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How is it that North Carolina Lawyer, the flagship publication of the North Carolina Bar Association, has been recognized two years in a row as the nation’s best bar magazine by the National Association of Bar Executives Section on Communications?

It’s really quite simple: we have more to work with.

Between our members, our volunteers, our leadership team and our staff, we have the perfect combination of individuals to make this recognition attainable and, more importantly, worthwhile.

We receive excellent contributions from three of our members: the president, the chair of the Young Lawyers Division, and Laura Graham of the Wake Forest University School of Law, whose “Writing That Works” series has appeared on these pages regularly since 2010.

We devote a significant number of staff hours to the magazine every quarter, an effort that is led by Graphic Designer Lindsey Crook and Managing Editor Amber Nimocks. Their collaborative effort is responsible for bringing a wide variety of content into focus and presenting it, as the judges of the NABE’s Luminary Awards will attest, in a format that is pleasing to the eye and enriching to the mind.

But the driving force behind this and everything else emanating from the N.C. Bar Center is you, the member. Your stories and your service to the public and the profession make all of this possible, regardless of whether it is provided directly through your individual deeds or collectively through your contributions to the North Carolina Bar Foundation.

When North Carolina Lawyer converted to its current format in 2011, Perry Morrison, chair of the Communications Department at that time, challenged the Communications Department to produce a publication that would stand up not only against other bar magazines, but other magazines in general.

And that will forever be our goal. But rest assured we’ll be gunning for a “three-peat” when the NABE Section on Communications convenes its annual workshop next fall. AGL
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The ABA Retirement Funds Program is available through the North Carolina Bar Association as a member benefit. Please read the Program Annual Disclosure Document (April 2017), as supplemented (July 2017), carefully before investing. This Disclosure Document contains important information about the Program and investment options. For email inquiries, contact us at: joinus@abaretirement.com. Securities offered through Voya Financial Partners, LLC (member SIPC). Voya Financial Partners is a member of the Voya family of companies ("Voya"). Voya and the ABA Retirement Funds are separate, unaffiliated entities, and not responsible for one another’s products and services.

CN1029-19104-1117 – 2015
Raleigh artist Thomas Sayre created the striking mixed-media piece “Wiscasset Trees,” on display at the State Bar Building. Evelyn Pursley, recently retired as executive director of IOLTA, has a keen appreciation for the collection, which now includes a piece donated in her honor. Story on page 27.
NCBA MISSION STATEMENT: To serve the public and the legal profession by promoting the administration of justice and encouraging the highest standards of integrity, competence, civility and well-being of all members of the profession.

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A newly minted lawyer has her license signed during a swearing-in ceremony sponsored by Wake Women Attorneys. It was one of several ceremonies where NCBA staff welcomed new members of the legal profession this fall.

Executive Editor | Russell Rawlings
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Send letters to Editor, North Carolina Lawyer, P.O. Box 3688, Cary, NC 27519 or email them to rrawlings@ncbar.org. Please keep your letters to 250 words or less. North Carolina Lawyer edits for brevity, style and taste. The editor reserves the right to choose which letters to publish. No anonymous letters will be printed.

About the cover
Count the blue dots and you’ll find they number 31, the same number of lawyer-legislators now serving in the N.C. General Assembly. That’s 18 percent of the total 170 members. The Public Service Academy’s mission is to turn more of those dots from gray to blue. (Art by Lindsey Crook)
On Friday, Sept. 29, the North Carolina Bar Association launched its inaugural Public Service Academy in partnership with The Institute for the Public Trust. The Public Service Academy is a new, non-partisan NCBA initiative designed to encourage more NCBA members to consider running for public office, whether locally or statewide. Presentations during the first weekend varied, ranging from big-picture topics like “The 2,500-Year Philosophical Historical Journey Leading to the American Democratic Republic” and “Why Every Conservative and Liberal Should Read the Anti-Federalist Papers” to more practical advice like “Preparing for and Dealing with the Media.”

NCBA President Caryn McNeill’s welcome remarks to the inaugural class of 25 lawyers are excerpted below:

My mother learned to drive at age 12, taking a turn transporting wheat from her family farm outside White City, Kansas, to a nearby grain elevator in a very big truck. What I know of her family’s civic life, I know from stories related to her driving. In the late 1930s, while she was still in high school, my mother chauffeured her “maiden” aunt, Jessie Walker — a schoolteacher who didn’t drive — to “cakewalks” at nearby schools in the family DeSoto, as Aunt Jess campaigned for the office of Morris County Register of Deeds.

Other family members also served in elected office. From 1937 to 1938, my husband John’s great-grandfather, Evander Blue McNeill, a merchant and banker, represented Hoke County in the North Carolina House. Three decades later, from 1968 to 1972, John’s grandfather, Robert Davidson Woodward, Jr. a farmer and cattleman, served two terms in the Florida House in Tallahassee.

Aunt Jess, Mr. Evander, Bob D. and members of their generations viewed their time in office as a service to their communities. Consistent with the title of Richard Beeman’s book, and the comment of Gouverneur Morris regarding the members of the Constitutional Convention, my relatives and others who served were “plain, honest men” and women. They stepped up and took their turn.

Our country seems to have gotten away from the notion of everyday people taking a turn in public office. For North Carolina lawyers, that is particularly evident in the decrease of the number of us who serve in the North Carolina General Assembly. Currently, there are 31 lawyers in General Assembly — 19 of the 120 members of the house, and 12 of the 50 members of the senate. That means only 18 percent of the members of the legislature are lawyers.
Contrast that with the numbers in the chart (above), which looks back in 10-year increments from today. Until the late 1970s, there were twice as many lawyers in the legislature as there are today.

Leo Daughtry, a lawyer whose political career includes service in both the N.C. Senate and House of Representatives, wrote an article titled “Lawyers in the Legislature” for the Summer 2017 issue of The North Carolina State Bar Journal. In it, he explains why we need lawyers to serve in the legislature. He lists issues which lawyers are particularly well-equipped to help with, including judicial independence and court funding. He notes the importance of our skills, including our ability to identify the unexpected consequences of a well-intentioned bill, our knowledge of the law itself, and our awareness of “the ways in which law impacts the lives of all citizens.” And he notes the value of our training, which has taught us to disagree without being disagreeable. This leads us to mediate, find common ground and devise solutions.

In the North Carolina legislature and in other elected offices — from Washington, D.C. to Little Washington, North Carolina — good governance is a high calling. And for that reason, it calls for the best and the brightest our profession has to offer.

That’s where you come in. On behalf of the North Carolina Bar Association, and our partner in this effort, The Institute for the Public Trust, I’d like to welcome you, and congratulate you on being part of the inaugural class of our Public Service Academy. We are delighted you are here.

Let me tell you a little bit about your class. There are 25 of you, and you were carefully chosen from almost twice as many applicants.

You were chosen in part for your differences. You are Democrats and Republicans and unaffiliated. You come from all over the state — from Burlington, Cary, Clinton, Charlotte, Davidson, Durham, Greensboro, Greenville, New Bern, Raleigh, Sanford and Smithfield. You attended 18 different undergraduate institutions, including the U.S. Air Force Academy and U.S. Coast Guard Academy, and 11 different law schools. One of you is a Benjamin N. Duke Scholar. One of you is a UCLA Regents Scholar. Two of you are Eagle Scouts. Three of you are graduates of the NCBA’s Leadership Academy.

Several of you have prior military service. You have a number of different graduate degrees in addition to your JDs — an MBA, MPH, MPS and several LLMs. You work in private practice, in a variety of government settings, and as in-house counsel. One of you is a chapter 13 bankruptcy trustee. One of you is a magistrate judge. One of you works for the N.C. State Board of Elections & Ethics Enforcement. One of you has worked for Teach for America. One of you has worked for the Brennan Center for Justice. One of you was sure when he was in the first grade, he wanted to be president … and also a magician.

You are interested in running for different types of offices. Some of you want to be judges. Some want to run for local office — for the school board and city council. Others want to run...
for statewide office. Some of you know exactly the seat you’ll seek and when. Others of you are here to simply learn more about what would be required, as you explore this idea further.

More importantly, though, for all that is fascinating about your differences, you were also chosen for what you have in common. All of you wrote thoughtful personal statements. You spoke almost universally of your concerns about the state of our nation — about the tenor of our public discourse, about declining trust and disheartening divisiveness.

You spoke of your instinct that too often smart, conscientious and decent people shy away from public office, although they would likely be successful and their contributions impactful.

You spoke of your belief in a brighter tomorrow and your ability to make a difference.

You shared about your families — a mother with an ethos for service, a father who was a pastor, grandparents who fought to integrate schools, and an ancestor who started the public university in Boone — and you shared how your relatives who have gone before you serve to remind you of the difference one person can make.

You spoke of your desire to give back — to serve and, by serving, to make your communities and our state better and stronger.

You spoke of your eagerness to learn and grow, your desire to meet people with different viewpoints and backgrounds who share your passion for service, and your willingness to participate with an open mind.

And, importantly, you spoke of your readiness to act.

You are ready to contribute and serve, and the North Carolina Bar Association is honored to help you. We’re investing in you because we are certain of your ability to make a difference, too. You are your generation’s “plain, honest” men and women.

I look forward to our time together, to getting to know each of you better, and to seeing you take your turn.

---

Let’s Get Digital

Follow us @NCBAorg and share your story with #myNCBA

#myNCBA on Instagram:

Ari Sibrey recently shared a photo on Instagram after volunteering with the NCBA YLD Wills for Heroes program at UNC Law School. You can share your favorite NCBA-related photos and thoughts on social media, too. Just use #myNCBA.

On the NCBA Blogs:

Traffic on ncbarblog.com is building. We clocked more than 6,000 page views of posts by and about NCBA members in October, our highest-traffic month so far. Be sure to go online and check it out.

