

COMMENTS FROM THE PRESIDENT



Congratulations to our President-elect, Judge Patrice Hinnant, for the truly outstanding job she did on our annual seminar last month. For those who missed it, we started off with a stirring presentation by Hank Vanhoy, a former President of the North Carolina Bar Association, entitled "Professionalism: A Unique Opportunity". His timely remarks were followed by a panel discussion on Professionalism moderated by Judge Robby Hassell and included retired

Federal District Court Judge Frank Bullock, Judge Catherine Eagles, Senior Resident Superior Court Judge, Elaine Ashley, Lonnie Albright, Bob Douglas, Locke Clifford, Moshera Mills and Jan Pritchett. The professionalism portion of the seminar was wrapped up with Steve Crihfield's report on the Professionalism Support Initiative that has been implemented by Jeri Whitfield, President of the 18th Judicial District Bar. Under this program, any lawyer or judge who has a "professionalism" issue with any member of our Bar may contact Steve, so that he and members of his committee can discuss the appropriate issues with the attorney or judge, as the case may be, so that unprofessional conduct or actions are hopefully eliminated from the practice here in Greensboro. **All communications in this program are entirely confidential** so that no lawyer or judge is embarrassed. The seminar concluded with a second panel on Immigration Law presented by Laura Burton, David Long and Jeremy McKinney, which was most interesting and informative.

At my request, Judge Eagles, Chief District Court Judge Joe Turner, 18th Judicial District Prosecutor Doug Henderson, and Public Defender Wally Harrelson presented an informative report regarding the under funding of our Court system by our legislature. For more details, please see Judge Eagles' point paper which is enclosed. I was alarmed that our Courts receive **less than 2% of the annual budget**, with much of it being micro managed by the legislature. In my humble opinion, that is not fair for an equal branch of our government. I urge each of you to contact our elected representative, including our own, Sen. Kay Hagan [Kayh@ncleg.net] and Rep. John Blust [Johnbl@neleg.net], and urge them to work for adequate funding the Court system at no less than 3% of the annual budget and allow the Administrative Office of the Court to decide where the money is needed and for what. You may contact our elected representatives at Legislative Bldg., 16 West Jones Street, Raleigh, NC 27601 or go to the N. C. General Assembly website to get the specific email address you want.

This month a panel of Judges of the North Carolina Court of Appeals will hold a session at Elon University's School of Law

on **Thursday, March 15, 2007**. The panel will include Chief Judge John Martin, our own Judge Rick Elmore, Judge Linda M. McGee, and Judge Linda Stephens. This event was initiated at the suggestion of Judge Elmore, followed by a kind invitation from the site host, Dean Leary Davis and approval by Chief Judge Martin and Chief Justice Sarah Parker. The Judges and their accompanying Clerks will be our guests at the Young Lawyers Division luncheon that will be held that same day and will be the monthly meeting of our Association. This visit by the Court will allow us to observe the Court in action. I trust that you will join me in extending a warm welcome to Chief Judge Martin, Judges Elmore, McGee and Stephens and their clerks and staff to Greensboro.

Bill Hoyle
President

GBA/YLS ANNUAL JOINT LUNCHEON: Thursday, March 15th

The **Annual Joint Luncheon between the Greensboro Bar Association and the Young Lawyers Section** will be held on **Thursday, March 15 at 12:30** at the Empire Room. The speaker will be **Roy Carroll** of The Carroll Companies.

Reservations must be made no later than noon Monday, March 12, 2007. You can make reservations by contacting Chris Gumbiner at 378-0300 or emailing her at greensborobar@bellsouth.net. Guests are welcome with a paid reservation of \$30.00. Members who desire a vegetarian meal must inform Chris when they make their reservations.

Please be aware that the Bar is charged for the cost of the meal for each reservation. Please provide your reservations on time and then show up for the meeting.

