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GOLF, GARDENING & GROCERIES

Almost every weekday morning, I see a flash of a bow tie at the corner of my office door. Usually, there is a “Good morning, neighbor” or something similar as the bow tie heads for a cup of coffee and hits the ground running. The office next to mine stays busy – phone calls, client meetings, more phone calls, KBA committee meetings, KBA Board of Governors meetings, KBA events, Knoxville Estate Planning Council Meetings, and Wednesday night choir practice.

Then, there are the “pop-ins.” Our Firm is a collaborative one, which means the office next to mine gets its share of intra-office visitors with a story to be told, a question to be asked, a legal problem that needs another brain, or a document that needs an extra pair of eyes. I suspect the pop-ins can make it a challenge to get the billable work done. After all, documents don’t draft themselves. But, no matter how much work has to be done, the door of the office next to mine always stands open. That is the best way I know to describe **Keith Burroughs**: the door is always open.

Keith was born and raised in East Knox County. He has lived in two zip codes his entire life – both in Knox County. His grandparents and parents were from Knox County. He earned his Bachelor’s, Master’s, and J.D. from the University of Tennessee.

Knox County is where Keith and his wife Fran (who also has deep Knox County roots) raised their three children, Christina, Casey, and Caroline. The kids have grown up, and the Burroughs family has grown, adding two sons-in-law – Bradford and Nick – and now three grandchildren. Keith still farms the family property. I would be jealous if the vegetables he grows weren’t so incredibly delicious.

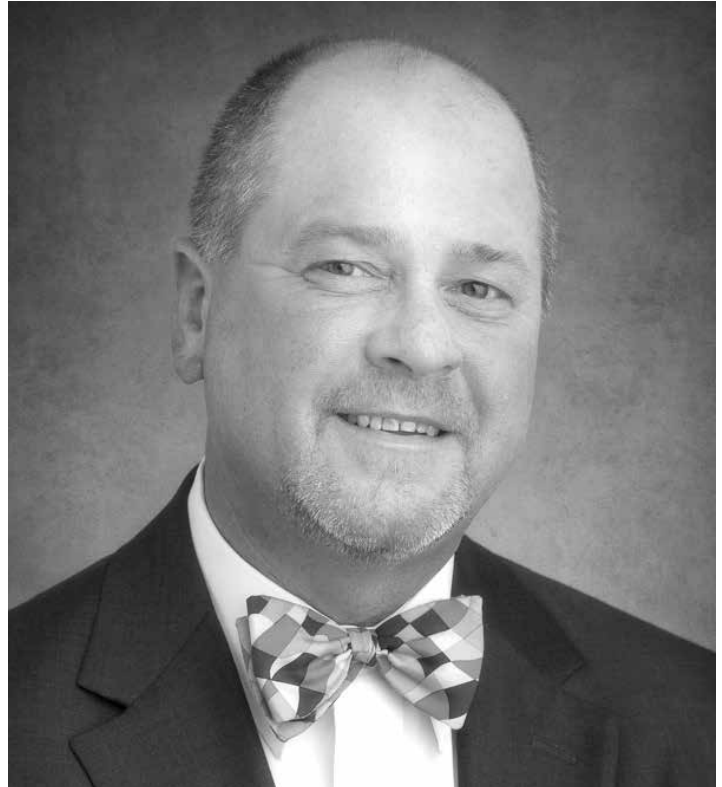
Knoxville is home, and home is where Keith’s heart is. He has spent years making the Knox County community better. He has served on and chaired the Boards of many of Knox County’s hard-working non-profits: East Tennessee Foundation, the Knoxville chapter of the American Red Cross, the Helen Ross McNabb Foundation, the Wesley House Community Center, and St. Mary’s Hospital Foundation. He and his family have been active members of the Fountain City United Methodist Church for over 30 years, where Keith has served in various leadership roles. Keith has left his mark on Knox County.

For Keith, a career in the law was always on the list. For that, we can thank his father, **Wallace F. Burroughs**. Mr. Burroughs enlisted in the Army right after Pearl Harbor and was honorably discharged with a medical discharge. After that, he enrolled in the John R. Neal School of Law and, of course, he stayed close to home.

Mr. Burroughs practiced in Knox County until 1985, and he was quite the trial lawyer. But, when Mr. Burroughs had a hearing out of the county, he took young Keith along. That did it for Keith. Law school was calling, but not without a rocky start. The first day of law school happened to be the day after Keith took his last exam to complete his Masters’ Degree in Accounting. That means Keith missed orientation, which means he missed the opening announcements.

Keith’s first class was Contracts with Joe Cook. His first clue that there was a reading assignment was about 2 minutes before class started when someone mentioned it. If you happened to have Contracts with Joe Cook, you know that having a last name that starts with a “B” is not an advantage on the first day.

Notwithstanding, Keith did manage to graduate and got to work making the legal community better. He completed the Leadership Knoxville program. He served on numerous KBA committees and has been the Co-Chair of the Judicial Committee, the Law Office Management & Technology Committee, and the Continuing Legal Education Committee. He has served on the KBA Board of Governors



and received the KBA President’s Award – twice (2009, 2014). In 2005, the TBA recognized his service to the practice of law in the State of Tennessee with the President’s Award for Dedicated and Exemplary Service to the Profession.

Keith’s leadership in the Bar and the Knox County community are impressive. But the best part about practicing with Keith is that he loves what he does, and he loves the clients he serves. Keith’s practice mainly focuses on probate, estates, and helping people plan for the future. Sometimes, planning means getting your personal affairs in order. Sometimes, it means getting your business in order. Each situation is a puzzle, and Keith is the kind of puzzlemaster who sticks with you until you can see how the pieces will come together.

When I asked Keith what he loved about being a lawyer, he didn’t hesitate: helping clients have peace of mind. He understands that clients have a lot of worries, and his role is to help them develop a plan to address those worries. He does this with civility, relatability, and a knack for finding the practical solutions to very complicated problems.

Keith is the kind of guy who makes sausage balls for his Sunday School class – every Sunday – and cooks for his thirty-plus extended family just so they can all get together. He loves golf, but wasn’t put out when a certain non-golfer who described the game as “that way of playing golf where you split up into teams and it has something to do with eggs.” He rides a tractor, blanches corn, and grows the best Romaine lettuce.

There is a reason why the office next door to mine is always busy. It is rare to find someone who appreciates the simple things – golf, gardening, and groceries – can handle the complicated things, and leaves the door open just in case you need to pop in to talk about any of the above. Our Firm is fortunate to have Keith as a shareholder, and we are proud to introduce him to the Knoxville Bar Association as our next President. 2018 is going to be a great year for that bow tie.