

<https://www.bizjournals.com/charlotte/news/2019/05/10/charlottes-40-under-40-their-stories.html>

Charlotte's 40 Under 40: How these young professionals are making an impact in their careers and communities



VIEW SLIDESHOW
41 photos



By **Jen Wilson** – Associate Editor, Charlotte Business Journal
5 hours ago

Welcome to the 25th edition of the *Charlotte Business Journal's* 40 Under 40 special report.

This signature awards program identifies 40 people, each under the age of 40, who are playing important roles in building their businesses and shaping their communities. These are high-impact players, and it is clear they will continue to drive the Charlotte region forward for years to come.

Competition for this program is steep — the 2019 class of honorees was selected from a pool of more than 300 qualified entries.

A cocktail reception and awards presentation will be held Thursday at the McGlohon Theatre at Spirit Square uptown to celebrate this year's winners — and to display their hidden talents. Keep an eye on CBJ's website next week for coverage of that event as well as a "selfie challenge" that will reveal more about the participants' personalities and preferences.

The photo gallery above offers a brief introduction to this year's class. Their portraits were shot by CBJ photographer Melissa Key at WeWork offices in Charlotte.

And read about each of the honorees by accessing their full profiles using these links:

<https://www.bizjournals.com/charlotte/news/2019/05/10/charlottes-40-under-40-diane-burks.html>

Charlotte's 40 Under 40: Diane Burks



Diane Burks is special counsel at Katten Muchin Rosenman.

Age: 36

Current job: Special counsel, Katten Muchin Rosenman

Education: Wake Forest University School of Law, JD, magna cum laude, 2007; Duke University, BA, psychology, 2004

Career history: Katten Muchin Rosenman, attorney, 2007 to present

Family: Husband, Bradley; daughter, Emily, 4

Neighborhood: Barclay Downs

Greatest business accomplishment of the past year: I published several journal articles in national estate planning and probate publications.

Greatest civic accomplishment of the past year: I applied for and obtained 501(c)(3) tax exemption for many local nonprofit organizations.

Current civic/volunteer activities: I stay in contact with the 501(c)(3) organizations that I've obtained tax-exemption for and strive to actively promote awareness for these groups and participate in their fundraising efforts.

What you like best about living in the Charlotte region: The mix of "big city" living with the more suburban feel only 15 minutes from uptown. I love that everything I could possibly need is just a short drive (or even walk) from my house.

The most important issue facing the region: Charlotte's population is growing so rapidly, and the city needs to maintain the housing and infrastructure to manage this growth.

Last book read: 11/22/63 by Stephen King (for the second time)

Last movie seen: *The Incredibles 2* (my daughter's current favorite movie). The last grown-up movie I watched was *Green Book*.

Last vacation: My last true vacation was to the Turks and Caicos. Since then, we've taken many trips to the South Carolina coast and recently went to Disney World.

Favorite website: Amazon.com; classpass.com

Favorite possession: My engagement ring and a framed DuBose print of my daughter

Hobbies: Barre, wine, cooking, ACC basketball

Hero: I wouldn't say I have a "hero." I did recently watch the Ruth Bader Ginsberg documentary, and she is one impressive woman.

Fantasy job: Meteorologist

One-word description of self: Multitasker

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