

## KENNETH TOWNSEND

Wake Forest University  
Program for Leadership and Character and School of Law  
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### EDUCATION

**J.D., Yale Law School**, New Haven, CT, 2012

- Yale Law and Policy Review, editor
- Debating Law & Religion Series, co-founder

**M.A.R., Yale Divinity School**, New Haven, CT., 2012

- Marquand Scholar: full tuition scholarship with stipend

**M.Phil. Politics: Political Theory, University of Oxford**, Oxford, UK, 2006

- Rhodes Scholar
- Varsity Basketball

**B.A. (English and Political Science), Millsaps College**, Jackson, MS, 2004

- Harry S. Truman Scholar for Leadership and Public Service
- Founders Medal for highest GPA among graduates
- Phi Beta Kappa

### LAW JOURNAL ARTICLES

- *Pro Humanitate: Developing Leaders of Character in the Law*, 36 ST. THOMAS L. J. 847 (2024)
- *Purpose, Practical Wisdom, and the Formation of Trustworthy Lawyers*, 75 MERCER L. REV. 1399 (2024)
- *The Necessity of Hope in Legal Education: Character Development in Pluralist Contexts*, 13 J. OF CHRISTIAN LEGAL THOUGHT, 124 (2023)
- *Forming Good Lawyers*, 58 WAKE FOREST L. REV. 981 (2023)
- *Preconditions of Leadership in Law*, 56 WAKE FOREST L. REV. 859 (2021)
- *Why Liberalism Persists: The Neglected Life of Law in the Story of Liberalism's Decline*, 94 ST. JOHN'S L. REV. 457 (2020)
- *A Common Enterprise: Law and The Connection Between Civil and Heavenly Realms in The Writings of John Calvin*, 4 CONCORDIA L. REV. 36 (2019)
- *Education and the Constitution: Three Threats to Public Schools and the Theories that Inspire Them*, 85 MISS. L.J. 327 (2016)

### OTHER PUBLICATIONS AND SCHOLARSHIP (SELECTED)

- *Wake Forest University Program for Leadership and Character: A Case Study* (co-authored with Michael Lamb), MULTIDISCIPLINARY HANDBOOK OF CHARACTER VIRTUE DEVELOPMENT, Michael D. Matthews and Richard M. Lerner, eds., Routledge Press (2024)
- *Shifting Alliances and the Lost Consensus: The Religious Freedom Restoration Act at Thirty*, CANOPY FORUM ON THE INTERACTIONS OF LAW AND RELIGION AT EMORY LAW SCHOOL (2023)
- *Pro Humanitate and the Formation of Lawyers*, THE JURIST (2022)

- *Ethics and Professional Responsibility: What Lawyers Should Know and Trauma-Informed Lawyering as a Legal Competency*, TRAUMA-INFORMED LAW: A PRIMER FOR LAWYERS IN PRACTICE (ABA Publishing, 2022)
- *Religious Liberty and Social Equality in the Aftermath of Fulton v. Philadelphia*, CANOPY FORUM ON THE INTERACTIONS OF LAW AND RELIGION AT EMORY LAW SCHOOL (2021)
- *Leadership and Character in the Law*, THE JURIST (2020)

### WORKS IN PROGRESS (SELECTED)

- LEADERSHIP AND CHARACTER IN THE LAW, West Academic Press (under contract; forthcoming 2025)
- CHARACTER AND THE PROFESSIONS edited volume (co-edited with Michael Lamb)

### WORK EXPERIENCE

**Wake Forest University** • Winston-Salem, NC • 2019–present

*Director of Leadership and Character in the Professional Schools*

*Executive Director of Leadership and Character in the Professional Schools (effective July 1, 2023)*

- Established the Program’s presence in Wake Forest’s professional schools by working with key university leaders to identify needs, clarify priorities, and to secure necessary financial support.
- Cultivate and manage relationships with external stakeholders to ensure support for the Program, including raising over \$40 million in grants and gifts to support staff, programs, and student scholarships.
- Hired and currently manage the 15-person team in the professional schools that is tasked with promoting character-based leadership through curricular development, student programming, research and assessment, and external engagement with leaders in the professions.
- Oversee an annual budget of approximately \$2.2m.

