

NC BAR ASSOCIATION

GOVERNMENTAL AFFAIRS

UPDATE

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LEGISLATORS RETURN TO RALEIGH

The short session of the North Carolina General Assembly convened Tuesday, May 9, 2006. For the first time in years, legislators are facing a budget surplus that is nearly \$2 billion. Lawmakers must adjust the state's \$17.4 billion budget passed last year to reflect funding changes and to ensure funding for high priority items not previously included. Along with revising the state's budget, lawmakers will be tackling such issues as the state's minimum wage, ethics and lobbying reform and water and school construction bonds. The session is predicted to last 2-3 months.

JUDICIAL SYSTEM BUDGET

The Administrative Office of the Courts recently submitted its expansion request of \$40 million, which was followed days later by Governor Easley's request of \$29 million (annualized) ([click here for link](#)). The Senate is expected to release its budget sometime this week and it is not clear at this time whether its budget will more closely reflect AOC's expansion request or the Governor's recommendations.

BILL TRACKING

The Office of Governmental Affairs will be reviewing, on a continuing basis, all legislation that is introduced during the short session and will be referring such legislation to the appropriate sections and committees of the NCBA for further review. [Please click here to view the legislation currently being tracked by the OGA.](#)

NCBA SHORT SESSION AGENDA

In addition to a few matters left over from long session, the OGA will be busy with a number of new initiatives for the short session. [Click here for a link to the NCBA Short Session Agenda.](#)

AROUND THE BAR ASSOCIATION

ABA Day on the Hill

NCBA President Mike Colombo, along with Presidentelect Clark Smith, Executive Director Allan Head and Director of Governmental Affairs Doug Heron, participated in the ABA's annual lobbying event on May 3rd and 4th in Washington, D.C.

The leadership had the opportunity to meet with many members of the North Carolina congressional delegation to discuss issues important to North Carolina lawyers. Among the issues discussed were President Bush's domestic surveillance program, waiver of the attorney-client privilege and appropriate funding for Legal Services Corporation. [Click here for a link to the ABA Day Priority Issues.](#)

INSIDE THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY

Please [click here for a link](#) to House and Senate calendars, which are updated daily with committee meeting notices and agendas.

REMINDER!

Legislative proposals for the 2007 Session of the General Assembly are due to the OGA in October.