Twitter followers: 6,008

A Facebook Win:

With your help, we raised money to pay for more than 300 new books for the Lawyers 4 Literacy Program during our digital fund drive on World Literacy Day in September. Thank you for your generosity!

LinkedIn connections: 2,123

lovelylaw131

UNC School of Law

lovelylaw131 Used my morning to volunteer with the North Carolina Bar Association’s Wills For Heroes event hosted at UNC Law School! Volunteer lawyers assist first responders with wills, power of attorneys and health directives. #myncba #givingback #willsforheroes #ncba

ncba.org Thanks for spending your morning with us!

31 likes

SEPTEMBER 30
Successful navigation of the career path can mean knowing when to charge headlong into an opportunity and when to take a more circuitous route. Lyle Gravatt had a bachelor's degree in physics, a law degree and experience as an entrepreneur, but it was a $10-an-hour tech analyst gig that opened the door to his position as a patent attorney with NK Patent Law. Gravatt recently participated in a panel discussion at the N.C. Bar Center, part of the NCBA-sponsored Starting Out Solo series. He answered a few questions for us beforehand.

Q: With experience as an entrepreneur and a degree in physics, what motivated you to pursue a law degree and practice?

A: I had a very nontraditional pathway to a legal career. I started out as a biophysics researcher and slowly realized that being in a lab just wasn’t for me. I had some skills as an extrovert that the lab setting didn’t allow me to use. And working in a lab has a very narrow focus. So, I went the complete opposite direction and I got involved in entrepreneurship, particularly sales. That again steered me toward an industry that was very narrowly focused. I was merely exercising the social aspects of myself and not really challenging the intellectual aspects. After trying out those two extremes I felt like the legal field would allow me to exercise my intellectual passions and my passion for people and my more extroverted tendencies. And intellectual property law allowed me to dive back into the science, which I always enjoyed.

Q: How did you arrive at your current position?

A: When I first graduated from law school at the University of Mississippi, I went to work for the law school developing a pro bono program that’s now in place. After I left, I was studying for the Louisiana bar, and I was really struggling, trying to get an IT job in that area. So, I packed up my bags, I put a bunch of suits in the car, printed out a bunch of resumes and I went on a Southeast tour — where all my friends lived — and started knocking on doors because emails and phone calls weren’t working.

When I got here to the Triangle area, somebody hired me for $10 an hour to be a tech analyst. It was a company that was associated with a law firm, where the tech company and the law firm worked together and were housed in the same offices. That was my in. I started out as a tech analyst, and a year later I was working in the law firm, and two years later I was transitioning out to a traditional law firm.

I saw the tech job as an opportunity to get into the company with my science background and allow myself to gain some legal experience and hopefully transition to the legal side, which did happen.

Q: Taking a job working for $10 an hour must have been a financial risk for you.

A: It was. I moved up here, I did some couch surfing with some friends, I went back to my college days of eating ramen noodles and just put my head to the ground and waited for the money to come.

Q: So, the lesson is you don’t always get to where you want to go by the most direct route?

A: Exactly. You’ve got to do the grunt work, put your head down and some of the lessons and the efficiencies will come with experience. I think a critical part of starting out in your legal career is being humble, even though you’re taught to be aggressive and assertive, I don’t think they’re mutually exclusive. You can choose to pick your battles and choose to assert certain aspects of your personality when it best suits your career.

Q: What lessons transfer to the legal field from your experience as an entrepreneur?

Continued on page 10
As I expected, my last column on the Oxford comma generated some lively feedback — and a topic for this month’s column. It turns out that there is another punctuation mark that causes almost as much angst among the readership as the Oxford comma: the apostrophe.

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To those who care about punctuation, a sentence such as “Thank God it’s Friday” (without the apostrophe) rouses feelings not only of despair but of violence. The confusion of the possessive “its” (no apostrophe) with the contractive “it’s” (with apostrophe) is an unequivocal sign of illiteracy and sets off a simple Pavlovian “kill” response in the average stickler. . . . Getting your itses mixed up is the greatest solecism in the world of punctuation. No matter that you have a PhD and have read all of Henry James twice. If you still persist in writing, “Good food at it’s best”, you deserve to be struck by lightning, hacked up on the spot and buried in an unmarked grave.

For my part, I’m not sure that apostrophe misuse is “the greatest solecism” in the punctuation world, and it certainly doesn’t provoke a “kill” response in me; but I do find its increase troubling. Walk through any city’s shopping district, and you’ll see sign after sign, written by hand in lovely calligraphy, containing errant apostrophes: “Thursday special: $2.00 craft beer’s!” Spend five minutes on Facebook, and you’ll see at least a dozen memes that violate apostrophe rules. I saw one just today; it was a pretty picture of a soft fain falling on a garden, with the caption, “Who like’s sittin on the Porch watching it rain?”

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- **Add an apostrophe and an *s* to form the possessive of plural words that do not end in *s.* Thus: *She was a fierce proponent of women’s rights.*

- **Use an apostrophe to indicate a contraction (it’s for it is, who’s for who is) but not in possessive pronouns (its or whose or yours).** The *its/it’s* mistake is a frequent apostrophe error but one that’s easy to avoid; if you can replace *it’s* with *it is*, you’ve used the apostrophe correctly. The same goes for the *whose/who’s* mistake; if you can replace *who’s* with *who is*, you’ve used the apostrophe correctly. An apostrophe is never correct in possessive pronouns; never write *her’s* or *their’s or our’s.*

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**Writing that Works, continued from page 9**

There are several other apostrophe rules that space doesn’t permit me to include here. As always, I commend “The Aspen Handbook” to you; its summary of apostrophe rules is very clear and concise, and its examples are quite helpful.

The “Handbook” correctly points out that most spell-checkers cannot accurately catch errors in the use of *its/it’s* and *whose/who’s.* I advise my students that when they are editing their legal writing, they should circle every apostrophe and make sure each one is used correctly. I don't share Lynne Truss's view that incorrect apostrophe usage is a sign of illiteracy, but I do think that correct apostrophe usage is just one more way we can show our legal readers that we are credible and careful writers.

Do you have a grammar or punctuation pet peeve? I'm always looking for practical ideas for columns, and I do enjoy hearing from readers. So please join me in my quest to reduce the number of solecisms in our legal writing, one column at a time. *NCL.*

**Laura Graham,** Director of Legal Analysis, Writing & Research, is a professor of legal writing at Wake Forest University School of Law, where she has taught for 19 years. She welcomes email from readers at **grahamlp@wfu.edu.**

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**Members in Focus, continued from page 8**

A: With entrepreneurship, a lot of times you’re delving into territories that are not only completely unfamiliar to you but are completely unfamiliar to most people. You’re trying to create something new. A lot of times in the legal field, although the bulk of what we do is recycle old arguments, the most exciting stuff is when you’re coming upon a new issue or a new problem or a new situation and are able to take old solutions and apply them to new situations. That’s one of the key aspects.

The other is, with entrepreneurship a lot of what you’re doing is mitigating risk, and with the legal field you’re doing the same. You’re evaluating the risk of clients’ real problems and you’re letting them know: here are the different scenarios that you have going forward, what kind of risk profile are you in, and how do we want to proceed?

Q: What challenges facing new lawyers today are different than those faced by past generations?

A: A lot of lawyers coming out right now have two barriers that previous generations didn’t face. One is they are labeled as millennials, which means they have a reputation for not working hard and maybe being a little entitled. I don’t necessarily think that’s true. I think that is a public perception problem. I also think the legal field is much more competitive than it used to be. For one, there are more law school graduates. Second, technology now allows clients to shop around fairly easily and quickly.

There are some challenges to getting a job directly in the legal field, and I think law school graduates need to think about taking alternative pathways to the career that they want. Look at it long term and take hits in the short term to get to where you need to be.

Q: What is one bit of advice you’d offer to attorneys just starting out?

A: Most attorneys coming out of law school are fairly competent and type-A personalities, and the inclination for somebody like that is to be very opinionated and assert their legal opinion and kind of blaze their own path. I would caution most new attorneys to take more experienced professionals at their word and try to apply the lessons they’re giving you before you do too much questioning. Applying the lessons of veterans who have been there, you’ll learn that a lot of your preconceived notions don’t fall quite as squarely with reality as you thought. There are always some exceptions to the rules and there are always some counterintuitive lessons to learn. … Some lessons must be learned through experience and can’t be absorbed by merely reading about them. *NCL.*
How does a low-wealth entrepreneur turn a hobby into a full-time business? Steven Lambeth faced this issue when a popular tea house in Chapel Hill asked him to serve his unique chocolates to their customers. Steven uses raw, organic chocolate from Peru and coconut oil, infused with different herbs and spices, in his tasty chocolates. When asked, he immediately began filling orders, but he did not have any legal protections for his business.

Fortunately for Steven, he heard about North Carolina Lawyers for Entrepreneurs Assistance Program (NC LEAP) and applied for help. After a brief eligibility screening, Steven’s application was approved and he was paired with a volunteer attorney whose practice area was business law. Within a month, Sweet Steven’s Creations, LLC was formed. Today Sweet Steven’s Creations are available in multiple stores throughout the Triangle, and his business is growing. Steven’s story is one of many success stories that have come out of the NC LEAP program.

Ugly Sweater Holiday 5K on Dec. 9

Last year, one of our NCBA Young Lawyers Division (YLD) leaders, Leah Hermiller of Nichols, Choi & Lee PLLC in Raleigh, proposed that the YLD host a 5K race with the proceeds going to support a program where volunteer attorneys make a positive impact on North Carolinians. That is when the YLD identified NC LEAP and decided to partner with the program to provide exposure and funds to low-income entrepreneurs.