FOUNDATION GRANTS TO BE AWARDED

The Greensboro Bar Association Foundation is authorized to award 5% of its capital fund in grants to organizations for the promotion of charitable, educational, scientific and other eleemosynary purposes. The organizations do not need to be "legal" in nature. The amount to be awarded this year is approximately \$ 7500, which will probably be divided among several organizations. The Grants Review Committee is still accepting grant requests, and will be meeting in mid-March to decide the allocation of these funds. If you know of a worthwhile organization that qualifies for such a grant, ask them to submit a request. There is no form to use; they write a letter detailing the scope of the project and how the funds will be used. Have them mail requests to Desmond Sheridan, P. O. Box 1888, Greensboro, NC 27401 before March 10.

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COMMITTEE CHAIRS

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Law Day	Rebecca Niburg	209-1998	Rebecca.Niburg@usdoj.gov
May Picnic	Charles W. Saunders	378-4009	charles.saunders@wachovia.com
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	Kimberly B. Gatling	324-3443	Kim.Gatling@Smithmoorelaw.com
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Website	H. Arthur MacCord, Jr.	273-4422	amaccord@maccordmason.com

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Chair, Family Law Section	Jeffrey Berman	691-0054	
Chair, Real Property Section	Jeff Hrdlicka	665-1314	jeff.hrdlicka@ctt.com
Chair, Alternative Dispute Resolution Section	William L. Daisy	852-3153	thflower@triad.rr.com
Chair, Business Law Section	C. Collins Pickup	378-5459	collins.pickup@smithmoorelaw.com
	Robert Kidwell	378-5483	rob.kidwell@smithmoorelaw.com



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SWEARING IN CEREMONY

Polly Sizemore will be sworn in as a District Court Judge on Friday, March 30, 2007 at 3:00 p.m. in Courtroom 4-C.

The swearing in ceremony will be followed by a reception hosted by Hill Evans Jordan & Beatty in the Jury Assembly Room.

All attorneys are invited to attend.

18TH JUDICIAL DISTRICT ADOPTS PROFESSIONALISM SUPPORT INITIATIVE

The 18th Judicial District has adopted a Professionalism Support Initiative through the auspices of the Chief Justice's Commission on Professionalism.

The Professionalism Support Initiative (PSI) is an informal voluntary local lawyer and judge assistance program handling client-lawyer, lawyer-lawyer and lawyer-judge issues. The purpose of the PSI is to support professionalism and bolster public confidence in the legal profession. PSI uses local volunteer peers to communicate privately and informally with lawyers and judges that have complaints registered against them. The PSI offers counsel and assistance to lawyers and judges who receive complaints from the NC State Bar, the Judicial Standards Commission, or through local bar associations that may not rise to level of ethics or professional responsibility violations. The PSI is comprised of volunteers from our judicial district who seek to enhance professionalism by confidential positive peer influence. If you need more information or would like to bring a matter of this sort to the attention of the PSI committee contact Steve Crihfield at 378-0580

UPCOMING GREENSBORO BAR MEETING DATES

March 15

Young Lawyers-sponsored Luncheon

April 19

Annual Meeting

May 17

Picnic

YOUNG LAWYERS' CORNER

March will be a busy month for the Young Lawyers Section. Thursday, March 15 is the annual joint luncheon between the Young Lawyers Section and the full Greensboro Bar Association. The lunch will start at 12:30pm at the Empire Room, in downtown Greensboro. The guest speaker is Roy Carroll, who is the developer responsible for renovating the former Wachovia Building on Elm Street (now known as CenterPointe). Please come and hear about the progress on CenterPointe, as well as how this building fits into the broader revitalization of downtown.

Ask-a-Lawyer day is scheduled for the afternoon of Saturday, March 24. This is an annual event where members of the Young Lawyers Section provide free legal information to the general public. Come and share your knowledge with people who need help. Questions frequently involve issues relating to family law, contracts, estate administration and small businesses – but you never know what someone might ask about (that's part of the fun). Also, don't be afraid to come just because you don't practice in any of the mentioned practice areas – there will be other lawyers there who do practice in those areas who can help, and you'll be surprised at how much you remember from your Bar Exam days. The location for this event is not yet determined, but it will be in Greensboro at a place with significant foot traffic, hopefully one of the major shopping centers. We need volunteers. Please take one hour of your time to make this event a success. Contact Shawn Troxler (stroxler@hillevans.com) if you would like to volunteer.

