claim, and participated in the drafting significant asbestos reform legislation. He has also successfully negotiated and avoided multi-million dollar environmental claims on behalf of municipal and industrial clients. He is licensed to practice in Pennsylvania, Ohio and Virginia. Professor Belleville has served as faculty advisor for the Natural Resources Law Journal and moot court.

Courses taught include: Appellate Advocacy; Appellate Advocacy – Natural Resources; Contracts I & II; Doing and Undoing Environmental Regulations; Environmental Law and Policy; Introduction to Natural Resources; Natural Resources Law and Policy; Solar Energy Law; The Law of Renewables; Law Office Management; Sustainable Energy Law Practice.

### Charles J. Condon, Associate Professor of Law and Interim Director of the Law Library

B.A., Florida Atlantic University (1975); J.D., Nova Southeastern University College of Law, (1980); LL.M., Agriculture Law, University of Arkansas College of Law (1993); M.L.S., University of Southern Mississippi (1994). For many years, Professor Condon served as the Associate Dean for Information Services and Director of the Law Library at ASL. Formerly: Faculty Member and Computer Services/Reference Librarian, Northern Illinois University.

Courses taught include: Advanced Research & Law Firm Technology; Business Associations; E-Discovery; Information Privacy Law; Law Office Management; Pre-Trial Practice; Pre-Trial Civil Litigation; Remedies; Secured Transactions/UCC.

### The Honorable Larry G. Elder, Distinguished Professor of Law

B.A., University of Virginia (1966-68), Virginia Commonwealth University (1970), J.D., University of Richmond (1975). Judge Elder served as Judge of the Juvenile and Domestic Relations District Court, 11th Judicial District, for more than five years, serving as chief judge for a period of time. He has completed more than 22 years of service as a judge on the Court of Appeals of Virginia.

Courses taught include: Appellate Advocacy Criminal Law; Criminal Law; Criminal Procedure; Current Issues in Constitutional Law; History of Race and the Law in America.

### Dawn Figueiras, Associate General Counsel and Assistant Professor of Law

B.A.Ed. Virginia Tech, Magna Cum Laude, 1987. J.D. College of William & Mary, 2000. Prof. Figueiras served as a law clerk to Hon. James T. Turner, U.S. Court of Federal Claims, Washington, DC, 2000-2001; associate attorney at Gibson Dunn & Cutcher, LLP, Washington, DC, 2001-2002; partner in Elliott Lawson & Minor, P.C., Bristol, VA, 2002-2018. Prof. Figueiras also served on the Board of Governors of the Virginia State Bar, Local Government Section; Local Government Attorneys' Ethics Committee; and President of Bristol Virginia Bar Association. During law school, Ms. Figueiras was Notes Editor of *William & Mary Law Review*, and was named to the Order of the Coif and the Order of Barristers.

Courses taught include: Civil Procedure; Estate Planning; Immigration Law & Policy; Law & Modern Literature; Wills & Estates.

### Brooke Graham, Visiting Assistant Professor of Law

Professor Graham received her J.D. from Liberty University School of Law after completing her undergraduate studies at Liberty University. Prior to joining the ASL faculty in 2022, Professor Graham practiced in-house commercial business law and general higher education law in the Office of Legal Affairs at Liberty University. She also taught Lawyering Skills I and II at Liberty University School of Law.

Courses taught: Legal Process

### Mason Heidt, Associate Professor of Law

B.S., Emory and Henry College, MsEnv, University of Wollongong, N.S.W., Australia, J.D., The George Washington University School of Law. Prior to joining the faculty, Professor Heidt practiced energy, mineral, and corporate law with the firm of Thomas L. Pruitt, Attorney at Law, in Grundy, Virginia. His private practice experience focused on mineral title, coalbed methane, and other property issues endemic to Southwest Virginia. Professor Heidt's current research continues to focus on natural resources and real property.

Courses taught include: Property I & II; Appellate Advocacy; Appellate Advocacy Natural Resources; Contract Drafting; Coal, Oil, and Gas Law; Energy, Economics, and the Environment; Environmental Crimes and Torts; Environmental Science for Lawyers; Mineral Title Search and Examination; and; Real Estate Transactions.

