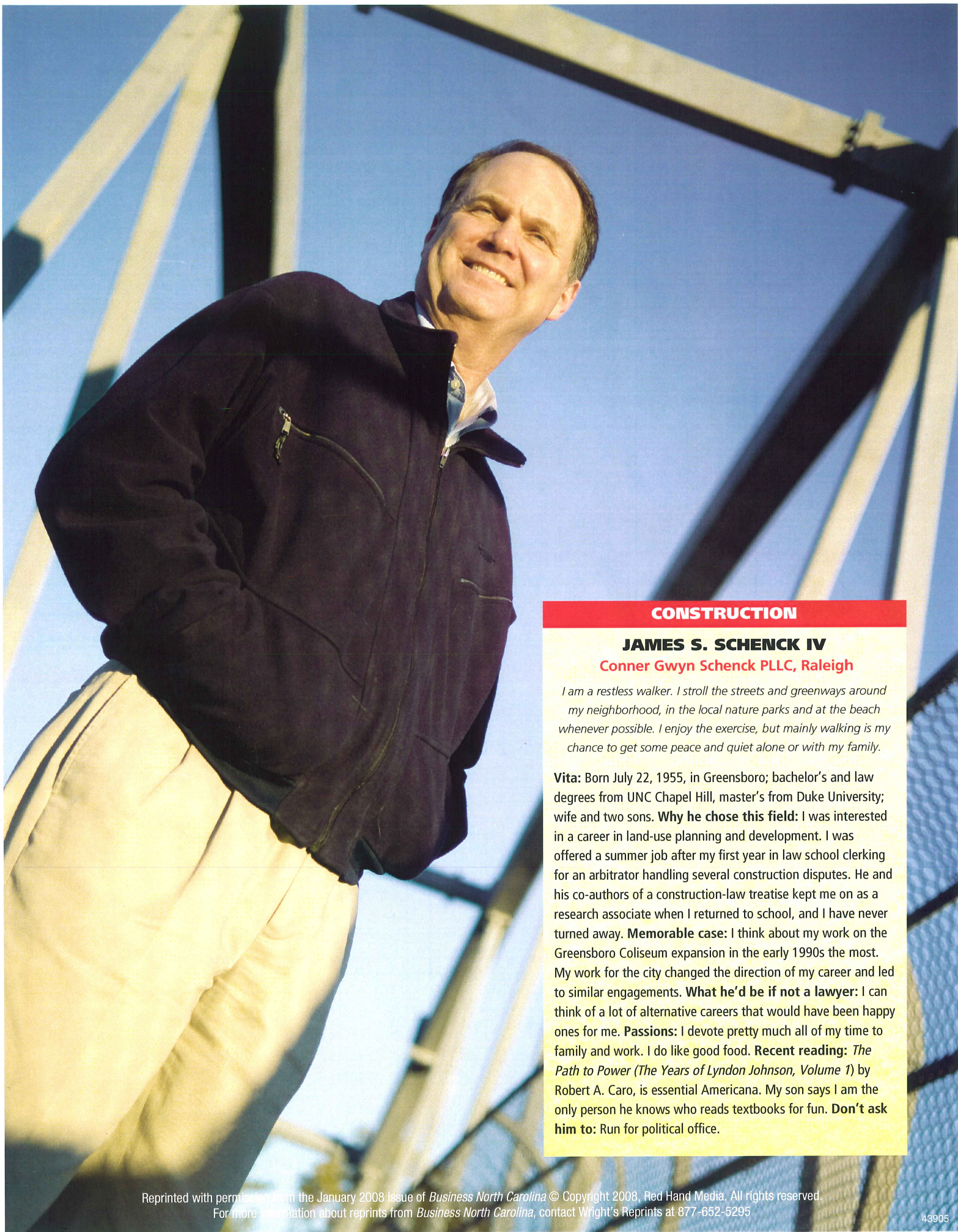


LEGAL ELITE

The ballots are in — North Carolina lawyers select the best of the profession in more than a dozen categories.

The name says it all. To make *BUSINESS NORTH CAROLINA*'s Legal Elite, you must be one of the state's best lawyers, not in the opinion of the magazine's editors but of your peers. It starts with a simple question asked of every lawyer in the state: Of the Tar Heel lawyers whose work you have observed firsthand, whom would you rate among the current best in 14 categories. That was answered this year by the selection of 635 lawyers — a little more than 3% of the more than 18,500 active members of the N.C. State Bar, each of whom was sent a ballot. They were not allowed to select themselves and could vote for members of their firms only if they also

picked out-of-firm lawyers in the same categories. Out-of-firm votes were weighted more heavily. Nearly 2,700 lawyers received votes. Those with the most make up the Legal Elite. Headed by the winner in each category, they appear on the pages that follow. Members of the Legal Elite Hall of Fame, the top vote-getters each year since the first list was published in 2002, are ineligible to be selected again. The magazine asked this year's winners to reveal where they spend time away from work to recharge and recover. Photos of them in those settings follow, accompanied by biographical and other information.



CONSTRUCTION

JAMES S. SCHENCK IV

Conner Gwyn Schenck PLLC, Raleigh

I am a restless walker. I stroll the streets and greenways around my neighborhood, in the local nature parks and at the beach whenever possible. I enjoy the exercise, but mainly walking is my chance to get some peace and quiet alone or with my family.

Vita: Born July 22, 1955, in Greensboro; bachelor's and law degrees from UNC Chapel Hill, master's from Duke University; wife and two sons. **Why he chose this field:** I was interested in a career in land-use planning and development. I was offered a summer job after my first year in law school clerking for an arbitrator handling several construction disputes. He and his co-authors of a construction-law treatise kept me on as a research associate when I returned to school, and I have never turned away. **Memorable case:** I think about my work on the Greensboro Coliseum expansion in the early 1990s the most. My work for the city changed the direction of my career and led to similar engagements. **What he'd be if not a lawyer:** I can think of a lot of alternative careers that would have been happy ones for me. **Passions:** I devote pretty much all of my time to family and work. I do like good food. **Recent reading:** *The Path to Power (The Years of Lyndon Johnson, Volume 1)* by Robert A. Caro, is essential Americana. My son says I am the only person he knows who reads textbooks for fun. **Don't ask him to:** Run for political office.