Finally, the Young Lawyers Section will host a panel discussion at Elon Law School on Tuesday, March 27 about how to make the most of summer job experiences. Let me know if you would be interested in participating on this panel (ahaile@brookspierce.com).

Andy Haile
Chair
373-8850

BarCARES Works For You

The 18th Judicial District has contracted with Carolina Psychological Associates, PA to provide the BarCARES program for all lawyers in the 18th Judicial District. This program is a no cost way to help you locate resources to deal with the stressors in your life. Three, free, absolutely CONFIDENTIAL sessions are provided to Bar members under this program. Immediate family members of the Greensboro Bar Association can also access this program as part of a supplemental benefit provided by the Greensboro Bar Association for family members. Whether you are suffering from stress, depression, a career crisis, family problems, or other situations, which negatively impact your professional activities, the BarCARES program can help you retake control of your life. Carolina Psychological Associates, PA, is located at 806 Green Valley Road, Suite 310, Greensboro, NC 27408. You can contact them at 272-0855.

NORTH CAROLINA STATE BAR

OUR COURT SYSTEM

FRIENDS

FRIENDS is a program to assist lawyers who suffer from depression and other emotional/psychological conditions. This group meets in Greensboro on the first Friday of each month. You can contact FRIENDS in any of the following ways: call Ed Ward at 1-877-627-3743; e-mail him at eward@ncbar.com; write to Ed Ward, Director, FRIENDS Program, PO Box 25908, Raleigh, NC 26711; or visit the web site at: http://www.ncbar.com/home/friends_volunteers.asp.

PALS

PALS is a North Carolina State Bar Association program offering assistance to lawyers suffering from alcoholism, substance abuse, or other chemical dependencies. You can contact PALS in any of the following ways: call: 1-800-720-PALS; e-mail: nclap@bellsouth.net; write to Don Carroll, Director, PO Box 1146, Davidson, NC 28036; or visit the PALS website at <http://www.ncbar.org>. You can learn about volunteering for this program at: http://www.ncbar.com/home/pal_volunteers.asp.



REPLAY OF ETHICS CLE OFFERED

March 22, 2007

12:00 p.m. to 1:00 p.m.

Video replay of Rick Coughlin's February 8, 2007 program entitled, "Ethics for Lawyers in Private Practice." The fee is \$10.00. This program is approved by the N.C. State Bar for 1.0 hour of Ethics CLE credit. Please call Wendy Cates at 378-5432 to register.

Immigration Paralegal (GSO Law Firm)

Immigration Law Firm seeks paralegal to assist with family-based immigration, employment-based immigration, consular processing (visas, etc.), asylum, deportation defense, immigration reform. Be a part of a respected, energetic firm, where your influence really counts. Duties include research, initial drafting duties, case prep., direct coordination with clients, correspondence, etc. Candidate will have significant amount of independent responsibility and extensive client contact.

Qualifications: Ability to multi-task in a fast-paced environment; strong work ethic; prefer Spanish skills and/or international or immigration background; strong organizational, writing, communication skills; detail oriented; computer proficiency. Paralegal cert. or Bachelor's (any field) preferred but not required. M-F, 8:30 am to 5:30 pm; competitive salary and benefits incl. health/dental/401K. Resume, brief writing sample, transcripts to sandycook@chapman-immig.com or PO Box 1477, Greensboro, NC 27402.

Just in case you were unable to attend the dinner following the annual GBA seminar here are a few facts presented by Judge Catherine Eagles.

As North Carolina's population has increased, the case load of our Court System has increased at a disproportionately higher rate. Between 1980 and 2002, when the population of North Carolina increased by 41%, filings in our state courts increased by 94%. This has caused ever increasing demands upon the Court System. This trend will continue as North Carolina continues to grow.