### Jeremy W. Hurley, Director of Academic Success and Bar Preparation

B.A., University of Virginia, J.D., Appalachian School of Law. Prior to joining the faculty, Professor Hurley practiced disability, workers' compensation, and personal injury law with the firm of Arrington Schelin in Bristol, Virginia. His private practice experience focused primarily on Social Security Disability. Professor Hurley still maintains an active bar license in the Commonwealth of Virginia.

### Shelly James, Assistant Professor of Law and Associate Dean of Students

B.S., James Madison University; M.A., University of Pittsburgh; J.D., University of Iowa, College of Law. Professor James taught debate, public speaking, and critical thinking after receiving her Master's in Rhetoric and Public Address from the University of Pittsburgh. She then attended law school at the University of Iowa, where she was editor-in-chief of the Journal of Corporation Law. Since her graduation from Iowa, Professor James has worked as a prosecutor, an appellate attorney for the Virginia Attorney General's Office, and a law clerk for two judges on the Virginia Court of Appeals. For almost two decades, Professor James has worked as a private practice attorney in Harrisonburg, Virginia, representing primarily criminal defendants, parties and children in family law cases, and appellate parties.

Courses taught include: Administrative Law; Appellate Advocacy; Family Law; Legal Process I & II; Sentencing.

### Bernard McNamee, Street Distinguished Visiting Professor of Law

Bernard L. McNamee is the Street Distinguished Visiting Professor of Law at Appalachian School of Law. McNamee is a former Commissioner on the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC). McNamee is also a Partner at McGuireWoods LLP and a Senior Advisor at McGuireWoods Consulting where he provides clients with legal, policy and legislative guidance on a wide range of energy and environmental issues.

McNamee completed a term as a commissioner on FERC in 2020. During his time on the Commission, McNamee was recognized as a leader on a number of important energy issues and participated in more than 1,700 published orders on issues related to wholesale electricity markets, natural gas pipelines,

liquefied natural gas (LNG) export facilities, oil pipeline rates, hydro facilities, reliability standards, and ratemaking. He also testified before Congress and was invited to speak before energy organizations throughout the country. McNamee assists clients with high-stakes and complex issues involving the Federal Power Act (FPA), Natural Gas Act (NGA), Public Utility Regulatory Policies Act (PURPA), Interstate Commerce Act (ICA), and Renewable Fuel Standard (RFS).

Before joining FERC, McNamee served in the U.S. Department of Energy as Executive Director of the Office of Policy and Deputy General Counsel for Energy Policy. His career in public service includes key leadership positions under Attorneys General in Virginia and Texas and policy advisor roles for a U.S. Senator from Texas and a Governor of Virginia.

McNamee previously was a partner in McGuireWoods' Regulatory & Compliance Department. He assisted electric and natural gas utilities in rate cases and in obtaining approvals to build generating facilities and transmission lines, as well as the development of renewable portfolio standards (RPS) and integrated resource planning (IRP). He played an integral role advising clients during implementation of the 2007 Virginia Electric Utility Regulation Act, which returned the state's utilities to a modified cost-of-service regulatory model.

Courses taught: Energy Law and Regulation

### Lucy C. McGee, Dean of Experiential Learning and Assistant Professor of Law

Dean McGee received her J.D. from Appalachian School of Law after completing her undergraduate studies at the University of Georgia in Athens. Prior to joining the ASL faculty in 2017, Dean McGee served as a law clerk for the Honorable Elizabeth McClanahan at the Supreme Court of Virginia.

Courses taught: Legal Process, Introduction to Externships, Health, Poverty, & Law: Medical-Legal Partnerships.

### Justice Cleo E. Powell, Distinguished Professor of Law, Diversity Mentor and The L. Anthony Sutin Endowed Lecturer

Justice Cleo E. Powell has served on the Supreme Court of Virginia since 2011. She received her undergraduate degree, with distinction, from the University of Virginia and her J.D. from the University of Virginia School of Law.

