

WAKE BAR Flyer

Wake County Bar Association
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December 2011

Message From The President

Christie Speir Roeder



What Happened This Year in Your Bar (Part 2)

We live and work with an incredible group of attorneys in Wake County, and I cannot thank you enough for the opportunity to have led you this year. Simply put, it was a humbling privilege. In the November column I began my thanks and my review of the work of the various committees, and I will continue to share both in this column. The work of the many people who contribute their time, intellect, and resources to our Bars is astounding. Collectively, they make our Bars truly the best in the nation. It is not simply a prideful assessment.

Our Athletics Committee chaired by Will Webb involves several hundred members in tennis, basketball, golf and bowling activities. The camaraderie found in the competitions, the chances to meet your fellow bar members, and the outlets for physical activity make this committee an integral part of our organization. Many individuals, including the work of Gabe

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2012 WCBA Luncheon Meetings



Please mark these upcoming dates on your calendar. Except when otherwise noted, the buffet lines open at 12:15 p.m., and meeting begins promptly at 12:45 p.m. We hope to see you at each meeting!

Jan. 10	Woman's Club (Second Tuesday)
Feb. 7	Woman's Club
March 6	Woman's Club
April 3	Woman's Club
May 1	Mordecai Park
June 5	Woman's Club
July 10	North Raleigh Hilton (Second Tuesday)
August	No Meeting
September	No Meeting
Oct. 2	North Raleigh Hilton
Nov. 6	Woman's Club
Dec. 4	North Raleigh Hilton

December Meeting

The December meeting of the Wake County Bar Association will be held on Dec. 6, 2011 at the North Raleigh Hilton, 3415 Wake Forest Road in Raleigh. Lunch will be served at 12:15 p.m., and the meeting will begin at 12:45.

Tom Ross Named as Keynote Speaker Tenth JD Bar Annual Meeting Luncheon on Dec. 6 We are excited to announce that newly elected president of the University of North Carolina, Thomas W. Ross, is the keynote speaker for our December 6 luncheon, beginning at 12:15 p.m. on Tuesday, December 6 at the North Raleigh Hilton (3415 Wake Forest Road). This luncheon serves as the annual meeting of the Tenth Judicial District Bar.

Ross is a former North Carolina Superior Court judge and foundation executive who most recently served as president of Davidson College.

Traditionally, elections have taken place at this meeting; please see item below about the final voting opportunities before the annual meeting.

Remember to Vote!

Your last voting opportunities before the Annual Meeting are at the Wake County Courthouse (10 a.m.–2 p.m.) and the WCBA Offices at the NC Bar Center (9 a.m.–5 p.m.) on Monday, Dec. 5

Please Note!

DEADLINE January Issue December 15, 2011

Please Note: If materials are received after the deadline, they may be published in a subsequent issue of the Wake Bar Flyer.

Send news and articles to:

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PET LABS and the PEPlab – It's All About Feeling Good

By Bettie Kelley Sousa – Smith Debnam
Chair, Lawyers Support Committee

If you recall my article a year or so ago about positive psychology, you will appreciate my excitement when I discovered that there is a great project going on right in our own backyard, the Positive Emotions And Psychophysiology Lab UNC-CH ("PEPlab"). It was a link on my UNC alumni email newsletter, *Out of the Blue*, because Barbara L. Fredrickson, Ph.D., head of the PEPlab, is the December commencement speaker.

This is what I've been saying! Dr. Fredrickson has confirmed it with research reported in her book, *Positivity*. We have the ability to put a positive spin on our emotions. We can't stop the bad stuff from happening, but we can alter how it affects us. Being in good spirits can improve our odds of being in good health. That whole mental outlook thing isn't a myth, there's proof! Take a look at the smiling faces of her researchers and at the below blurb about her book:

World-renowned researcher Dr. Barbara Fredrickson gives you the lab-tested tools necessary to create a healthier, more vibrant, and flourishing life. She discovered that experiencing positive emotions in a 3-to-1 ratio with negative ones leads people to a tipping point beyond which they naturally become more resilient to adversity and effortlessly achieve what they once could only imagine. With Positivity, you'll learn to see new possibilities, bounce back from setbacks, connect with others, and become the best version of yourself.

Here's the link to the website, <http://www.unc.edu/peplab>. I suggest you put on some of your favorite music, relax and take the two-minute test to see just how bad of a funk you're in these days. (I started to take it this morning, but decided I'll wait until I have a better day-before.)

