

W. SCOTT JONES

FIRM: Searson, Jones, Gottschalk & Cash, Asheville

HOMETOWN: Shelby

UNDERGRAD: UNC Chapel Hill

LAW SCHOOL: University of Virginia, 1991

PRACTICED LAW: 32 years



FAMILY: Wife Karen, children Olivia, Matthew and William

NEW YEAR'S RESOLUTION: Continue to do the work that I enjoy, run consistently and appreciate family time.

2024 WORK-LIFE CHANGE: Fortunate to practice with three great lawyers who are also good friends. We have three additional lawyers joining us: Tikkun Gottschalk, Elizabeth Newman and Bob Deutsch.

GO-TO STRESS RELIEVER: I started running 15 years ago to improve my physical health, but it also has benefitted my mental health.

BIGGEST RISK: Left the only law firm I had ever practiced with and some of my closest friends to start my new firm in 2008. It was scary at first, but it was a great decision.

LAST SHOW BINGE-WATCHED: "Shetland"

SPECIAL DISH: My grandmother made a wonderful cubed steak. My wife's cubed steak one-ups even my grandmother.

FAVORITE FICTIONAL LAWYER: Theo Boone, kid lawyer, from John Grisham book series about a teen who fights to right injustices.

FAVORITE N.C. HANGOUT: Asheville

BBQ - EAST OR WEST?: My favorite barbecue is my own. I have had a Big Green Egg for 20 years and have a Kamado Joe now too. I even have a "secret sauce," which has an Eastern lean.

LEGAL INSPIRATION: In elementary school, I watched the Watergate hearings. U.S. Sens. Sam Ervin, D-N.C., and Howard Baker, R-Tenn., inspired me.

BEST PROFESSIONAL ADVICE: "People are complicated." Too often in litigation, the parties jump too quickly to ascribe only bad motive and evil intent to the other side. Often it is more complicated, just like people.

ALTERNATE CAREER: College chemistry professor.

2024 MILESTONES: Sons Matthew and William will become college freshmen, leaving Karen and me to start our empty nest chapter.

DEFINE SUCCESS: Raising my children to be people who contribute their skills to society and who enjoy their lives. Success in litigation is putting clients in a better position than they would have been if they had not come to see me.