Prior to her appointment to the Supreme Court of Virginia, Justice Powell was a labor and employment law associate at Hunton & Williams from 1982-1986. She served as Senior Assistant Attorney General for the Equal Employment Opportunity and Personnel Section for 1986-1989 in the Office of the Virginia Attorney General, Justice Powell was Corporate Counsel for Virginia Power and Director of their Employee Services.

Justice Powell began her judicial career on the Chesterfield/Colonial Heights General District Court in 1993. She was appointed to the Chesterfield/Colonial Heights Circuit Court in 2000 and then to the Court of Appeals of Virginia in 2008.

Justice Powell is a recipient of numerous awards, including Virginia Women in History (2013); Strong Men & Women Excellence in Leadership (2011); Virginia Women Attorneys Association 2010 Leader in Diversity; Virginia Lawyers Weekly Influential Women in Virginia (2010); Metro Richmond Women's Bar Association, Women of the Year 2009; and the YWCA's Outstanding Women of the Year (2001).

In 2011, Justice Powell began leading the Rule of Law Day at the Capital in conjunction with the Diversity Conference and the Young Lawyers Conference of the Virginia State Bar. The purpose of the program is to educate local middle and high school students about the rule of law principles and the operations of the legislative, executive, and judicial branches of government. Held annually at the Virginia State Capital and the Virginia Supreme Court, approximately 300 students are engaged in a day of learning while discussing

legal scenarios with attorneys, judges, and law enforcement officers.

Justice Powell chairs the Judicial Performance Evaluation Committee and serves on the Executive Committee of the Judicial Conference in Virginia. She has served on the Model Jury Instructions Committee, the Judicial Inquiry and Review Commission, the Ad Hoc Committee for the Study of Canons of Judicial Conduct and the Law Revisions Committee. She has also served as an adjunct faculty member at the William and Mary School of Law.

### Ken Russell, Assistant Professor of Law

B.A., Carson-Newman College, 1980; J.D., University of Tennessee College of Law, 1983. Mr. Russell is a 1983 graduate of the University of Tennessee College of Law (With High Honors). While at UT Law he was an Assistant Editor of the Tennessee Law Review, Member of Order of the Coif and received the American Jurisprudence Awards in Constitutional Law and Jurisprudence. Kenneth grew up in Rockwood, Tennessee and graduated from Rockwood High School in 1976. Formerly: The Russell Law Firm, Bristol, VA; partner and practice group leader at Troutman Sanders, LLP ; shareholder, Penn, Stuart & Eskridge. Additionally, Kenneth has held a number of jobs in industry including: C.E.O. of Cottages Group, Inc.; V.P. of Corporate Affairs for Cumberland Resources Corporation; and General Counsel to GC Toys Worldwide and President of its US operating company General Creations, LLC.

Mr. Russell has served as an Adjunct Professor at Georgia State School of Law teaching Corporate Reorganizations and Tax Procedure and at Emory & Henry College teaching Business law. Mr. Russell has served on the board of trustees, and as an officer, of several charitable organizations. He currently serves as Chairman of the Board of Trustees of Bluefield College.

Courses taught include: Civil Procedure I & II; Constitutional Law I & II; Intellectual Property; Federal Income Taxation; Securities Law.

### Mary Foil Russell, Assistant Professor of Law

B.A. Carson-Newman College, 1979; J.D. University of Virginia School of Law, 1982. After clerking for the Tennessee Court of Appeals in Chattanooga, Tennessee, Professor Russell joined the staff of the Georgia Attorney General's Office in Atlanta. She served in that office as Assistant Division Director for the Health and Human Services Litigation Division from 1990 – 1994. She was appointed Special Assistant Attorney General in cases for the Georgia Department of Human Resources and Department of Medical Assistance from 1994 to 1997. Professor Russell served as a panel trustee for Chapter 7 bankruptcy cases in the Eastern District of Tennessee from 1997 until 2017. She practiced with Sands Anderson, P.C. from 2017 until 2022, primarily in the areas of state and local government, juvenile law, and defense of local and constitutional officers. Professor Russell joined the ASL faculty in August 2022 and is a supervising attorney in the Medical-Legal Partnership with Ballad Health, Virginia Tech and ASL.