*Scholar-in-Residence in the School of Law*

*Teaching Professor (effective July 1, 2023)*

- Design and teach 1-2 courses per semester in the School of Law. Courses have included *Professional Responsibility, Leadership and Character in the Law, Leadership and Adversity, and Character and the Professions*.
- Produce legal scholarship in the fields of leadership, legal ethics and professional responsibility, constitutional law, and legal and political theory.
- Serve on various faculty committees, advise various student organization efforts, and participate in the life of the Law School as a member of the residential faculty.

*Presidential Higher Education Fellow (effective July 1, 2023)*

- Work with the President and her staff on special projects.

**Millsaps College** • Jackson, MS • 2012–2019

*Founding Executive Director of the Institute for Civic & Professional Engagement (April 2016–June 2019)*

- Oversaw the Office of Continuing Education, the Center for Career Education, the Center for Ministry, church relations, service learning, vocational discernment, national fellowships, and various other engagement initiatives and programs.
- Managed and developed relationships with external partners.
- Supervised a team of 13 people and managed an annual budget of \$1.1m.
- Co-director of the Millsaps Truth, Racial Healing, and Transformation Campus Center, one of the original 10 centers established by the Association of American Colleges and Universities in 2017.
- Led the effort to relocate the academic home of the Shepherd Higher Education Consortium on Poverty to Millsaps from its founding home at Washington & Lee University.

*Special Assistant to the President (2012–2019)*

- Served on the College's Cabinet and Executive Staff leadership team, which consisted of the College's vice presidents and myself.
- Played a leading role in implementing the College-wide strategic plan.
- Assisted the President with special projects and led various Cabinet-level searches.
- Represented the President's Office and the College in the community.
- Acted as a liaison with the Board of Trustees and re-designed the trustee orientation process.
- Provided legal counsel on a range of issues and liaised with the College's outside counsel on major matters.

*Assistant Professor of Political Science (non-tenure-track) (2012–2019)*

- Designed and taught one course per semester, focusing on constitutional law, civil rights and liberties, legal and political theory, and the U.S. judiciary.
- Directed the creation of a partnership between Millsaps and Freedom Summer College to provide opportunities for talented but needy students in the Mississippi Delta to receive Millsaps academic credit through courses taught in the summer by PhD students from outside the state.
- Facilitated student dialogue across difference through the Divided State of America initiative and the Congress to Campus program.

*Interim Director of Marketing & Communications (2013)*

- Managed the Marketing & Communications staff.
- Oversaw all official College communication, including the monthly e-news Bulletin and the *Millsaps Magazine*.
- Managed Commencement exercises.

*Director of National Fellowships (2013–2019)*

- Directed the national fellowships program and enhanced support systems for fellowship applicants.

- In addition to success with the Truman, Goldwater, and Fulbright Scholarships, Millsaps was the only private liberal arts college in the nation to produce a 2018 Rhodes Scholar and was one of only 12 colleges in the U.S. to produce two or more Rhodes Scholars from 2016-18.

**Yale University • New Haven, CT • 2008–2012**

*Yale College Teaching Fellow (Spring 2012)*

- Designed and taught undergraduate seminar: *Religion and the U.S. Constitution in Theoretical Context*.

*Residential Graduate Affiliate, Saybrook College (2008-2012)*

- Advised national fellowship applicants, including several Truman, Rhodes, and Marshall winners.
- Organized weekly presentations in which Yale undergraduates presented senior theses.

*Seminarian, Episcopal Church at Yale (2009–2010)*

- Organized community outreach activities, assisted with Sunday services, and led weekly Bible study.

**University of Mississippi • 2006–2008**

*Barksdale Political Science Teaching Fellow in the Sally McDonnell Barksdale Honors College*

- Taught two honors classes per semester, including *Introduction to American Politics; Liberty, Justice, and Equality; Religion, Politics, and the Law; Modern Political Thought from Machiavelli to Marx*, and *Ethics and Literature*.
- Mentored honors students and worked with the Fellowships Office, during which time I closely advised three successful Truman Scholars, a Rhodes Scholar, and Mitchell Scholar.

*Instructor of Public Policy Leadership in the Lott Leadership Institute*

- Was one of two faculty members involved in designing and launching the academic major in Public Policy Leadership.
- Design, led, and taught three undergraduate and graduate exchange courses between the University of Mississippi and the Nelson Mandela University in South Africa. Courses focused on ethical leadership and the history of racial reconciliation in the American South and South Africa.
- Taught one course per semester in public policy leadership, including *Introduction to Public Policy Leadership* and *Ethics and Public Policy*.
- Assisted with various leadership programs and initiatives sponsored by the Lott Leadership Institute.

