

HEATHER CULP

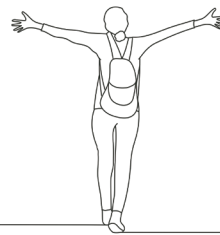
FIRM: Essex Richards, *Charlotte*

HOMETOWN: Lexington, Kentucky

UNDERGRAD: Miami University (Oxford, Ohio)

LAW SCHOOL: University of Kentucky, 1997

PRACTICE LAW: 26 years (5 years in Kentucky; 21 years in North Carolina)



FAMILY: Husband Chris, stepson Christopher, stepdaughter Jessica, her husband and their daughter

NEW YEAR'S RESOLUTION: Lose weight and work less – the two are connected!

GO-TO STRESS RELIEVER: Watching true crime series and listening to true crime podcasts. They are engrossing and remind me that things could be a lot worse. Good jigsaw puzzles are also a great escape.

BUCKET LIST: Visit Nantucket, Massachusetts. I've read every Elin Hilderbrand book, all of which are set in Nantucket, and it sounds like my kind of place.

BIGGEST RISK: Over the past several months, I have tried to publicly, consistently, and meaningfully stand up for North Carolina's LGBTQ+ attorneys. It would have been easier to keep my head down, but I'm glad I didn't.

FAVORITE LAWYER JOKE: A law school professor's exam questions involved the hypothetical law firm "Dewey, Cheatem & Howe." That still makes me laugh.

COMFORT FOOD: Three-way Skyline chili

SPECIAL DISH: My late maternal grandmother's homemade bourbon balls

FAVORITE FICTIONAL LAWYER: Grace Van Owen (actor Susan Dey's character on "L.A. Law")

FAVORITE N.C. HANGOUT: The mountains; cooler weather, spectacular nature and views.

LEGAL INSPIRATION: A combination of "L.A. Law" and encouraging junior high school mock trial coaches.

BEST PROFESSIONAL ADVICE: Leave your desk to take advantage of the slower work days because you'll make up for it during the busier work days – received from a supervising partner in the 1990s and given ever since.

CAREER ALTERNATIVE: Headhunting/recruiting. I like introducing and connecting people.

2024 MILESTONES: Come September, I'll have been at Essex Richards for 10 years.

DEFINE SUCCESS: Sleeping well at night.

NOTE: Culp was a 2017 Legal Elite winner in the bankruptcy category.