The YLD inaugural 5K race, which has been named the Ugly Sweater 5K, will be held on Dec. 9 at Dorothea Dix Park in Raleigh. All proceeds of the 5K race will go to NC LEAP to support its ongoing mission.

Hermiller, along with young lawyers Zack Dawson and Nihad Mansour, are leading a dedicated team of YLD volunteers to organize the race. They have secured the location and set a race course, hired a vendor to provide official race times, created a list of volunteer needs and sponsorship opportunities, are securing food trucks and entertainment, and have organized all the other logistical details needed to host a successful race. There will even be a prize for the best ugly sweater that shows up on Dec. 9.

What we need now is YOU! We need runners (and joggers and walkers), volunteers, and sponsors. Be sure to register and encourage others to participate. We need volunteers to provide all kinds of help on the day of the race. Sponsorship opportunities are available for your firm, business or institution to be recognized in a number of ways. Please go to NCBAUglySweater5K.itsyourrace.com to register for the race and sign up as a sponsor.

NC LEAP Background

The NCBA’s Business Law Section created NC LEAP in 2007 as a 501(c)(3) charitable organization. It is a donor supported program of the North Carolina Bar Foundation. At the time of its founding, it was the only program of its kind in the United States, serving clients statewide. NC LEAP relies on volunteer attorneys to provide transactional law needs of North Carolina’s low-wealth entrepreneurs and inventors. To be eligible for NC LEAP’s services, individuals must demonstrate an income that falls below 300 percent of federal poverty guidelines and are subject to asset limits. To date, NC LEAP volunteers have assisted more than 3,500 small business owners through education and legal representation.

In 2014, NC LEAP expanded its scope of services, in collaboration with the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office, to serve inventors — one of the first pro bono programs in the country to do so. NC LEAP continues to help qualified inventors and small businesses in North Carolina gain pro bono access to patent and other intellectual property related legal services.

Jason Walters is chair of the NCBA Young Lawyers Division. He practices with Davis & Hamrick in Winston-Salem.
Pro Bono Work Restored Victims’ ‘Faith In Humanity’

Early last October, Hurricane Matthew swept across eastern North Carolina, leaving death and destruction in its path. In this state alone 26 people lost their lives in storm-related deaths. Damage estimates topped $1.6 billion.

Forty-five North Carolina counties qualified for federal assistance, including Robeson County, where the Lumber River crested at 24 feet, eclipsing the previous record by 3.5 feet.

The North Carolina Bar Association, led by its Young Lawyers Division, worked with Legal Aid of North Carolina, the American Bar Association and FEMA to provide free legal assistance to hurricane victims through the Disaster Legal Services hotline. With financial support from the North Carolina Bar Foundation Endowment, the Disaster Legal Services hotline helped nearly 300 people. Dozens more took advantage of clinics held in Robeson County.

The effort earned the YLD the 2016-17 Award of Achievement for Service to the Public from the Young Lawyers Division of the American Bar Association this summer. The NCBA YLD was recognized among state bar organizations in Division B (3,000 to 8,000 young lawyers).

This is one hurricane victim’s story, as conveyed through a family member. For purposes of privacy, neither the victim nor the attorney is identified by name.

When the hurricane came, a 200-year-old tree fell onto the house from a neighbor’s yard. It was very large. It fell into the roof, so wind and water was coming into the house. There was a lot of damage structurally to the house on top, and about two feet of flooding.

In the aftermath we don’t know how high the water will rise. We’re trying to save food. She is in her 70s and distraught; I am trying to help her.

We got some contractors’ names from the local hardware store and cards from different people. We followed what the insurance company told us, which was to make sure we got their (contractor’s) license number. We dealt with five contractors.

Only one of those five … did what they said they were going to do. … She almost lost her faith in humanity; it was not good. She is a spiritual woman. We prayed about it, and then we were reading The Robesonian. They had a number in there to call if you needed legal support with hurricane problems.

We called the number. … My description of (our attorney); he was a godsend. He listened to the issues we had with the contractors and gave us good advice. We could not get receipts out of them if we needed them for insurance and FEMA.

He gave us good suggestions. He was very kind, very professional. He called the contractors and told him who he was. All of them of course are not coming back, but one of them came back and listened. … She had to pay other people to complete some of the jobs. It was an extra burden, and kept her out of her house.

What happened, the insurance company paid for all of the structural damage from the tree falling on the house, but underneath the house, that was not done. We were trying to get the insurance work paid for and did not focus on underneath the house.

When we finally got all of that stuff done … we got a small amount from FEMA, but it was not enough to pay for what needed to be done about the issues under the house. So we appealed: Could you please provide more money to take care of the insulation that got wet? The air conditioning and heat lines, the ductwork, that all needed to be repaired. … All of this still needed to be done, and we’re trying to get it done the best we can.

That is when (our lawyer) got involved, and it was resolved very, very quickly. He talked to the insurance agent to get the final payment so FEMA could see what insurance had paid for. He took care of all of that. He would call at 7 or 8 at night; if he told you he was going to call at 11 on Tuesday, he called at 11 on Tuesday. If he said he would do something, he did exactly what he said he would do. And I’m thinking, too bad everybody doesn’t operate like that in the world.

He restored some of (her) faith in humanity. On this past Sunday morning the FEMA contractor who looks at appeals and the appeals adjuster came out and looked at everything. Whatever (our lawyer) had done in the last five days, FEMA was already moving ahead. I don’t have words to describe how professional (our attorney) was, his attention to detail, how thoughtful and kind he was, how basically he restored our faith in humanity.

We did not have the money … to afford an attorney. Sometimes you just don’t know where to turn; just maneuvering through FEMA took a lot of understanding. … For him to explain and to know what to do to help us through this process, I just don’t have the words to describe it.

This happened last October and now we’re into April. Things have been uprooted for a long time. … Truth is, if anybody deserves credit, we want to make sure we give credit to (our attorney). Because of him, we felt like there was a light at the end of the tunnel in the process. Things were never totally hopeless but it was moving in that direction.

Our attorney was like a light. He probably doesn’t know how much we appreciate him.  

“Our attorney was like a light. He probably doesn’t know how much we appreciate him.”
Charlotte Center for Legal Advocacy: New Name Accompanies 50th Birthday

By Russell Rawlings

Legal Services of Southern Piedmont has long been recognized by the lawyers of Mecklenburg County as an integral part of the local legal community.

But what about the rest of the area’s approximately 2 million residents?

“Outside the bar, we were invisible,” said Ken Schorr, the organization’s executive director, in regard to the results of a recent community survey. “They knew there were legal aid services somewhere, but we were completely invisible.”

The survey was conducted as preparation for the organization’s 50th anniversary, which includes a series of events that will continue into next year. But the biggest news coming out of the celebration has already occurred:

Legal Services of Southern Piedmont is now known as Charlotte Center for Legal Advocacy.

“The name change was actually years in the making,” Schorr said, “with talks intensifying in earnest as the milestone anniversary approached.

“We had sensed for a long time that we had outgrown the name,” Schorr said. “We had many conversations over the years with the general agreement that it was not a great contemporary name, nor did it reflect our work and commitment to the community.”

With the anniversary approaching, leadership shifted its focus from the first 50 years to the next 50 years and decided that there would never be a better time to rebrand the organization.

Looking ahead

Todd Stillerman, assistant general counsel and director at Bank of America, serves as president of the organization’s board of directors.
“As we approached the 50th anniversary,” Stillerman said, “we knew it represented an important opportunity to reflect on everything that has happened over the last 50 years in order to plan for and determine what the organization was going to be over the next 50 years.

“Our board, staff and partners did a lot of research as to how we were perceived in the community, what we were doing and where we wanted to go. We were able to build our 50th anniversary and celebration around where we wanted to project ourselves in the future.”

The focus, Schorr added, has shifted from language that resonates with lawyers to talking about what the organization is doing for its clients, with an emphasis on keeping families together.

“Our mission revolves around safety, security and stability — we want to help families be safe, secure and stable.”

“We knew that we needed to do a better job of telling our story in the community,” Stillerman said. “We have always had terrific support from the local bar and law firms, but we found that of all the great things we were doing, we were always being viewed as the lawyers’ charity and not the full services partner that we want to be.

“With our name change and rebranding, we want to let people know how crucial access to legal services in the community is and spread that message beyond the lawyers in the community so that we will have a better chance of doing what we’ve been doing for another 50 years.”

“Charlotte Center for Legal Advocacy (formerly Legal Services of Southern Piedmont) is very appreciative of the longstanding support provided by the North Carolina Bar Foundation Endowment to our organization, most recently for Medicaid Advocacy and the Safe Child Immigrant Project, but also on many other issues over the years. This enduring relationship has been important throughout our history.”

KEN SCHORR, CCLA EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Ken Schorr: Working For Meaning For 29 Years and Counting

It would almost be impossible for the newly renamed Charlotte Center for Legal Advocacy to celebrate its 50th birthday without celebrating the longtime service of its executive director, Ken Schorr.

The two are, after all, virtually inseparable.

Schorr has served the former Legal Services of Southern Piedmont in this capacity for nearly three decades and has relished practically every moment of it. And although he set out to become an environmental lawyer, he does not regret that serving the public and the profession as a legal aid attorney has been his life’s work.

“It has been an incredibly satisfying career,” Schorr said. “Sometimes it can be hugely frustrating with the struggle for funding and some of the challenging experiences, but now I think the legal services programs are considered a core part of the bar and very respectable.

“For many years early in my career, opposing counsel and judges were routinely abusive of legal services practitioners, so it has had its challenges and frustrations, but it has been very satisfying. What we do really has a huge impact on our clients’ lives.”

