

*The Legal Elite**

From two laptops to two of North Carolina's
*Legal Elite**, the story of Charlotte attorneys
Mark Jetton and Eric Meredith.

photos KYO H. NAM



JETTON & MEREDITH, PLLC
ATTORNEYS AT LAW

*For more information on the criteria for selection for *Legal Elite*, go to businessnc.com



THE START

Jetton & Meredith's beginnings start way before their doors opened in September 2009. Mark Jetton and Eric Meredith met during their first year of law school where they realized they had the same interests, work ethic, methods of preparation, and drive to succeed. During law school, they quickly soared to the top of their class where they studied together, enrolled in a similar class schedule, and when it came time to prepare for the biggest test of their lives, the BAR EXAM, prepared together.

Eric had previously worked in law firms throughout college, while Mark was busy with his collegiate football career. Both had received job offers from other law firms, but they wanted to be on their own. "You're crazy!" was the typical response from friends and family when they told people they were going to open their own law firm right out of school. Mark and Eric weren't intimidated by the challenge and moved forward with their plan. Mark and his family had roots, relationships, and a network in the city he was raised in, and Eric had the legal experience from his work in firms over the years; Charlotte was the obvious choice for where to open the firm. In their last semester of law school, they visited the city every Friday to meet with lawyers, judges, and courthouse personnel to get the lay of the land and build a contact base.

Mark and Eric first opened the doors to **Jetton & Meredith, PLLC** in September of 2009. They had two laptops, two law licenses, and an office space to set up shop with the agreement from a generous law firm to waive rent until they got on their feet. Thanks to advance preparation, they had clients and client referrals lined up. Within their first month of practice they had a client base, were successfully litigating cases, and were profitable. As the saying goes, success breeds success.



THE MEN BEHIND THE FIRM

Mark Jetton is a Charlotte native whose family can claim Mecklenburg County as their home since the mid-eighteenth century. Mark attended Providence Day School and received a football scholarship to Clemson University. After playing for the Tigers, Mark finished his football career at Elon University where he earned his bachelor's degree in business administration, and subsequently his Juris Doctorate from Elon University's School of Law.

Mark is still involved with competitive sports and also enjoys snow skiing, quail hunting, and working out at the YMCA. While in college, Mark was a Vincent DePaul Draddy trophy semifinalist. The Draddy trophy (William V. Campbell trophy) is awarded to the American college football player with the best combination of academics, community service, and on-field performance. Mark at an early age became known for this tremendous work ethic; that and his 'want to win' attitude were a perfect fit in becoming a lawyer.

Eric Meredith was born and raised in High Point, NC. After being recruited to play golf in college, he attended North Carolina State University where he received his bachelor's degree in political science. After graduating from NC State, Eric entered the Elon University School of Law where he earned his Juris Doctorate.

Eric's mother worked for a law firm, and he tells the story of being three years old and meeting an attorney for the first time. The legend goes that at the age of three, and upon meeting an elder partner in the firm, Eric extended his arm to shake hands. The elder attorney, who takes the credit for Eric becoming a lawyer, said that Eric was the only three-year old he'd ever known to offer to shake someone's hand.



It can be difficult to stand apart from the sea of suits in the courthouse, so Eric began wearing two-tone wingtip shoes. What began as one pair, soon turned into a collection and earned Eric the reputation as, “the attorney with the shoes.” A retired Mecklenburg County Family Court Judge often affectionately referred to him as “Spats.” So, when you visit **Jetton & Meredith**, look down when you meet Eric.

THE LEGACY

The relationships Mark and Eric strive to develop with their clients are based on trust and confidence. Being available to their clients, including nights and weekends, and the way they make each client feel like he or she is their only client are exceptions in law firms. Mark and Eric know the importance of their clients — without clients, they wouldn’t be in business.

Mark and Eric are at the courthouse virtually every day of the week. When they aren’t in the courtroom, they’re putting in long office hours, ensuring that each client’s needs are being met. Thanks to their hard work and dedication to their clients, the firm grew quickly. Mark and Eric now find themselves in a 4,000 square foot office they own, filled with associate attorneys, as well as a full support staff. Almost a decade later, Mark and Eric are award winning attorneys, represent clients involved in multi-million-dollar marriage estate divorces, newsworthy criminal cases, and million-dollar personal injury cases**. You can often find Eric playing golf at Carmel Country Club, and Mark can often be seen being interviewed by various media outlets for his cases or legal expertise. For three years in a row, they both have been named to Business North Carolina magazine’s *Legal Elite*,* which is awarded to lawyers by their

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peers who think they are the state’s best practitioners in their fields. Of the thousands practicing in the state, less than 3% were selected as Elite this year. Mark & Eric have also received numerous other awards and accolades, including Eric being selected as a *Rising Star** (2012, 2015-2018) by North Carolina Super Lawyers which selects the state’s top 2.5% of attorneys in a given area who are 40 years old or younger.

This firm has been built from the ground up by two aggressive, passionate, and hardworking attorneys who have tailored their firm to fit each client’s needs, while maintaining a strong sense of business direction. **Jetton & Meredith** is a firm that nurtures all its relationships and promises compassionate, individualized and thoughtful representation in all cases. The sky is the limit for the two guys who started a firm in 2009 with two laptops.

*For more information on the criteria for selection for *Legal Elite*, go to businessnc.com and for *Rising Star*, go to superlawyers.com. **Each case is different and must be evaluated on its individual facts. Prior results do not guarantee any future outcomes.

“Our goal is simple—to change people’s lives for the better and strengthen our community from within the justice system.”



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