

Jean Gordon Carter Receiving Citizen Lawyer Award

The Citizen Lawyer Committee of the NCBA Young Lawyers Division, in conjunction with the NCBA Local Bar Outreach Committee, provides expanded coverage of the 2017 Citizen Lawyer Awards in recognition of their volunteer service and leadership in their communities and beyond. The following article is submitted for your consideration by the North Carolina Bar Association. The 2017 Citizen Lawyer Awards will be presented on Friday, June 23, at the NCBA Annual Meeting in Asheville, but the recipients have been notified of their selection and there is no embargo on this information. A photo of the recipient is attached.

By Molly Martinson

RALEIGH – The North Carolina Bar Association has recognized Jean Gordon Carter with its Citizen Lawyer Award. The award honors attorneys who dedicate their time and talents to serving their communities and inspire others to do the same.

A self-described Army brat, Carter’s family moved around a lot when she was growing up. The Girl Scouts, she recounts, was a group with which she could become involved without feeling like a newcomer, as the Troops changed over annually.

Carter has remained involved in Girl Scouts. Today, she chairs the Board of the Girl Scouts – North Carolina Coastal Pines, which covers over forty counties spanning Eastern North Carolina. She loves seeing young girls gain grace, poise, and independence through their work in the Girl Scouts.

The mission of the Girl Scouts is simple: building girls of courage, confidence, and character, who make the world a better place.

Making the world—in particular, her community—a better place is something Carter does every day, through her tireless work not only with Girl Scouts, but also with the North Carolina Bar Association.

Carter serves on the North Carolina Bar Association’s Endowment Committee and Planned Giving Committee. There, she is able to use the many talents she has developed over the course of her career as an estate planning and tax attorney to benefit a wide variety of nonprofit organizations, each with their own unique goals and missions.

As a member of the Endowment Committee, Carter reviews funding requests from across the state and recommends grants from the Endowment of the North Carolina Bar Association Foundation. The committee then awards and monitors grants to ensure effective use of funds and successful completion of grant projects.

To Carter, supporting a variety of organizations that each address the fluid needs of the community is a key to successful philanthropy. Organizations, she believes, need the nimbleness to respond to the greatest need in the community.

Through her position on the Endowment Committee, as well as her position as former Chair of the Board of the Triangle Community Foundation, Carter has the unique ability to identify organizations that are working to better the community, and match them with the funding they need to be successful.

Whether ensuring girls across Eastern North Carolina have an opportunity to develop confidence, or helping organizations gain funding to execute their unique missions, Carter selflessly serves her community, and for that she exemplifies the citizen lawyer.

END

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