When Schorr came out of the University of Michigan Law School in 1975 — “when it was ranked higher than Duke” — it was no surprise that he chose this path. His father, the late Alvin Schorr, was an institution in the social service arena and the first director of research and planning in the Office of Economic Opportunity.

“I have had a privileged life,” Schorr said. “From the day I was born I knew I would go to college — that was the way our family was — and I knew I’d have the skills to make a living and wasn’t prevented from doing what moves me.

Whereas most of his law school peers aspired to join large firms or corporate legal departments, or perhaps accept prestigious judicial clerkships, Schorr wanted no part of a career track that would simply provide him with the most money.

“So, I ran off to Arkansas and worked with what was really a very grassroots firm,” Schorr said.

For the first four years of his career, Schorr’s biography notes, he represented “community organizations, labor unions
A year of celebration

Charlotte Center for Legal Advocacy, Stillerman added, will also use the yearlong anniversary observance to conduct a meaningful celebration of the good work provided by its staff and volunteers over the past half-century. A community day of service, a young professionals event, the annual pro bono awards ceremony and a community healthcare symposium have already taken place.

Upcoming events include: an event on addressing poverty with the North Carolina Justice Center on Jan. 25; an immigration symposium in February; a celebration of the organization's history with the Mecklenburg County Bar on March 8; and the grand finale, "Party Like It's 1967: Charlotte Center for Legal Advocacy Celebration," which will take place on April 19.

"We took a lot of time to examine who we are and what we are doing ... so that we will be able to grow with the needs of the community and react to the changes as they happen," added Stillerman. "Over the past five years, things have changed significantly regarding veterans' issues, disability appeals, immigration, and we have drastically increased the work we do in providing access to healthcare.

"All of these things are relatively recent needs of the community that we have been able to react to and provide those critical services. We need to make sure that we continue to do those things that the community needs."

The cost of advocacy

Fundraising, Schorr noted, will be critical to the continued success of the organization. It is also at the forefront of the rebranding effort.

"Part of the strategic goal for the 50th anniversary was to use it to be more visible outside the bar so that we could build more support," Schorr said. "We have a very good annual campaign that we share with Legal Aid — this year we raised over half a million dollars in individual contributions, almost entirely through lawyers.

"We will not get the kind of private donation base that we really need to do our work without getting a substantial donor base outside the bar, and to do that we have to be visible and appealing to them. They have to know who we are and what we do."

"It's about framing things that will resonate with people who aren't lawyers. We don't talk about representation and due process so much, which is good language for lawyers, we talk about what we accomplish for clients more."

Schorr has witnessed firsthand the evolution of his organization's funding model, from a time when four-fifths of its funding came from Legal Services Corp. in the late 1980s to today, in which it receives no funding from LSC.

"In 2002 we reorganized the legal services system in North Carolina," Schorr said. "Legal Aid of North Carolina was created and became the only grantee for the Legal Services Corporation. We gave up that funding in order to keep doing work and advocacy that we felt was critical to ensuring stability for families in

and individual employees in labor and civil rights cases."

He formally entered the legal services field in 1979 when he became litigation director for Community Legal Services in Phoenix. Schorr served until 1983 when he became executive director of Legal Services of North Texas in Dallas, where he remained until 1987.

He became the executive director of what is now known as the Charlotte Center for Legal Advocacy in April 1988. Licensed then in Virginia, the District of Columbia, Arkansas, Arizona and Texas, Schorr was surprised to learn that he would not be licensed through reciprocity when moving to North Carolina. He sat for the bar exam 16 years after entering law school and ultimately wrestled with the decision as to where he would work.

"I was offered a job by a small private law firm and a job as a public defender, which I had never done, and I was offered the job as the director of Legal Services of Southern Piedmont. The public defender's offer was one thousand dollars more, starting to do misdemeanor defense where I had no experience, whereas the legal aid offer was to be the executive director, which I had been doing for five years.

"I asked the (LSSP) board president if they would match the offer and she said no. I spent the whole weekend thinking about it. How crazy is that? And then it struck me: if I really didn't want this job, I wouldn't still be thinking about it; I would have walked away and taken one of the other jobs. That was proof to me that this was what I really wanted to do."

For years Schorr kept an old "New Yorker" cartoon of a person with a sandwich board which included a caption that best explains his devotion to legal services. It read: "Will work for meaning." He believes that motto extends to the culture at Charlotte Center for Legal Advocacy.

"I think the people we have appreciate the quality and the meaning of their work," Schorr said. "Nobody is here for the money; there is no one on this staff who could not find a better paying job in short order. The work has meaning for everybody who is here."

“Yes, our 50th anniversary is a big deal, but at the heart of this celebration are all the people who have contributed to this rich history of pursuing justice. I would like to think that in a few years, and I am not making an announcement here, that I will be able to leave a stable and sustainable workplace with people who feel that they are doing important and productive work that has a lasting impact for the people we serve. For another 50 years.”
the Charlotte region and basically split the agency in half: half became the Charlotte office of Legal Aid and half stayed as Legal Services of Southern Piedmont without its core funding.”

Instead, LSSP relied on private grant funding, including longstanding support from the North Carolina Bar Foundation Endowment.

“I think developing a donor base outside the bar so that we can get our donation revenue up to even 30 percent or 40 percent would be a huge improvement in our ability to manage from year to year and stay stable while remaining versatile enough to respond to new challenges.

“I also think over the course of my career and going back a little further … legal aid programs used to think of themselves as existing largely just within the bar. But advocacy to make good things happen for low income people is often much more effective if it’s done in partnership with a wide range of agencies and with a lot of different stakeholders and with multiple strategies working in parallel.”

This is not the organization’s first name change. Charlotte Center for Legal Advocacy was established in 1967 as the Legal Aid Society of Mecklenburg County with a staff of five: three lawyers and two secretaries. It became Legal Services of Southern Piedmont in 1979 and expanded at that time to include Cabarrus, Gaston, Stanly and Union counties.

The organization, denotes a press release announcing the name change, “helps domestic violence victims seek protective orders, the sick find healthcare coverage, disabled veterans obtain income and health benefits, senior citizens at risk of scams, homeowners in danger of foreclosure and immigrants in danger of exploitation.”

With its staff of approximately 40 people including 17 lawyers and volunteer support from more than 500 legal professionals, Charlotte Center for Legal Advocacy provides assistance to some 3,500 local families. It is the largest provider of legal assistance to the lowest income and most vulnerable residents of Mecklenburg and the surrounding counties.

Charlotte Center for Legal Advocacy is a separate and distinctive organization from the Charlotte office of Legal Aid of North Carolina, but they share the same building and work closely together to provide civil legal representation and coordinate resources.

“We are two separate corporations with separate boards and staffs,” Schorr said, “but we are also very close partners. We run a joint annual campaign, and our pro bono program is a shared program.”

For lawyers as well as clients, the interaction between the two organizations is seamless.

“If you’re a client and call the client helpline, the number in this community has been the same for 50 years. You don’t have to understand which organization will be able to help. All you really want to know is that you are being supported and get service.”

For 50 years and counting. .

The Charlotte Center for Legal Advocacy (CCLA) is celebrating its 50th birthday in style, as denoted in the photos above. Participants in the special events included, upper left, Executive Director Ken Schorr, left, and Morris Dees, founder of the Southern Poverty Law Center and keynote speaker for the kickoff celebration, and, below left, CCLA President Todd Stillerman, below left.
A recent e-bar announced the installation of Caryn Coppedge McNeill, the new president of the North Carolina Bar Association, and the election of the president-elect, Jacqueline D. Grant. A demanding, virtually full-time job spanning three years, the NCBA presidency often is held by big-firm lawyers who can commit such time to the profession and continue to feed their families. What’s not as common — the appointment of back-to-back female presidents.

Having practiced for 36 years, I believe it’s only happened once before.* My first reaction to this girl power moment had me nodding “Wonder Women.” But, my second reaction was in response to the end of the paragraph about each. Listed after her firm was the phrase “where she has practiced her entire career.” Yes, I thought. I’m not surprised. Firm longevity is getting rare, but I’ll bet women constitute, percentage-wise, more of those who stay with the same firm from bar passage to retirement.

I have every right to provide some stereotypical conclusions. So, please forgive these memories of the last three and a half decades of law. Let’s start with a newspaper article about my husband and me after we won the regionals of a trial competition in law school. We weren’t married then, or dating. The newspaper
referred to me as “Miss Kelley” and to him as “Sousa.” Skip ahead to a trial I had in the ’80s in a nearby small town. Lugging a boxy briefcase up the 400 courthouse stairs, I gladly accepted a deputy’s offer to carry it in for me. I still had a “banker’s box” on my left hip. Once in the courtroom, opposing counsel and I spent a good bit of time talking. The gavel banged, the judge took the bench, and everyone sat down. Where was my briefcase with my motions file? Locating the deputy beside the bench, I mouthed “where is it?” With a kindhearted look of “my bad,” he pointed to it underneath the court reporter’s desk. He didn’t think I was a lawyer, despite my suit and my “suitcase.”

I married my trial partner the year after law school, and a few years later, our first baby was on the way. Maternity wear back then looked like tents. I had one or two pairs of huge elastic waist pants and a couple of big sweatshirts, but I wore those to the office — if I ever did — only at the very end when I subconsciously would have welcomed being fired. Otherwise, I wore dresses, some with icky bow ties. I had my first child on his due date, and I worked the evening before to finish a federal court motion for summary judgment. I still have the memo I wrote to our office manager, asking that no one disclose my maternity leave or that I had been pregnant. I drove up a nearby hill with my little guy in his car seat to get clear reception and check my voicemail messages. I remember crying after ignoring his crying (muffled by two closed doors between his nursery and our bedroom) during a phone call to a client in New York. I returned to work eight weeks later. Back at the office, it was rare to take time off for anything that wasn’t considered a necessity, like doctors’ appointments. Thoughts of reducing my hours never crossed my mind; to pay for our bundle of love, we needed both paychecks more than ever. Flex time — what was that?

