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LEGACY LEDGER

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*A Message From NAFC Education Foundation
Alumni Coordinator, Sherri McKeen*

We continue our look at alumni with careers in law, and this issue is sure to be a *treat* as our guest contributor, Rex Bickers, spotlights three alumni whose law careers took them into the judiciary. You will also want to continue reading to learn a bit more about the NACF Education Foundation's assembly of the first "Royal Court". We plan to have some fun as we wrap up 2022.

ALUMNI SPOTLIGHT

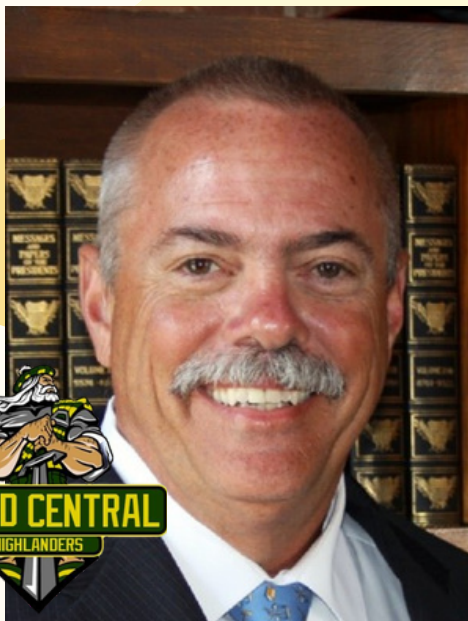
In a continuation of our September issue, we meet the other half of “Rule of Law”. Let’s start off with this premise: No one wants to “go before the judge” if it can be avoided - - isn’t that right?

Well, almost no one. Being an attorney in the public sector often means “going before the judge”... on behalf of you and me, the public--or providing counsel to our elected officials, and that’s what the job requires.

A lawyer who becomes a judge is typically required to step away from the private practice of law. In contrast, an attorney can continue to practice while providing *public service*, offering legal counsel to the branches and offices held in city or county government. In the judicial branch of local government, prosecutors and public defenders represent the interests of local citizens in criminal court.

Becoming the attorney for the city or the county is commonly a civic responsibility that can be met by lawyers in private practice. Indeed, a common path to public service is to become the attorney of record for the various divisions of local government: public works, law enforcement, public health and more. In this role, their duties are fulfilled on behalf of the voters. All three of these Floyd Central grads did that - - but they went on to take the next big step: becoming a prosecutor for the county or the appointed attorney to a branch of local government. Let’s take a look at how that works, spanning three different generations of alumni.

Contributed by Rex Bickers, FCHS ‘70



RICK FOX, FCHS 1973

Rick is a “first generation” Highlander, in the first class of junior high school kids who “went all the way through” - - seventh graders to seniors. His leadership skills were evident in his three years as swim team captain and in student council involvement (president, senior year). His professional education was notable for his interweaving work in finance and in banking with his studies at three schools: IU (Bloomington), graduate studies in business

(University of Dayton) and law at Valparaiso University (1987). His private practice career began that same year. After sixteen years, the practice of Fox and Cotner became the Fox Law Offices, which now includes his daughter Kristi.

It was also in 2003 that Rick was named attorney for the City of New Albany. Just a few years later, he became an attorney for Floyd County. This extended to serving as the attorney for over a dozen separate departments, commissions, and boards that make up the many functions of local government.

During these past 19 years, It's almost impossible to separate his public sector service from his commitment to civic engagement. Swimming, for example, has remained a lifelong passion. He has served on the board of directors (and he was board president for three years) of Riverside Aquatic Club. He has been a 13-year board member of the Louisville/Southern Indiana IU Alumni Association (and a past president).

Rick and his wife Carolyn live in Floyds Knobs, an area associated with four generations of the Fox family since the 1960s. Ask Rick about his career achievements practicing law, and he quickly pivots the conversation to tell you this: his greatest pride can be found in the lives of his children (both FC grads): Joe '02 and Kristi '04. Among the highlights of their teens and twenties, both were varsity swimmers, at FC and in college

SHANE GIBSON, FCHS 1989

Shane Gibson was still just a baby in the winter of 1970-71, when the iconic term "Superhicks" was first coined. The team electrified and united the entire Floyd Central community when they reached the final four, even if they didn't come home as state champs. Before 1971 ended, Shane's brother Sean was born. The two of them ended up in the same year at school. Fast forward to their senior year: Shane and Sean would take FC back to the final four.