Since 1970 when the Greensboro Courthouse was under construction, Guilford County's population has grown by over 50%. Since 1990 when the High Point Courthouse was under construction, the county population has grown over 25%. In 2004, 779,393 persons passed through security in the Greensboro Courthouse, an average of 3000 per day; the High Point Courthouse has an average of about 1200 people per day going through security. [Source: Guilford County Criminal Justice Master Plan Courts Report, October 2005]. The last new Superior Court Judge was elected in 1988, almost 20 years ago.

Total Cases filed in Guilford County:	1987/88 – 146,769
	2005/06 – 186,642

On average, sixty to one hundred jurors report to the Greensboro Courthouse four days a week. Around fifty jurors report to High Point approximately 2 days a week.

In addition to Superior and District Court, Clerk's hearings, and small claims, the Greensboro and High Point Courthouses are used regularly by the Industrial Commission and Administrative Law Judges to hear cases involving Guilford County residents.

In Fiscal year 2006, the Clerk of Court collected **\$3,830,091.16** for distribution to county and city governments, including \$2.5 million to the School Board.

The Judicial System's budget as a percentage of the entire State Budget has been going down steadily over the past ten years. For several years early this decade, the actual amount budgeted for the courts went down, while caseloads went up.

The computer system used for the state's criminal court records and to produce judgments is TWENTY YEARS OLD. The telephone system in the Greensboro Courthouse is as old as the courthouse. There are no scanners in the Guilford County Courthouse. The Clerk expects to get two scanners soon to replace our aging microfiche system.

North Carolina's judges work hard. Statewide, our judges dispose of more cases than judges in neighboring jurisdictions. However, their effectiveness cannot be measured by disposition rates and raw statistics alone; this would demean the responsibility that our Constitutions place in their hands to consider each case separately and with due regard for the rights and liberties of the parties involved.

UPCOMING MEETINGS

REAL PROPERTY SECTION

The next Real Property Section Meeting of the Greensboro Bar is scheduled for Thursday, March 22, 2007 at the Cultural Arts Center, UAC Board Room. Cocktail hour starts at 6:00 p.m. and dinner starts at 6:30 p.m. Our speaker will be Kim Gallimore. Mr. Gallimore is currently the Chair of the Real Property Section of the Bar Association.

LUNCH and LEARN

Nexsen Pruet Adams Kleemeier, PLLC invites paralegals and attorneys to attend monthly "LUNCH AND LEARN" sessions held in their offices at 701 Green Valley Road, Suite 100, Greensboro, NC. The sessions, which begin at noon, should conclude at approximately 1:00 p.m. The cost is \$10.00 per session and lunch is included.

The LUNCH AND LEARN session will be held on **Thursday, March 8, 2007**. The topic will be Multi-district litigation presented by Business Litigation Group; Val Stieglitz, coordinator. If you are interested in attending, please contact Stephanie Kutterer at 387-5238.

Guilford Paralegal Association ~A Professional Association and Affiliate of the North Carolina Paralegal Association ~

GPA will meet at the new Elon University Law School in downtown Greensboro on March 13th. The meeting topic will be "Financial Preparedness for Responsible Individuals" with Barbara Shyloski a Chartered Financial Analyst. Details about this meeting are available on our website: www.guilfordparalegalassociation.org.

The April 10th meeting, also at Elon University Law School will be with Frank Forde, a real estate paralegal at Carruthers & Roth, P.A. presenting on "Surveys & Legal Descriptions".

Guilford Paralegal Association (GPA), an NCPA affiliate, will sponsor a full-day continuing education seminar on Saturday, May 5, 2007 at the Hilton Garden Inn on Big Tree Way in Greensboro. GPA is seeking approval for 6 hours of NCCP credits for this seminar. Registration information, speaker details and credit approval will be listed on our website: www.guilfordparalegalassociation.org.