Trust me; I applaud the young women of today. Wearing their slimming, stretchy and comfortable clothing, they are enjoying the fruits of the labor of women who came before — the ones who helped employers realize that what a firm might lose in maternity-leave revenue, it would gain in increased loyalty from its female workforce.”

“Trust me; I applaud the young women of today. Wearing their slimming, stretchy and comfortable clothing, they are enjoying the fruits of the labor of women who came before — the ones who helped employers realize that what a firm might lose in maternity-leave revenue, it would gain in increased loyalty from its female workforce.”

Bettie Kelley Sousa is a partner with the Raleigh law firm Smith Debnam, where she has practiced her entire career.

* Editor’s note: The author is correct that only once before in NCBA history have women been elected to serve as president in consecutive years: Catharine Biggs Arrowood of Parker Poe in Raleigh served as president in 2014-15 and Shelby Duffy Benton, who hails from the very small firm of Benton Family Law in Goldsboro, served as president in 2015-16. Jackie Grant, therefore, will be the fourth woman in five years to serve as NCBA president when she takes office next summer.

This article was first published at ncbarblog.com. Thank you for reading — and writing for — the NCBA Blogs.
2016-17 ANNUAL FUND HONOR ROLL

The North Carolina Bar Foundation Annual Fund, formerly named the Patron Campaign, supports pro bono and public service programs across the state. Thank you for your generosity. If you would like to give to the 2017-18 Annual Fund, please use the envelope provided in this issue.

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Carl N. Patterson Jr., Raleigh, 32
Mack B. Pearsall, Asheville, 23
John R. Perkins Jr., Winston-Salem, 14
William P. Pinna, Raleigh, 31
Walter Wrinza Pitt Jr., Winston-Salem, 3
Edward Knox Proctor V, New Bern, 9
Elizabeth L. Quick, Winston-Salem, 31
Dean Suzanne Reynolds, Winston-Salem, 2
Russell M. Robinson III, Greensboro, 2
Bradley A. Roehrbeck, Winston-Salem, 1
Stephen McDaniel Russell Jr., Greensboro, 4
Jo Anne Sanford, Raleigh, 4
John L. Sarratt, Raleigh, 35
James Simpson Schenk IV, Raleigh, 15
Robert B. Schwentker, Raleigh, 20
Jane Whitt Sellers, Burlington, 13
Raleigh A. Shoemaker, Charlotte, 29
Michael Carl Sholtz, Durham, 20
William R. Sigmon, Hickory, 28
John S. Stevens, Asheville, 35
M. Gray Styers Jr., Raleigh, 16
Richard McAlpin Thigpen, Charlotte, 23
Judge Lacy H. Thomsburg, Webster, 19
W. Y. Alex Webb, Aberdeen, 8
Michael John Wenig, Greensboro, 5
John R. Wester, Charlotte, 32
Bradford Alan Williams, Raleigh, 9
Parks H. Wilson Jr., Belmont, 28

GOLD, continued ($500 to $999)
Trey Lindley, Charlotte, 4
Maria M. Lynch, Raleigh, 10
Stephen M. Lynch, Charlotte, 8
Heather K. Mallard, Wake Forest, 18
Patricia A. Markus, Raleigh, 7
John Weatherly Mason, Asheveille, 19
Neill Gregory McBryde, Charlotte, 33
Kent John McCreary, Charlotte, 1
Angela W. McIver, Gastonia, 1
Michael T. Medford, Raleigh, 24
Daniel Adam Merlin, Charlotte, 9
Charles H. Montgomery, Cary, 21
Hilary Moore, Mt. Crawford, 1
James F. Morgan, High Point, 7
William H. Moss, Raleigh, 6
Judge Luis “Lou” Olivera, Fayetteville, 1
Carl N. Patterson Jr., Raleigh, 32
Mack B. Pearsall, Asheville, 23
John R. Perkins Jr., Winston-Salem, 14
William P. Pinna, Raleigh, 31
Walter Wrinza Pitt Jr., Winston-Salem, 3
Edward Knox Proctor V, New Bern, 9
Elizabeth L. Quick, Winston-Salem, 31
Dean Suzanne Reynolds, Winston-Salem, 2
Russell M. Robinson III, Greensboro, 2
Bradley A. Roehrbeck, Winston-Salem, 1
Stephen McDaniel Russell Jr., Greensboro, 4
Jo Anne Sanford, Raleigh, 4
John L. Sarratt, Raleigh, 35
James Simpson Schenk IV, Raleigh, 15
Robert B. Schwentker, Raleigh, 20
Jane Whitt Sellers, Burlington, 13
Raleigh A. Shoemaker, Charlotte, 29
Michael Carl Sholtz, Durham, 20
William R. Sigmon, Hickory, 28
John S. Stevens, Asheville, 35
M. Gray Styers Jr., Raleigh, 16
Richard McAlpin Thigpen, Charlotte, 23
Judge Lacy H. Thomsburg, Webster, 19
W. Y. Alex Webb, Aberdeen, 8
Michael John Wenig, Greensboro, 5
John R. Wester, Charlotte, 32
Bradford Alan Williams, Raleigh, 9
Parks H. Wilson Jr., Belmont, 28
BRONZE ($200 to $349)

Michael R. Abel, Greensboro, 31
Robert W. Allen, Charlotte, 2
James W. Allison, Charlotte, 23
R. Marks Arnold, Raleigh, 11
John Stanley Arrowood, Raleigh, 1
Alison Yvonne Ashe-Card, Winston-Salem, 3
Russell Z. Asi, Monroe, 4
Lucy Tatum Austin, Raleigh, 3
William Joseph Austin Jr., Smithfield, 4
Edwin Osborne Ayascue Jr., Chapel Hill, 33
Robin M. Barefoot, Durham, 2
Kimberly Ann Bart Mullikin, Apex, 1
P. C. Barwick Jr., Winston-Salem, 21
Douglas W. Baxley, Shallotte, 22
Lani Barnes Baxter, Charlotte, 3
Justice Cheri Lynn Beasley, Raleigh, 6
Carl S. Beattie, Charlotte, 5
Sheila Ruth W. Benninger, Chapel Hill, 7
Dean Luke Bierman, Greensboro, 3
C. Thomas Biggs, Durham, 26
Justice Rhoda B. Billings, Lewisville, 33
Louis A. Bledsoe Jr., Charlotte, 18
Jean Wimborne Boyles, Raleigh, 14
Elise Delaney Bradshaw, Hickory, 7
George Thomas Brady III, Raleigh, 2
Martin Hal Brinkley, Chapel Hill, 14
Deanna Schmitt Brocker, Raleigh, 7
Douglas J. Brocker, Raleigh, 6
E. Lawson Brown Jr., Burlington, 16
James West Bryan, Greensboro, 4
Jonathan Edward Buchanan Jr., Charlotte, 12
Robert L. Burchette, Charlotte, 5
John Phillips Carlton, Pinetops, 18
John Hemstreet Carmichael, Charlotte, 5
M. Cabell Clay, Charlotte, 4
David Benjamin Clement, Raleigh, 13
Stephen Dalton Coggins, Wilmington, 12
Vincent Paul Collura, Pittsboro, 4
Michael A. Coleto, Greensboro, 22
Manning Austin Cooper, Greensboro, 6
Leon H. Corbett Jr., Winston-Salem, 31
Clara Cottrell, Research Triangle Park, 4
Stephanie C. Crosby, New Bern, 8
Sharon C. Daniel, Greensboro, 17
Brian Forrest Davis, Asheville, 11
M. Jay Devaney, Greensboro, 31
Thomas Green Dill, Tarboro, 11
Jeri K. D’Lugin, Greensboro, 10
Kathryn Mitchell Kelling, Charlotte, 1
Rosemary Gill Kenyon, Raleigh, 14
William B. Kirk Jr., Charlotte, 18
Thomas B. Kobrin, Greensboro, 18
James A. Medford, Greensboro, 25
Ralph William Meekins, Shelby, 16
Henry A. Mitchell Jr., Raleigh, 23
Maureen Demarest Murray, Greensboro, 20
Jeffrey E. Oleynik, Greensboro, 17
Ross Howard Parr, Thomasville, 13
Lacy M. Presnell III, Raleigh, 28
Robert James Ramsey Jr., Raleigh, 20
Bonnie Jean Refinski-Knight, New Bern, 4
Gary J. Rickner, Raleigh, 16
Gerald F. Roach, Raleigh, 27
Leslie Stanley Robinson, Greensboro, 20
Vernon H. Rochelle, Morehead City, 27
Richard J. Rose, Rocky Mount, 13
Richard K. Schell, Charlotte, 12
Amy Konides Smith, Winston-Salem, 17
D. Clark Smith, Greensboro, 29
Kimberly H. Stogner, Winston-Salem, 20
Tamara Jean Stringer, Charlotte, 11
R. Matthew Van Sickle, Cary, 1
Hamlin Landis Wade Jr., Charlotte, 13
Thomas J. White III, Winston-Salem, 9
Ema A P Womble, Winston-Salem, 21
William F. Womble Jr., Winston-Salem, 30

SILVER ($350 to $499)

