

JULIAN ROBB

FIRM: Blanco Tackabery & Matamoros, *Winston-Salem*

HOMETOWN: Johannesburg, South Africa

UNDERGRAD: UNC Chapel Hill

LAW SCHOOL: Wake Forest School of Law, 1998

PRACTICED LAW: 25 years



FAMILY: Wife, Jessica, and children, Ellie (16) and Liam (14)

2024 WORK-LIFE CHANGE: A better mentor to the firm's new attorneys.

GO-TO STRESS RELIEVER: A great read shields you from the shenanigans of the workday.

BUCKET LIST: A week in the Hebrides in Scotland and leap from distillery to distillery. I love Scotland (my father was born in Greenock), but I've never been to Islay or Skye and I imagine a whisky-soaked week to be a delightful way to spend one's time.

BIGGEST RISK: Real estate attorneys take no risks. It's not in our DNA. Biggest risk was going to law school at age 22.

COMFORT FOOD: Finding a good chicken parmesan sub in North Carolina is like finding gold in the Yukon.

SPECIAL FOOD: My mom made the best mac & cheese.

FAVORITE FICTIONAL LAWYER: Ben Stone (actor Michael Moriarty) from "Law & Order." Stone is such an ornery fellow. He has the bedside manner of an accomplished malcontent, but is stubbornly principled and highly proficient.

FAVORITE N.C. HANGOUT: Pinehurst

BBQ – EAST OR WEST: With all the objectivity that being a non-native brings, I can say with certainty that eastern North Carolina is clearly better.

LEGAL INSPIRATION: College summers spent working for a Charlotte law firm allowed me to see behind the fourth wall, to see attorneys work hard and interact with clients and staff. It made me want to emulate the best of them.

BEST PROFESSIONAL ADVICE: I was a young attorney, struggling with a demanding client. The firm's managing partner told me never let a client treat me as a functionary. He said that we are here to advise our clients, not do their bidding. I loved that advice, and with time developed the confidence and proficiency to put it into practice.

MOVIE WHERE YOU'RE THE LAWYER: The courtroom from "A Few Good Men." I would love to yell "I want the truth" at a witness.

DEFINE SUCCESS: I define success by reputation. The attorneys I respected as a young attorney in Winston-Salem, like Kim Gallimore, Don VonCannon and Frank Bell, had unimpeachable reputations. I think the most successful of us attorneys are those who are regarded highly by our peers.