The two brothers made up a powerful trio with classmate Pat Graham, who was named Indiana's "Mr. Basketball" - - for the 1989 high school season. It was the second trip to the state finals for Coach Joe Hinton and the Highlanders.

Choosing to profile Shane with Rick Fox (fifteen years older) and Emily Stumler (fifteen years younger) is an intentional "compare and contrast" of these three very real people. Each of them is much more than the public roles they fulfill.

Shane completed his undergraduate degree at IU-Purdue/Ft Wayne, followed by his law degree in 1999 from the University of Louisville Brandeis School of Law.

Today, he has already passed the twenty-year mark in public service. His career was initially divided between private practice and the Floyd County Prosecutor's office. In 2004, Shane was appointed attorney for the city of New Albany, after the election of Mayor James Garner. He actually succeeded Rick Fox; breaking somewhat with tradition, predecessor and successor were conscientious in their review of all active matters together - - seeking to pass the baton smoothly.

Shane's tenure as city attorney has evolved into much more than just legal proceedings and disputes. While he provides legal advice to the Mayor and for the city, he has also worked on numerous projects throughout New Albany. These are just a few examples: renovating a historic building to become the new City Hall, constructing a community pool used by thousands, and assisting in completing the Ohio River Greenway.

Shane and his wife Shannon live in New Albany, constantly busy raising their three Floyd Central children: Keeton '21, Asher '23 and Nora '25.

EMILY POE STUMLER, FCHS 2004

What defines a *generation* for a high school (especially one with a precise “first day the doors opened”)? The “first” generation grads of Floyd Central are easily identified. When did the “second generation” of Highlanders graduate? The 1990s? or even the late 80s? By that measure, then... it’s probably too soon to call Emily Poe (and her husband Eli Stumler) - - both in the class of 2004 - - part of the “third generation”. Whatever descriptors fit best; Emily certainly seems to have done a whole lot of livin’ in the 18 years since graduation!



Let’s just say this: she’s always been on the fast track... violin lessons at age six, for example. That’s how you become a concertmaster, not only for FC but also for the Floyd County Youth Symphony. Add in cheerleading and being senior class president, and it spells “triple threat”- - exceptionally prepared for college.

Where? Belmont University In Music City, USA (Nashville) to major in music. What happened next? You might already know. Was it a case of being at the right place at the right time? Or is it more like... really, really talented people simply stand out, wherever they are?

At age 21, she auditioned to play fiddle for a band with a much younger teenager: a kid named Taylor Swift! The summers of 2006 and 2007 were whirlwinds of traveling, on and off a bus with Taylor and her mother.

How does anyone go from there to becoming an attorney? She just kept going fast. By 2011, in year three of law school (UT Knoxville), Emily got engaged (February), passed the bar exam (July) and married Eli (November). Within a year, she began working part-time for Harrison County Prosecutor Otto Schalk. Ten years later, and now the mother of three children, she will soon begin her sixth year as Chief Deputy Prosecutor, specializing particularly in crimes committed against children. The Stumlers live in Lanesville. Now and then, Emily still plays violin for weddings and some special events.



Support Your Candidate & the NAFC Foundation

Hear ye, hear ye! Calling NAFC Schools Alumni!

The New Albany Floyd County Education Foundation is assembling our very first "Royal Court"! This prestigious selection of graduates from NAHS and FCHS will compete against each other to raise funds for the NAFC Education Foundation to claim the crown.

Beginning November 4, the 2022 Legacy NAFC Royal Court will be asking you, their friends and colleagues, and the community to support their efforts to make an impact on the children and educators in our community. Watch your email for a special invitation to support an alumnus as they compete for the crown and become a Legacy NAFC Member.

The top fundraiser will be announced at the NA vs. FC boys' basketball game on Friday, December 9th at NAHS.

#FOUNDATIONFRIDAY

Thank you NAFCS teachers and staff members for making a commitment to support the work of the Education Foundation. With over \$118,000 pledged from nearly 600 employees, we are so grateful for every dollar pledged in support of our mission!



Congratulations to Slate Run Elementary for having the highest percentage of staff members giving!

**New Albany-Floyd County
Education Foundation**



**LEGACY
NAFC**

The New Albany Floyd County Education Foundation is a not-for-profit organization that works in conjunction with NAFCS Schools to provide privately funded supplemental resources and programs to students, teachers, and schools. NAFCS Alumni Nation is an alumni program of the NAFCS Education Foundation. Legacy NAFCS is the official support group of NAFCS, NAFCS Alumni Nation, and the NAFCS Education Foundation.



www.NAFCEdFoundation.org

<https://nafcalumni.nationbuilder.com/>

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