Robert Louis Armstrong, Wilmington, 17
Francis Coke Bagby, Raleigh, 28
Albert Robert Bell Jr., Raleigh, 7
Bruce Alan Buckley, Charlotte, 27
Donald Stephen Bunce, Fayetteville, 22
Stephen Timothy Byrd, Raleigh, 13
Christopher Blair Capel, Raleigh, 20
William Sutton Cherry III, Greensboro, 21
Walter Scott Fuller, Raleigh, 18
Joseph Paul Gram, Greensboro, 9
Jane Powell Gray, Raleigh, 15
Jeffrey P. Gray, Raleigh, 11
Murray C. Greason III, Winston-Salem, 13
Thomas W. Graves Jr., Raleigh, 29
Jacqueline Denise Grant, Asheville, 8
Christopher Terry Graebe, Raleigh, 4
Thomas M. Grady, Concord, 19
Richard E. Glaze, Winston-Salem, 35
Terry L. globalization, Greensboro, 6
Nicolette Fulton, Charlotte, 4
Stephanie C. Crosby, New Bern, 8
John Wells Lassiter, Chapel Hill, 3
Marco Patrick Locco Jr., Wrightsville Beach, 2
Richard Lewis Mack, Charlotte, 8
John Dale Madden, Raleigh, 27
Carlos Enrique Mahoney, Durham, 8
Henry B. Mangum Jr., Greensboro, 17
Barry Dean Mann, Raleigh, 7
James C. Marrow Jr., Tarboro, 25
Calvin E. Martin, Greensboro, 14
Morris N. Martin, Raleigh, 17
George B. Mast, Smithfield, 35
Erik Louis Mazzone, Cary, 1
Kenneth W. McAllister, High Point, 17
William H. McCullough, Raleigh, 25
Martha S. McDonald, Raleigh, 27
Daniel Francis McLawhorn, Greensboro, 15
Mark William Merritt, Chapel Hill, 17
Nancy Routh Meyers, Greensboro, 3
Mark A. Michael, Charlotte, 14
Natalie J. Miller, Mooresville, 1
E. Eric Mills, Raleigh, 6
Robert E. Monroe, Raleigh, 1
Clayton Doron Morgan, Raleigh, 9
Thomas H. Morris, Winston-Salem, 16
Christine Cecchetti Mumma, Durham, 2
Marvin Duncan Musselwhite Jr., Raleigh, 27
BRONZE, continued ($200 to $349)

Christine L. Myatt, Greensboro, 4
Krista Lyn Newkirk, Spartanburg, 2
Ramona Cunningham O’Bryant, Greensboro, 25
Preston O. Odom III, Iron Station, 14
John William Ormand III, Raleigh, 8
Martin C. Pannell, Conover, 16
William George Pappas, Raleigh, 14
Sarah Parker, Raleigh, 31
Bailey Patrick Jr., Charlotte, 24
S. Camille Payton, Greensboro, 4
Jill Lynn Peters Kaess, Winston-Salem, 7
Phyllis B. Pickett, Raleigh, 15
Ashmead P. Pipkin, Raleigh, 31
Eugene C. Pridgen, Charlotte, 27
Jan Elliott Pritchett, Greensboro, 3
J. Norleed Pruden III, Charlotte, 24
C. Richard Rayburn Jr., Charlotte, 32
Lacy H. Reaves, Raleigh, 9
Natalie Marie Rice, Raleigh, 5
Larry H. Rocamora, Durham, 7
Andrew Leigh Rodenbough, Greensboro, 4
Richard Alexander Rogers Jr., Waterford, 9
Thomas W. Ross, Charlotte, 19
Cynthia B. Rothschild, Winston-Salem, 15
Ellen T. Ruff, Charlotte, 7
Mary Nash K. Rusher, Raleigh, 7
Raymond John Ryan, Pinehurst, 16
William P. Sandridge Jr., Clemmons, 12
David Marshall Schilti, Charlotte, 17
Bradley Nichole Schulz, Beaufort, 30
James Wade Sheedy, Charlotte, 6
John M. Silverstein, Greensboro, 25
Bruce M. Simpson, Charlotte, 16
Dana Edward Simpson, Raleigh, 25
John H. Small, Greensboro, 14
David D. Smyth, Raleigh, 1
Bette Kelley Souza, Raleigh, 27
David Paul Sousa, Raleigh, 28
Elizabeth Erwin Spainhour, Raleigh, 7
Mack Sperling, Greensboro, 3
Luther Donald Starling Jr., Smithfield, 7
Judge William L. Stoks, Greensboro, 25
William R. Stroud Jr., Cary, 13
Neal E. Treadway, Asheville, 21
John E. Tantum, Swansboro, 12
Craig Allan Taylor, Greensboro, 6
Daniel Russell Taylor Jr., Winston-Salem, 17
Brent A. Torstrick, Charlotte, 23
Anita Kinlaw Troxler, Greensboro, 7
Scott Michael Tyler, Charlotte, 13
Richard Lawrence Vanore, Greensboro, 12
Mark D. Vaughn, Pinehurst, 14
Hamlin L. Wade, Charlotte, 31
Judge Russell G. Walker Jr., Jamestown, 7
William Briggs Wallace, Charlotte, 2
Kirk Gibson Warner, Raleigh, 13
Margaret Rose Westbrook, Raleigh, 6
Willis P. Whichard, Chapel Hill, 19
Robert Ambrose Wickers, Greensboro, 26
Leigh Allred Wilkinson, New Bern, 15
Howard L. Williams, Greensboro, 2
Samuel S. Williams, Charlotte, 21
Carlton F. Williamson, Whiteville, 12
Richard Wright Wilson, Charlotte, 12
Charles R. Young Sr., Hickory, 32

PATRON (up to $199)

Alton L. Absher III, Winston-Salem, 7
Daniel DeCederefelt Adams, Greensboro, 1
J. Allen Adams, Raleigh, 22
A. Mark Adcock, Charlotte, 20
William Sidney Aldridge, Raleigh, 8
Malinda Crutchfield Allen, Cashiers, 3
Zebulon Dyer Anderson, Raleigh, 6
Deborah Bryant Andrews, Raleigh, 2
James Ronald Ansley, Rolesville, 7
Keith P. Anthony, Durham, 2
J. Mark Arrington, Rolesville, 8
Heyward Dubose Armstrong, Raleigh, 1
Judge Catharine R. Aron, Greensboro, 20
Rudolph A. Ashton III, New Bern, 5
daniel R. Atcheson, Rolesville, 3
James Raleigh Baker, Raleigh, 7
Charles S. Baldwin IV, Winston-Salem, 3
Ervin L. Ball Jr., Ashevile, 34
Dan Taylor Barker Jr., Greensboro, 14
William Thomas Barnett Jr., Raleigh, 11
Zeb E. Barnhardt Jr., Greensboro, 33
Roy J. Baroff, Pittsboro, 15
J. Alexander S Barrett, Greensboro, 3
Amy Meyers Batten, Raleigh, 3
Robert G. Baynes, Greensboro, 4
Gary Lee Beaver, Greensboro, 2
Carolina Nasallah Belk, Research Triangle Park, 3
Robert A. Benson Jr., Greensboro, 17
Donna Ray Berkelhammer, Durham, 2
Jonathan Arthur Berkelhammer, Greensboro, 21
Richmond G. Bernhardt Jr., Greensboro, 35
Steven Alan Bernholz, Chapel Hill, 35
Richard Von Biberstein Jr., Burgaw, 10
Mitchell S. Bigel, Raleigh, 25
John Charles Bircher III, New Bern, 2
Marc D. Bishop, Greensboro, 8
Ryan Hamilton Blackledge, Greensboro, 7
Andrew Wharton Blair, Raleigh, 3
Charlotte Gail Blake, Jefferson, 18
David Allen Bohm, Raleigh, 12
Dr. Dan Wilson Bolton III, Morrisville, 2
Jesse Virgil Bone Jr., Gastonia, 18
Victor Jerome Bone, Raleigh, 16
John Melvin Bowen, Williamston, 16
G. Eugene Boyce Sr., Raleigh, 5
Kathleen Cava Boyd, Raleigh, 1
Jeffery Dana Bradford, Cary, 4
Martha Shayne Bray, Raleigh, 1
Joyce Prvette Bradford, Cary, 1
John Ellison Branch III, Raleigh, 1
Doris Roach Bray, Greensboro, 31
Jennifer Spencer Brearley, Cary, 4
Jason R. Brege, Raleigh, 2
Teresa Murphy Brenner, Charlotte, 9
Elizabeth Sanders Brewington, Greensboro, 14
Benjamin H. Bridges III, Salisbury, 26
M. Guy Brooks III, Raleigh, 10
David Popham Broughton, Winston-Salem, 1
Herbert H. Browne Jr., Charlotte, 25
Joshua Dale Bryant, Raleigh, 2
Judge Robert Ward Bryant Jr., Clayton, 22
Christopher Toiler Buchanan, Charlotte, 8
John Stanfield Burchard, Richmond, 7
John Eugene Bugg, Durham, 28
Dorothy Bass Burch, Raleigh, 1
Charles E. Burgess, Marion, 34
Susan K. Buskhart, Raleigh, 22
Lynn Pierce Burleson, Raleigh, 20
William Joseph Burns, Winston-Salem, 11
Christopher L. Burti, Farmville, 5
Laura Deddish Burton, Greensboro, 3
Mark T. Calloway, Charlotte, 9
Ashley Hufstetler Campbell, Raleigh, 1
Forrest Wilson Campbell Jr., Hickory, 1
Kenneth Paul Carlson Jr., Winston-Salem, 1
David Anderson Carmen, Winston-Salem, 6
Carson Carmichael III, Raleigh, 14
William Joseph Carmody, Greensboro, 8
Mary V. Carrigan, Charlotte, 5
William P. H. Cary, Greensboro, 7
Deborah Griffin Casey, Charlotte, 1
Amen Colby Chamberlin, Greensboro, 7
Edward Chaney, Chapel Hill, 3
Calvin W. Chellis, Charlotte, 2
Kendall Foster Christison, Raleigh, 16
Jacqueline R. Clare, Raleigh, 5
Kimma Nicole Clark, Durham, 1
Sandra Martin Clark, Raleigh, 5
Charles E. Clement, Boone, 26
Alfred E. Cleveland, Fayetteville, 18
Catherine Gray Clodfelter, Charlotte, 2
Judge W. Allen Cobb Jr., Wrightsville Beach, 6
Kenneth S. Cose, Charlotte, 13
Katherine Meyers Cohen, Atlanta, 5
Judge Robert A. Collier Jr., Statesville, 21
Reginald F. Combs, Winston-Salem, 21
W. Thompson Conover Jr., Winston-Salem, 23
Thomas H. Cook Jr., Raleigh, 18
Jimmy Dean Cooley, Charlotte, 6
Langdon M. Cooper, Gastonia, 34
Matthew Alan Cordell, Greensboro, 2
Stephen Lee Cordell, Charlotte, 4
Santa J. Corra, Raleigh, 1
Marion A. Cowell Jr., Charlotte, 27
Heather Groves Cox, Charlotte, 1
Robert Aubrey Cox Jr., Charlotte, 5
C. Penn Craver Jr., Winston-Salem, 11
Nicole A. Crawford, Greensboro, 8
Thomas R. Crawford Jr., Sylva, 18
James Estes Cross Jr., Oxford, 19
John O. Cress Jr., Greensboro, 17
Anne Elizabeth Croteau, Raleigh, 3
Sarah B. Crotts, Winston-Salem, 6
Kimberly Yonkers Crouch, Cary, 6
Harry B. Crow Jr., Monroe, 23
Derek Morgan Crump, Raleigh, 24
Margaret Perso Currin, Raleigh, 2
Blinn L. Cushman, Eden, 1
David Duane Daggett, Winston-Salem, 5
Alexander Clay Dale, Wilmington, 6
Stephanie C. Daniel, Charlotte, 2
Laura Parrrett Davenport, Fuquay-Varina, 10
Bradley John Davies, Raleigh, 1
Ann McKee David, Wilmington, 4
Mark Davidson, Greensboro, 10
E. Lawrence Davis III, Raleigh, 31
F. Leary Davis Jr., Wendell, 14
John Parke Davis, Charlotte, 1
Justin Neal Davis, Gastonia, 3
K. Neal Davis, Gastonia, 3
Linwood Layfield Davis, Winston-Salem, 33
Timothy Davis, Winston-Salem, 9
William K. Davis, Winston-Salem, 35
Kenneth C. Day, Raleigh, 35
Fred W. DeVeore III, Charlotte, 2
Judge Alberich R. Davis, Charlotte, 10
Mary Margaret Dillon, Raleigh, 8
Ronald C. Dilthey, Raleigh, 13
James K. Dorsett III, Raleigh, 28
Aneleigh Elliott Dorsey, Ashevile, 1
John C. Dorsey, Raleigh, 8
Judge Susan M. Dotson-Smith, Weaverville, 6
Judge Richard L. Doughton, Sparta, 1
Christina Upton Douglass, Winston-Salem, 7
George Walker Douglass, Greensboro, 2
Robert D. Douglas III, Greensboro, 2
Elizabeth Downer, Charlotte, 1
George Patrick Doyle, Chapel Hill, 4
Arnita Maria Dula, Hickory, 10
Thomas C. Duncan, Greensboro, 8
Daniel Dutilly, Greensboro, 1