**Nelson Mandela University • Port Elizabeth, South Africa • summer 2009**

*Visiting Lecturer*

- Prepared and delivered a series of lectures on legal and political theory, ethical leadership, and race in America.

**Bradley Arant Boulton Cummings, LLP** • Jackson, MS • summer 2010

*Summer Associate* in the commercial defense litigation practice group

**Arnold & Porter LLP** • Washington, DC • May–July 2011

*Summer Associate* with focus on environmental litigation

**Becket Fund for Religious Liberty** • Washington, DC • July–August 2011

*Legal Intern* focusing on religious liberty litigation before U.S. Courts of Appeals and U.S. Supreme Court

**University of Oxford** • Oxford, UK • 2004–2006

*Head Coach, Oxford University Women's Basketball* (2004-2006)

- Served as head coach of the university's women's basketball team for two seasons, including an undefeated regular season in 2005-2006.

*Junior Dean, Trinity College* (2005–2006)

- Enforced College policies to ensure a safe, quiet, and healthy environment for undergraduates of Trinity College.

*Tutor, Wycliffe Hall* (spring 2006)

- Taught an undergraduate course in comparative government.

#### **SCHOLARLY AND PROFESSIONAL PRESENTATIONS (SELECTED)**

- “Developing Courageous Leaders: Trailblazing and Diverse Approaches to Leadership Education for Law Students” Association of American Law Schools annual meeting, San Francisco, CA (January 2025)
- “Interview with Jesmyn Ward,” keynote kick-off to the Educating Character Across Differences conference, Winston-Salem, NC (December 2024)
- “Leadership Training and Character Development To Equip Graduates for Ethical Leadership and Service” at the Baylor University conference Renewing and Reimagining Institutions for the Common Good, Waco, TX (October 2024)
- “Human Leadership in an AI World,” Wake 360, School of Professional Studies, Charlotte, NC (October 2024)
- “Business, Law, and Flourishing” panel presentation for the Virtues and Vocations conference, South Bend, IN. (June 2024)
- “Forming Good Lawyers,” University of Illinois College of Law Symposium on Professionalism, Chicago, IL. (May 2024)
- “General Counsel Roundtable: Legal Ethics,” presentation to Epstein Becker Green LLP, Charlotte, NC. (May 2024)
- “The Role of Purpose in Professional Identity,” Mercer Law Review Symposium, Macon, GA. (March 2024)

- “Forming Good Lawyers,” presentation to the American Academy of Trial Lawyers, Phoenix, AZ (March 2024)
- “Legal Ethics Update,” Continuing Legal Education presentation to Kilpatrick LLP, Winston-Salem, NC. (February 2024) “Understanding Professional Identity Formation and Integrating Professional Identity Formation into the Required Curriculum,” Association of American Law Schools annual meeting, Washington, D.C. (January 2024)
- “Leadership and Character in the Law,” presentation to West Academic Press authors and partners, Association of American Law Schools annual meeting (January 2024)
- “Wake Forest University’s Program for Leadership and Character,” The Flourishing Student International Webinar Series, Jubilee Centre for Character and Virtues (November 2023)
- “Integrating Leadership and Character in the University,” Coalition for Transformational Education, Chicago, IL (October 2023)
- “Shifting Alliances and the Lost Consensus: The Religious Freedom Restoration Act at Thirty,” Canopy Forum on Law and Religion at Emory, fall symposium (October 2023)
- “From Student to Lawyer: Infusing Professional Identity Formation into the Required Curriculum,” Southeastern Association of Law Schools panel (July 2023)
- “How to Cultivate Character in Professional Education,” Project on the Good Surgeon Conference, Duke University (May 2023)
- “Pro Humanitate: Developing Leaders of Character in the Law,” University of St. Thomas School of Law, Holloran Center for Ethical Leadership in the Professions (April 2023)
- “Pro Humanitate and the Law,” presentation to all of Wake Forest’s advisory boards and councils (March 2023)
- Faculty organizer, sponsor, and moderator for “Leading Change in the Legal Profession,” Wake Forest Law Review Symposium (February 2023)
- “Radical Collaboration in the Professions,” moderator for Bryan Stevenson student event at Wake Forest (February 2023)
- “Preconditions of Leadership in Law,” Chief Justice Joseph Branch Inn of Court Keynote address, Winston-Salem, NC (February 2023)
- “Leadership and Character in the Law,” Chief Justice Joseph Branch Inn of Court Keynote address, Winston-Salem, NC (March 2022)
- “Responsible Leadership in Law and Public Life,” hosted by the Global Leadership Initiative and the Oxford Character Project at the University of Oxford (May 2021)
- Lead organizer for “Character and the Professions” conference, hosted by the Wake Forest Program for Leadership and Character and the Oxford Character Project; conference included over 2300 registrants from 47 countries (March 2021)
- Co-faculty organizer for “Secondary Trauma and the Legal Profession,” Wake Forest Law Review Symposium; symposium included over 900 participants from around the nation. (February 2021)
- “Leadership and Character in the Law” Continuing Legal Education seminar (4-hours) delivered at Smith Anderson law firm in Raleigh, NC (December 2019)
- “Troubled Bridges: Ideological Explanations for Mississippi’s Infrastructure Crisis,” Mississippi Humanities Council (May 2018)
- “Renewal Strategies for Vocational Exploration Programs” at the 2017 Network for Vocation in Undergraduate Education conference