### Thomas R. Scott, Jr., Distinguished Visiting Professor of Law & General Counsel to the Board

B.A., Government & Political Science, Hampden-Sydney College, 1974; J.D., T.C. Williams School of Law of the University of Richmond, 1976. Mr. Scott is an Advocate of the American Board of Trial Advocacy, a Fellow of the American College of Trial Lawyers, and former Chairman and current member of the Virginia State Bar Disciplinary Board. He has been selected by *Virginia Business Magazine* as one of the state's Best Lawyers for inclusion in the Legal Elite, and *Richmond Magazine* for inclusion in multiple editions of Super Lawyers. Mr. Scott has also served as lead counsel and co-counsel in a number of high profile civil and criminal cases throughout far Southwest Virginia, including Commonwealth v. Roger Keith Coleman, a highly publicized capital murder prosecution in which he made numerous state, national and international television appearances. The Coleman case is the subject of John Tucker's book, *May God Have Mercy*.

Mr. Scott is a past winner of the Bill Geimer Award, which is presented annually to a dedicated capital defender by the Virginia Capital Case Clearinghouse at Washington and Lee University School of Law in Lexington, Virginia. Mr. Scott is rated AV Preeminent by Martindale-Hubble for his high ethical standards and professional ability. He was recently selected by *Virginia Lawyer's Weekly* as a Leader in the Law (Class of 2013) and by the Virginia Bar Association as a Fellow in the Virginia Law Foundation in January 2014.

Scott is the senior partner in the Street Law Firm, LLP, in Grundy, Virginia where he has practiced as a criminal and civil litigator for over 42 years. Mr. Scott joined the full-time faculty at the Appalachian School of Law in 2005 and has been selected by his students on multiple occasions as Professor of the Year. He also serves as faculty advisor to a number of student organizations, including BLSA.

Courses taught include: Criminal Practice; Evidence; Insurance Law; Professional Responsibility; Trial Advocacy.

### Col David J. Western, USAF, Ret., Visiting Assistant Professor of Law and Dean of Students

B.A., University of Utah; J.D., Northwestern School of Law of Lewis & Clark College (with Certificate in Environmental and Natural Resources Law); LL.M. International & Comparative Law, George Washington University. Dean Western is a retired Judge Advocate who served over 27 years in the Air Force both as an enlisted airman and commissioned officer. During this time he has spent over three years in the deployed environment to include tours in Saudi Arabia, Qatar, Kyrgyzstan, and Afghanistan.

Previous to his current role, Dean Western was the Associate Dean of Administration and Student Development at Liberty University School of Law. From 2001 – 2004, Dean Western was a Professor of Foreign Languages (French & Arabic) and Professor of Law at the United States Air Force Academy.

Dean Western's military awards include eight Meritorious Service Medals and the Legion of Merit. He has been named the top international lawyer in the Air Force (Keenan Award) on two different occasions, and won a Moot Court World Championship in Space Law in 2007.

Courses taught include: International & Comparative Law; Criminal Justice; International Humanitarian Law; Space Law; Lawyering Skills; Environmental Law.

### Christopher M. Young, Adjunct Professor of Law, Diversity Mentor, and Career Services Coach

Christopher Young, a native of Greensboro, NC was educated through the Guilford County School System and graduated from Walter Hines Page High School in 1995. Upon graduation, he began his collegiate studies at Shaw University in Raleigh, NC, graduating in May, 1999. While at Shaw, Christopher was an active student. He was a member of the university's baseball team, a Resident Advisor, and a member of several on campus clubs and organizations. In addition to being a student athlete and student leader, Christopher also maintained part-time employment during his undergraduate career.

Christopher enrolled into the Masters of Public Administration program at North Carolina Central University, completing all required coursework. In 2004, he enrolled in law school at the Appalachian School of Law in Grundy, Virginia where he would study law for the next two years. While a student at Appalachian, Christopher remained a very active student, serving as President of the Black Law Students Association, a member of the diversity committee, a member of the school's intramural softball team, and a research assistant for Professor Joseph Grant. Following his second year at Appalachian, Christopher was fortunate enough to complete his final year of law school closer to home at North Carolina Central University School of Law.