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Two iconic High Point lawyers, James F. “Jim” Morgan and his father, the late James V. “J. V.” Morgan, were honored on Aug. 15 when the North Carolina Bar Foundation dedicated new NCBF Endowment Justice Funds in their names.

Lake View Plaza Pavers were also dedicated in honor of J.V. and Jim Morgan and their granddaughter and daughter, Monroe attorney Lea E. Morgan.

President Caryn McNeill presided over the ceremony, and Executive Director Jason Hensley unveiled the etched Justice Fund plaques. Also participating in the program was Judge Julian Mann, director and chief administrative law judge in the N.C. Office of Administrative Hearings who chairs the NCBF Endowment Committee.

The James V. “J. V.” Morgan Justice Fund was introduced by Gilbert “Skipper” Gates, Catherine Haworth Matthews and James M. “Jack” Green Jr. The James F. “Jim” Morgan Justice Fund was introduced by A. Doyle Early Jr. The Lea E. Morgan Lake View Plaza Paver was introduced by her father, Jim Morgan.

Justice Funds and Lake View Plaza Pavers are naming opportunities underwritten through gifts to the NCBF Endowment. Contributions to the NCBF Endowment and the proceeds they generate in perpetuity provide funding for grants that help fulfill the objectives of the North Carolina Bar Foundation.

Established in 1987, the NCBF Endowment has awarded nearly $5.8 million for 729 grants across North Carolina.

The newest Justice Funds and Lake View Plaza Pavers are especially appropriate in that they underscore the Morgan family’s longstanding commitment to public service in general and the North Carolina Bar Association in particular. Spanning three generations, at least one member of this family has been a member of the NCBA for more some 75 years.

James V. “J.V.” Morgan

James V. “J.V.” Morgan was born on Nov. 28, 1917, to Virgil F. and Mable R. Morgan. He was a graduate of High Point High School and began his collegiate career at what was then High Point College before transferring to the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill.
J.V. Morgan obtained an undergraduate degree at UNC and then earned a law degree from UNC School of Law. He enlisted in the U.S. Air Force in 1942 and upon completion of Officers Candidate School served two years in the Air Corps in North Africa. He was discharged as a captain in 1946 after serving as a top security officer for conferences at Tehran and Yalta.

J.V. Morgan and his wife, the former Dorothy Bowden of Chapel Hill, had three sons, James F. “Jim” Morgan, Donald B. Morgan and Michael J. Morgan, and six grandchildren.

J.V. Morgan served as High Point Municipal Court solicitor for four and a half years was elected president of the 18th Judicial District Bar Association for 1980. He formed a private practice with Ed Post and Jack Byerly and was the managing partner for the law firm of Morgan, Byerly, Post, Herring & Morgan until his death on Jan. 28, 1982.

James F. “Jim” Morgan


Jim Morgan is a managing partner for the law firm of Morgan, Herring, Morgan, Green & Rosenblutt in High Point. He attended the University of North Carolina on a football scholarship for one year before transferring to Guilford College, from which he and his wife both graduated. He earned his law degree from Cumberland School of Law at Samford University in 1968.

He served in the N.C. House of Representatives from 1977-82, the culmination of which coincided with the death of his father in 1982. And although Morgan placed any political aspirations he might have had on permanent hold, in no way did being closer to home on a full-time basis diminish his commitment to serving the public. On the contrary, Jim Morgan has since served as chairman or president of more than 75 organizations.

Equally daunting is the number of honors he has received from countless organizations and institutions, including the following NCBA and NCBF honors: Centennial Award, Dr. I. Beverley Lake Public Service Award, General Practice Hall of Fame and the Citizen Lawyer Award.

Suffice to say that in the realm of volunteer leadership and service, Jim Morgan is a giant.

Lea E. Morgan

Lea E. Morgan received her law degree from the University of North Carolina School of Law in 1994, after receiving her undergraduate degree at Wake Forest University, magna cum laude, in 1991. She became a licensed North Carolina attorney in 1995, and joined Helms Robison & Lee, P.A. in 2013.

Prior to joining the firm, she worked as an assistant district attorney in Union County for almost three years. Lea has also worked as an assistant district attorney in Wake County, and as a solo practitioner.

Family members of Nancy and Tom White III, center, visited the N.C. Bar Center earlier this year to celebrate the legal careers of Tom White Jr. and Tom White III with stone pavers in the Liberty Garden. Stone pavers, which recognize, remember and honor North Carolina lawyers, are available for underwriting through the NCBF Development Office. Contact Tom Hull at thull@ncbar.org or 919.657.1567.
The Supreme Court of North Carolina honored the six African-American justices who have served on the state’s highest court during a special ceremony on Aug. 31.

Scores of dignitaries filled the Supreme Court courtroom to honor former Justice James A. Wynn Jr., former Chief Justice Henry E. Frye, former Justice G. K. Butterfield, Justice Michael Morgan, former Justice Patricia Timmons-Goodson and Justice Cheri Beasley.

The Administrative Office of the Courts provided the following biographical information and years of service on the Supreme Court for each of the honorees:


**G. K. Butterfield (2001-02)** | Justice Butterfield has served in the U.S. House of Representatives, First Congressional District of N.C., since 2004. He served the N.C. judiciary for 15 years, including as a Superior Court judge from 1988-2001.

**Patricia Timmons-Goodson (2006-12)** | Justice Timmons-Goodson was the first African-American female to serve the state’s highest court. She currently serves as vice chair of the U.S. Commission on Civil Rights. She also served on the N.C. Court of Appeals from 1997-2005 and as a District Court judge in Judicial District 12 from 1984-97.

**Cheri Lynn Beasley (2012-present)** | Justice Beasley is the second African-American female to serve on the Supreme Court. She also served on the N.C. Court of Appeals from 2009-12 and as a District Court judge in Cumberland County from 1999-2008.

**Michael R. Morgan (2017-present)** | Justice Morgan is the 99th and most recent justice of the Supreme Court. He has served as a judge for more than 27 years spanning three different judgeships: administrative law, District Court in Wake County from 1994-2004, and Superior Court from 2005-16.
When Evelyn Pursley leads a visitor on a tour of the N.C. State Bar’s art collection, her reflections on each piece reveal a deep thoughtfulness and curiosity.

In front of an intricate glass bowl titled “Arabesque,” by the artist Mark Peiser, she pauses to explain the process of its creation, as described to her by the collection’s curator Rory Parnell.