LAWYERS 12 STEP MEETING

The Alexander Meeting under the Lawyers Assistance Program will be held on the **second Tuesday** of each month at 12:30 p.m. at the West Market Street United Methodist Church, corner of Commerce Place and W. Friendly Avenue. (Room number will be posted on Commerce Place entrance. The Lawyers Assistance Program is lawyers CONFIDENTIALLY helping lawyers to a better way of living.

For more information, call Edmund F. Ward, 1-877-627-3743.

NOTICES

COURTHOUSE ID BADGES

The Guilford County Security Department would like to make you aware of a few items that will improve service and enhance security of our courthouses:

Effective February 1st, attorneys practicing in Guilford County may renew their ID for two years instead of one. The renewal fees are still \$10 per year.

In the Greensboro courthouse, ID badges may be updated or issued in Room LG-17 between 8:30 and 12:00 and from 1:30 to 4:00 on business days. We have some ID services in High Point as well. Contact 845-6932 for information.

Please make every effort to retrieve ID's from your associates when they leave employment. If an ID is lost or stolen, call 641-7695 right away. If you have any old ID's, please turn them in to room LG-17. We may decline to issue ID's to agencies who fail to account for them or for repeated losses.

Please remember that ID's cannot be loaned to any other person, nor is it permissible to escort another person in under your ID. ID transactions are subject to video monitoring by CCTV and other means.

The point of contact for ID badges is Shmeka McEachan in the Security Department. Shmeka can be reached at 641-7695. The Security Director is Jeff Fowler at 641-6535.

OFFICE SPACE AVAILABLE 221 Commerce Place

Share office space in 2,100 square foot suite; two to three offices available within suite. Suite includes library and break areas; close proximity to kitchen and bathrooms. Parking, utilities and cleaning service are included in rent. Lease availability is from March 2007 through August 2009. Call for information, 691-1044.

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**Visit and Contribute to your
Greensboro Bar Website!**

The Greensboro Bar website has two main pages. One is an internal page for member-specific information and activities. The other is intended to be available and accessed by the public, so they can learn about the Greensboro Bar Association and legal issues in Greensboro.

The public page is available at www.greensborobar.org. Currently, it has information about the Greensboro Bar Association, links from the Court including the 18th Judicial District Case Management Rules, and an Affidavit of Worthless Checks Acceptor, and the like. One of the purposes of the public page is to enable members to post articles of interest to the Greensboro public (not advertisements) to help fulfill the public service and public information goals of the association. Please consider if you have articles or the like that meets that criteria and submit them to me at amaccord@maccordmason.com.

Member pages are accessible at www.greensborobar.org/internal. There are no links from the public page to the internal page – you need to type in the URL to get there, or save it in your browser favorites. Your member page includes meetings, calendars, newsletters (current and archived), committee information and the like. If you have information or articles that you think would be of interest to other Greensboro Bar Association members, please e-mail them to me.



Dean Leary Davis
and the
School of Law Faculty

Invite you to Thursday Afternoon Tea.

Please make note of the following dates:

<u>Date</u>	Superior Court <u>Judge of the Week</u>
March 1	Judge Lindsay Davis
March 8	Judge Stuart Albright
March 15	Judge Lindsay Davis
March 29	Judge John O. Craig, III
April 5	Judge Douglas Albright
April 19	Judge Catherine Eagles
April 26	Judge John O. Craig, III

4:00-5:00 pm
Cemala Commons

201 North Greene Street
Greensboro, North Carolina, 27401

DATES TO REMEMBER:

March, 2007

12	GBA Board Meeting	4:00 PM	Self-Help Building, Rm M-1
15	GBA/YLS Joint Luncheon	12:30 PM	Empire Room
16	Newsletter deadline	5:00 PM	harriett.smalls@smithmoorelaw.com
20	Family Law Section	7:30 PM	Tex & Shirley's
22	Real Property Section	6:00 PM	Cultural Arts Center
24	YLS Ask-a-Lawyer Day	12:30 PM	Location TBD
27	ADR Section Meeting	7:30 AM	Friendly Center
27	YLS Panel Discussion For Elon Law Students	TBD	Elon Law School

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