

PSA – APPLE CONFERENCE ON OCTOBER 6th

LAW RELATED EDUCATION COMES TO WILMINGTON

Over fifty educators from across the State attended the APPLE conference sponsored by the North Carolina Bar Association in Wilmington on October 6th. Attorneys from the New Hanover County Bar partnered with these statewide educators for progress in legal education at the UNCW Executive Development Center. The APPLE conference is held bi-annually and introduces educators to old and new civic and legal programs, as well as presentations by a variety of legal professionals. Diana Becker, a social studies teacher from Greensboro, commented on the conference, “This by far was the best conference I have been to in a very long time. I walked out with material and information I could use.”



Dr. Caroline Clements, professor of psychology at UNCW, presented results of the Youth Risk Behavior Survey completed by New Hanover County students in 2005 and 2007. This survey was conducted as part of the Center for Disease Control national assessment in the area of youth violence and drug abuse. Local survey data is available for middle and high school students including the areas of drug use, smoking, alcohol use and physical fighting. Dr. Clements stressed the need for evidence based prevention programs in the community to address these risky behaviors in our youth at an earlier age.

Youth volunteers of the New Hanover County Teen Court presented two mock teen court trials and the educators acted as the jurors and imposed a sentence on



the defendants who pled guilty to the charges filed against them. Assistant District Attorney Lillian Salcines Bright advised the mock Teen Court prosecutors and juvenile defense attorney Noel Fox advised the defense.



The local Teen Court program is funded on the recommendation of the New Hanover County Juvenile Crime Prevention Council and implemented by the ADR Center as a diversionary program for youth who commit non-violent offenses. Inspired by the Teen Court youth volunteers, educators from Cumberland County watched the live Teen Court in action at the New Hanover County Courthouse that night before driving back home.

APPLE participants learned of a new victim-offender mediation program spearheaded by two local attorneys LeeAnne Quattrucci and Lyanna Palmer. In appropriate cases the victim of a crime and the offender who perpetrated the crime come together to mediate what the offender should do. An agreement is reached by the parties, reduced to writing and tracked for compliance by the attorneys. If the offender fails to comply with the agreement, the case goes back to court.

“The rules to the game of life come as a surprise to some youth when a poor driving record or credit history impacts their ability to get a job”, says Megan Kirkpatrick, the Business Alliance Coordinator for the Wake County Schools, who offered insights into the “Reality of Employability” at the conference. Algernon Butler, III of the law firm of Butler & Butler presented “Credit Abuse Resistance Education” for use in the classroom to help students develop and maintain good credit habits.

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For more information about APPLE and other conferences and workshops on law related education sponsored by the NC Bar Association, visit the website at <http://lre.ncbar.org>.