

## 2016 Citizen Lawyers: Ashley H. Campbell

**By Jane Paksoy**

RALEIGH – The North Carolina Bar Association is proud to recognize Raleigh attorney Ashley H. Campbell with its Citizen Lawyer Award. The award honors attorneys who provide exemplary public service to their communities.

Anyone who has met Campbell can tell you that her energy and enthusiasm are infectious. There is no doubt that these qualities have helped propel her in her personal and professional life, both inside and outside the legal community.

Campbell has excelled in her career as a trial lawyer, receiving recognition such as being named the 2011 Outstanding Graduate of UNC School of Law and Attorney of the Month by Attorney at Law Magazine. Campbell is currently President-Elect and Secretary of the Wake County Bar Association and Tenth Judicial District Bar, and will serve as President in 2017.

Campbell's accomplishments also extend to the community at large. She is currently serving her second year as Chair of the Board of Directors for StepUp Ministry. StepUp is a non-profit that assists over 325 people per year in obtaining employment and gaining life skills.

Linda Nunnallee, Executive Director of StepUp, says, "Nothing has been more fulfilling than watching Ashley support a StepUp participant with life changing direction on legal barriers, lead a board of directors to become engaged with policy and actively participate, and resolve difficult situations", all while "lead[ing] [the] organization with JOY".

Joy seems to be a recurring theme in Campbell's life. She admits that being Board Chair means attending a lot of meetings, but those meetings are "so joyful" that they act as a positive force in her life. To all the unhappy lawyers she often sees, she notes that "community involvement can be a way to find a lot of joy in things you care about".

Campbell also encourages future Citizen Lawyers to serve on a board of an organization to gain leadership and business skills. She says that StepUp has been her "PhD" because she's learned so much from other board members.

Campbell shared some great advice she received from her mentor Mary Hulett: get involved in things you are passionate about; don't just target organizations that might be good for business. If you truly care about something, you will make room for it.

Campbell's next passion is to focus on poverty issues. She hopes to start a non-partisan dialogue on an issue that is too often polarizing. Sounds like a challenging task, but Campbell undoubtedly will find a way to make it joyful.

*The Citizen Lawyer Committee of the NCBA Young Lawyers Division, in conjunction with the NCBA Citizen Lawyer Committee, provides expanded coverage of the 2016 Citizen Lawyer Awards in recognition of their volunteer service and leadership in their communities and beyond.*

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