

Kathy Manning 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 Mary Kristen Kelly

GREENSBORO – Kathy Manning is a Citizen Lawyer not only in her local community, but also in the State of North Carolina, the United States and the international community. Her volunteer work has both a local and a global reach.

Manning received her undergraduate degree from Harvard University and her law degree from the University of Michigan. After practicing in Washington, D.C., she relocated to Greensboro with her husband Randall Kaplan. She was a partner from 1989 to 2002 at Smith Helms Mulliss & Moore LLP (now Smith Moore Leatherwood), where she founded the immigration practice and maintained a litigation practice. She then formed her own immigration practice, Manning & Associates PLLC in Greensboro.

Manning grew up loving the arts, and even founded an a cappella group while a student at Harvard University that is still thriving today. When she moved to Greensboro, she discovered a city with “an incredible sense of community” and friendly and welcoming people. She immediately recognized, however, a need for a more active arts community, which she thought in turn would attract more young people and businesses to the area.

According to Manning, a law school education and practicing law helps one to “develop a way of thinking and persuading people and a way of standing up for people that is unique.” Using these skills, Manning has served on, and led, multiple boards of arts organizations in Greensboro. To name a few of her arts endeavors, she was a founding board member of Triad Stage, has served on the board of directors of the Greensboro Symphony since 2001, and created ArtBeat Greensboro (now the 17 Days Festival). Her current focus is the building of the Tanger Center for the Performing Arts in Greensboro. She chaired the Development Committee, raising over \$37 million for its construction. She also put her lawyering skills to work in negotiating the governance structure and in securing public funding from the City Council.

Manning has also been a leader in the area of Jewish non-profits. Notably, she was the first woman to chair the Jewish Federations of North America. In Greensboro she has chaired the Greensboro Jewish Federation as well as the board of directors of B’nai Shalom Synagogue Day School, among other organizations. Currently she is leading Prizmah, which has merged five legacy organizations to support Jewish day schools across North America. She credits her background in law with helping her to orchestrate this merger: she has been able to spot issues related to insurance, corporate governance, and human resources. “As a lawyer,” Manning says, “you often find yourself in adversarial situations. When you work in community organizations,

you work to bring people together.” Manning has done just that through her tireless community involvement on a local, national, and international level.

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Mary Kristen Kelly serves as Corporate Counsel at BioMerieux, Inc.