- “Interpreting the 2016 Election,” Mississippi Humanities Council (November 2016)
- “Immigration and Integration in the United States and Germany” at the 2015 American Council on Germany’s Young Leaders Conference (July 2015)
- “Norms and Narratives: Law’s Latent Supports and the Challenge of International Human Rights” for the Mississippi College School of Law conference Law and Human Rights in a Post-Secular World (March 2014)
- “Liberty, Justice, and Equality: Rights in Conflict” for the 2013 Millsaps College Constitution Day Event
- “Race, Transformation, and the University of Mississippi” at the Diversification in Higher Education Conference at the Nelson Mandela Metropolitan University (August 2009)
- “Health Care: Universal Right or Personal Responsibility?” at the 2007 University of Mississippi Lott Institute Leadership Conference
- “Negative Liberty and the PATRIOT Act” for 2007 University of Mississippi Law School Constitution Day Panel: “The Constitution and National Security”

#### **VOLUNTEERING AND PUBLIC SERVICE (SELECTED)**

- Youth baseball head coach, Winston-Salem National Little League (2022-present)
- Youth basketball head coach, YMCA of Winston-Salem (2020-present)
- Mississippi Humanities Council Grants Committee member (2018–2019)
- Named one of Jackson’s top 10 emerging lawyers serving the community by *Portico* magazine (January 2018)
- William Winter Institute for Racial Reconciliation: volunteer consultant and pro bono advisor (2017–2019)
- Pro bono advisor for the Planning and Development Department of the City of Jackson (2017–2019)
- Frequent political and legal analyst for Jackson’s ABC, NBC, FOX television networks, *Clarion Ledger* newspaper, Mississippi Public Broadcasting, and, occasionally, for National Public Radio (2013–2019)
- Planned and managed the 2015 annual conference of the Mississippi Association of Colleges and Universities “Civic Education: Partnerships and Influence in Higher Education.” Conference included 300 participants from around the state. (2015)
- Leadership Greater Jackson: graduate, pro bono advisor, and member of the board of directors (2012–2019)
- Co-founded and organized the Debating Law & Religion Series at Yale (2009–2012)
- Created and Convened the Law & Religion reading group at Yale (2009)
- “Faith and Arms in a Democratic Society: A Working Conference on Religion and the Military,” student organizer (2009)

#### **BAR ADMISSIONS**

Mississippi (2012)

#### **REFERENCES**

Available upon request

*Short bio:* Kenneth Townsend is the Executive Director of Leadership and Character in the Professional Schools, Teaching Professor in the School of Law, and Presidential Higher Education Fellow in the Office of the President at Wake Forest University. At Wake Forest Kenneth oversees the Program for Leadership and Character in the Professional Schools, where he works especially closely with the Schools of Law and Medicine, and he teaches courses related to law, leadership, and ethics. His recent publications have focused on character-based approaches to the professional identity formation of lawyers. Beyond Wake Forest, Kenneth speaks frequently to universities, lawyers, and professional associations about the importance of character-based leadership. A recipient of the Truman Scholarship for Public Service and the Rhodes Scholarship, he earned a BA from Millsaps College, an MPhil from the University of Oxford, and a JD and MAR from Yale University. He lives in Winston-Salem, NC with his wife and three children and spends most of his free time coaching youth sports.