

**2025-2026 Highlands Biological Foundation
Board of Trustees - Nominees**

Jimmy Bewley (Tabby)

Highlands, NC

Jimmy is an ethics and trademark lawyer. His experience with legal advertising began with marketing when he and his partner founded CJ Advertising in 1994. To further his knowledge of the “legal” aspect of legal advertising, he earned his Juris Doctor from Nashville School of Law in 2007 and served as in-house General Counsel to CJ Advertising.

Jimmy’s marketing background and knowledge of the law helped shape his approach to advertising ethics. His years of experience with state bar rules across the United States has helped legal brands create ethical, aggressive, and effective marketing strategies. From establishing effective trademarks to defending them from infringement, Jimmy has worked hard to maximize the value of legal brands.

After he and his business partner sold their business in 2019, Jimmy became one of the founding partners with Fair Share Lawyers in Nashville, TN in 2022. The law firm’s primary focus is Probate and Estate disputes. He is still an active member of the firm today.

Outside of the office, Jimmy is an avid runner, hiker, cyclist and self-proclaimed explorer. He chooses mountains over beaches, beer over wine, and family over everything. He’s married to the love of his life, Tabby Bewley, a professor at Belmont University. Their two daughters, Jessi and Jenni, are building their own lives and finding their own success stories but are never too far from home.

Kent Wittman (Susan Perkins)

Charleston, SC and Highlands, NC.

Kent spent 30 years at NationsBank/Bank of America in Corporate and Investment banking and capital markets. He ran the London/European office, as well as the offices in major US cities during his tenure. Additionally, Kent spent 12 years at BBVA (Banco Bilbao Vizcaya Argentaria) - a multinational financial services company that operates in more than 25 countries - running the US Mid Corporate Banking team plus several specialty industry groups until he retired in 2021.

Kent and Susan are avid hikers and very interested in becoming more involved in the Highlands community.

Catharine Seay

Highlands and Asheville, NC

Catharine has long been an integral part of the plateau community. She moved here in the early 2000s as a single mom, creating an amazing life for her two daughters and herself. She was very involved with the Summit Charter School, heading up Wonderful Wednesdays - enrichment programming for students including nature-based activities and presentations. Her daughters grew up attending Camp Merrie Woode and programs at the Highlands Nature Center. Catharine feels these programs shaped her girls into the amazing young women they are today.

Prior to moving to Highlands, Catharine followed an interesting, natural, and artistic path. From studying Environmental Education at Preston College in Arizona to owning a successful stained-glass business for 15 years in Athens, Ga, to entrepreneurship and property investment, Catharine has followed her own path. Additionally, she supports various arts and nature-based organizations that she is passionate about including the Humane Society, Diane Fossey Foundation, WNC Sculpture Center & Park and Patterson Foundation, and is currently president of her condo association in Asheville.

Catharine brings personal knowledge and love for the area. Highlands has been her home for over 20 years, and she is deeply passionate about environmental education. An avid traveler and birder, she would make an energetic and excited member of our board.

John Helmer (Jill)

Highlands, NC

Born and raised in Stanford, CT, John graduated from Boston University with degrees in Political Science and American History and an MBA from University of Connecticut.

John worked in Account Services for several years for large NYC advertising agencies before starting a career with TIME magazine. He worked in NY for TIME as an advertising salesman before being promoted to Division Sales Manager in their Atlanta office handling the SE, SW and Caribbean territories with a sales staff of 4 and attendant administrative assistants.

John retired in 2014 and moved to Highlands with his wife, Jill. He has served as a volunteer for the Plateau Covid vaccination program and on the Vestry of the Episcopal Church of the Incarnation (rolled off last year after a 3 Year term). He serves as head of Ushers and also served as head of the Building and Grounds Committee. John also volunteers at the Bascom retail store when needed.