“This is one of my favorite pieces and, again I said to Rory, ‘I need to know how he made this,’ because how do you make glass look like this?” she said.

The glass blower, seeking a method that would ease the toll on his body, mounted his glass furnace on the ceiling and sculpted the scalding raw material from below to create the serpentine lines of the large but delicate bowl.

The massive Ben Owen III pottery urns, the architectural etchings by Louis Orr, the colorful metal works of Edwin White — in front of each Pursley pauses to extrapolate on their creation or history.

Her studious approach to art is typical of the brand of thorough inquiry that fueled Pursley’s 20 years of service to IOLTA. During her tenure, she helped guide the program from its early stages to become a secure fund that has donated more than $80 million to help the underfunded and at-risk obtain civil legal services.

Interest on Lawyers Trust Accounts (IOLTA) is a non-profit program of the N.C. State Bar that channels interest income generated from the general, pooled trust accounts of the state’s lawyers to help fund grants for civil legal service for the indigent. In 1984, North Carolina became the 15th state to implement an IOLTA program, and the fund awarded its first grants the following year.

IOLTA funds help coordinate private attorneys’ pro bono service. IOLTA grants have staffed legal services programs and volunteer lawyer programs throughout North Carolina and funded projects that improve the administration of justice statewide. These monies have also helped the Administrative Office of the Courts research solutions related to the need for interpreter services, put law students in public interest internships, trained local officials on humane incarceration policy, provided education for the judiciary and help young public interest lawyers pay off law school loans.

During her years, Pursley also had a gallery-side seat to the State Bar’s accumulation and curation of a stunning collection of North Carolina art, which is on display throughout the State Bar’s downtown Raleigh headquarters, completed in 2013.

The North Carolina State Bar Foundation raised the money to pay for the pieces.

An art lover, Pursley serves as a docent at the North Carolina Museum of Art and travels the world as an art aficionado in her free time. After she retired in August of this year, the IOLTA board honored her with a surprise donation of a piece to the N.C. State Bar’s collection in her name, titled “Sedimentary: Johnston Canyon” by Mary Kircher.

Evelyn Pursley Leaves Lasting Legacy

By Amber Nimocks

Robert Johnson’s mixed media work “North Carolina Mountains to Sea,” on view at the State Bar Building, is one of many pieces of art that made working there a joy for retired IOLTA Executive Director Evelyn Pursley.
Join over 6,000 of your close, personal friends in following @NCBAorg on Twitter.
Vaddrick Parker assumed the duties of director of continuing legal education for the North Carolina Bar Association over the summer and quickly realized that the NCBA is blessed with a wonderful group of passionate and engaging individuals.

“This is true for our staff, members and volunteers,” Parker said. “There is a renewed focus on driving member value which, in a really good way, is prompting everyone to think in different, more innovative ways. There is an atmosphere of excitement and anticipation; albeit, with the occasional small level of optimistic apprehension generally indicative of change.

“I’m eager to see what we can all accomplish together.”

Parker has established three fundamental goals that encapsulate his vision for the CLE Department.

“The first goal is inward facing and involves staff development and creating the right internal culture within the department to drive long-term sustained success,” Parker said. “The second goal is outward facing and involves enhancing the CLE brand and user experience from our members’ perspective.

“The third and final goal is economic in nature and involves operating and managing our various CLE offerings as distinct products under the CLE umbrella to allow for more innovative and strategic decision making.

“Properly executed, the expected outcome is a great user experience marked by the delivery of high quality content delivered at the right time in the right format.”

Parker came to the N.C. Bar Center from EDM Americas in Raleigh, where he has served as general counsel, chief compliance officer and corporate secretary. He graduated with honors from North Carolina Central University School of Law in 2004 and has been an NCBA member ever since.

Parker is also a member of the Corporate Counsel and Business Law sections and presently serves on the Corporate Counsel Section Council.

A native of Halifax County, he received his bachelor’s degree from East Carolina University and holds an MBA from Arizona State University’s W. P. Carey School of Business. He is a veteran of the U.S. Air Force.

“We are pleased to announce the addition of Vaddrick Parker to our staff,” said Executive Director Jason Hensley at the time of his appointment. “He brings a wealth of experience and knowledge to this organization that will be a tremendous asset to NCBA members and others who utilize our outstanding CLE programming.”

Prior to joining EDM Americas in 2013, Parker practiced corporate law in Durham with his own firm and with the firms of Walker, Lambe, Rhudy & Costley and Hollowell, Mitchell, Eyster & Warner. He was honored in 2015 as a recipient of the Triangle Business Journal’s Corporate Counsel of the Year Award.
Recognition

Martin L. Brackett Jr. of Robinson Bradshaw in Charlotte has been appointed to the board of directors of the North Carolina Railroad, which owns and manages the 317-mile rail corridor that stretches from Charlotte to the coast. He is a member of the Dispute Resolution and Litigation Sections and the Senior Lawyers Division.

J. Anthony (Andy) Penry of Penry Riemann in Raleigh served on the member’s consultative group in The American Law Institute’s drafting of the Restatement of the Law, Liability Insurance. He is a member of the Construction Law and Litigation Sections.

Robert J. Ramseur Jr. of Ragsdale Liggett in Raleigh and Anna Gregory Wagoner of Blanco Tackabery & Matamoros in Winston-Salem have been elected chair and vice chair, respectively, of the N.C. Real Estate Commission. Both are longtime members of the NCBA Real Property Section.

Brandon A. Robinson of Durham has been elected to a two-year term as chairman of the Western Carolina University Board of Visitors. The solo practitioner has been a member of the board since its inception in 2014 and will serve as chair through 2019. Robinson is a member of the Young Lawyers Division.

Bob Walsh, professor and dean emeritus of the Wake Forest University School of Law, has been selected as this year’s recipient of the A. Sherman Christensen Award by the American Inns of Court. The award is presented to a member who at the local, state or national level has provided distinguished and significant leadership to the American Inns of Court. He is a member of the Litigation Section and Senior Lawyers Division.

Acclaim For NCBA CLE Publication ‘How To Try Your Case Like a Professional’

Congratulations to NCBA member Christopher Parrish and NCBA CLE Publications Coordinator Laura Bonfiglio for nabbing an ACLEA Outstanding Achievement in Publications award with the book “How to Try Your Case Like a Professional: Tips & Procedures for the ‘Relatively’ New Trial Lawyer.” The Association for Continuing Legal Education honored their efforts on the book, authored by Parrish and edited by Bonfiglio, at its annual conference this summer. The book aims to help litigators get familiar with the procedures and expectations of a real-world courtroom. Parrish, an Assistant District Attorney in Guilford County, North Carolina, presents a balanced perspective that makes his book a great resource for both plaintiffs’ and defendants’ counsel.
In Memoriam

In Memoriam is a regular feature devoted to recently deceased NCBA members. Listings include the age, residence, law school and graduation year. To submit notices, call 919.657.1558 or email rrawlings@ncbar.org.

John M. Bahner Jr.
72 | Albemarle | Valparaiso ’74

Gerald Lane Bass
83 | Raleigh | UNC ’62

Donna Elaine Bennick
58 | Chapel Hill | UNC ’84

Howard Chalk Broughton
87 | Southern Pines | UNC ’58

Andrew Cookson
49 | Raleigh | NCCU ’03

William Andrew Copenhaver
70 | Winston-Salem | UNC ’72

Ferd Leary Davis Jr.
75 | Wendell | Wake ’67

Darl Leonard Fowler
83 | Greensboro | UNC ’64

A. Holt Gwyn
68 | Greensboro | Wake ’76

Edward Shelton Holmes
87 | Chapel Hill | UNC ’58

Judge James Monroe Long
80 | Blanch | UNC ’63

James “Jim” Almond Merritt Jr.
60 | Raleigh | S. Carolina ’82

Frederick Luke Musselwhite
78 | Lumberton | Wake ’63

Haywood Vernon Norwood Jr.
78 | Charlotte | UNC ’64

Judge William Douglas Parsons
66 | Clinton | Wake ’75

Donald “Don” Perry
77 | Indian Trail | Wake ’64

Judge James Dickson Phillips Jr.
94 | Chapel Hill | UNC ’48

Craig A. Slagle
41 | Pinehurst | Campbell ’05

Karl Straus
96 | Asheville | NYU ’50

Henry Monroe Whitesides
88 | Gastonia | UNC ’57

Jamie A. Wilkerson
37 | Warrenton | NCCU ’11

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In Memoriam

We are very pleased to announce:

the selection of
Matthew D. Ballew
John R. Taylor
as Partners in the Firm

the addition of
Charles K. Mc Cotter, Jr.
George Podgorny, Jr.
as Of Counsel with the Firm

Our expanded team at Zaytoun Law Firm looks forward to representing clients in state and federal courts in complex civil litigation matters. Mr. Mc Cotter, former U.S. Magistrate Judge, brings considerable expertise in maritime and condemnation litigation to our firm and Mr. Podgorny has 25 years of significant experience in litigating catastrophic injury cases. We welcome referrals and association in the following areas:

- Boating and Maritime Accidents
- Land Condemnation and Eminent Domain
- Catastrophic Personal Injury and Medical Malpractice
- Representation of Physician and Dental Professionals in Board Licensure, Governmental and Insurer Regulatory Investigations, Complex Business Litigation and Non-Compete Disputes

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Want to purchase minerals and other oil/gas interests. Send details to: P.O. Box 13557, Denver, Colorado 80201.

Florida Ancillary Estates—Elaine Dawkins Humphreys, a Florida and North Carolina attorney, is available to open and administer ancillary estates in Florida in conjunction with your clients’ N.C. estates that have Florida assets. Elaine Humphreys, Humphreys Law, P.A., West Palm Beach, FL; (561) 303-9021; ehumphreys@humphreyspa.com.

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