I'm buying the book now. I can't wait to have a "healthier, more vibrant and flourishing life!" How about you?

BarCARES

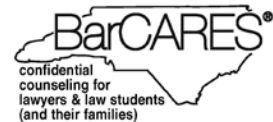
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- ♦ Attorney Performance Evaluations
- ♦ Professional Financial Concerns

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Message From The President *continued from page 1*

Jimenez and Ben Brown on the golf tournament, are worthy of our combined thanks.

The Bench Bar committee which has been chaired with professionalism by Richard Boyette led us in one of our first breakfast sessions this year about courtroom collegiality in which several of our judges participated. The discussion was robust, and we were again reminded of how fortunate we are to have the communication and participation in our Bars by our judges.

Bettie Sousa has done a remarkable job chairing the Lawyer Support committee over the last year. She not only has written many articles on this issue for the *Bar Flyer*, but also she and her committee have written notes of support to our members who have lost loved ones or experienced other tough times during the year. Plus, the committee has been instrumental in several of the CLEs we planned this year in response to the effects on our members of the economic crisis. Finally, this committee prepared well-received programs for two of this year's breakfast discussions. They worked exceptionally hard, and members have been directly helped by their efforts.


The Membership Services Committee chaired by Bo McDonald looked at new categories of membership and reviewed many new possibilities for increased services to our members. This committee, with the assistance of our new Executive Director and our Presidents-elect, has really stretched in terms of ways we can better serve our members, and there promises to be new directions developed over the next several years.

The Nominations Committee, chaired by our immediate Past President Nan Hannah, not only found their way through new Bylaws which meant an unusual number of candidates for our regular elections and a new elections system, but they also sponsored deserving members into many state bar nominations processes. From Wake County, we had Robert McMillan win the John McMillan award, Fred Toms inducted into the General Practice Hall of Fame,

and Chief Justice Sarah Parker selected as one of the five women inducted into the Women's Hall of Fame.

The Public Service Committee co-chaired by Carrie Barbee and Michelle Cofield, provided us with another banner year of public service projects. The Rule of Law program, the Lunch with a Lawyer program, Blood Drives, Teen Court, 4ALL and Komen Race were a few of the many projects that they supported. The committee also began planning a Public Service Award to be given by the Bar each year. Finally, this busy committee presented at one of the breakfast discussions this year sharing ways that members could accomplish the Rule 6.1 goal set by the State Bar.

The Social Committee, chaired by Judge Jennifer Green, organized four major events for the Association and looked at more ways to help our members interact in more relaxed settings. Events included the Members Only Oyster Roast, the Family Picnic, the summer After-Work Socials and the Holiday Party to be held on December 2. It takes a lot of coordination and effort to have these fun and worthwhile events, and we are very appreciative of their tremendous efforts!

For space reasons, I will stop and simply note that I have not discussed all the committees and everything this remarkable bar has accomplished this year. What Bars! What professionals! What an honor! Thank you! 

Bits 'n' Pieces

Ashley Matlock Perkinson, principal of Perkinson Law Firm, has been elected to the North Carolina Symphony Society Board of Trustees. Ashley represents various statewide clients and provides services in the areas of nonprofit consulting, media law, education law, lobbying and government relations.

Ashley is also an active member of the North Carolina Symphony Players Society. She is a dedicated advocate for the arts, children and social enterprise. Perkinson is frequently recruited as an expert speaker, and she is an instructor for the Duke University Nonprofit Management Certificate program. Her experience in the nonprofit and business sectors goes far beyond her client work and is exhibited through extensive volunteer commitments and civic leadership.

Need to Reach Us? Here's How

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New Members of the U.S. Supreme Court Bar

By Lauren Reeves, Swearing-in Committee

Fifteen members of the Wake County Bar Association, their guests and members of the Swearing-in Ceremony Committee and WCBA staff attended the November 14 session of the United States Supreme Court for the purpose of admitting new members to the Bar of that august body.

The evening before the ceremony, the WCBA hosted a reception in the heart of Union Station at B. Smith's to honor the applicants and celebrate the momentous occasion before the ceremony the next morning.

On the morning of the ceremony, at precisely 10 a.m., Chief Justice John G. Roberts presided and past WCBA President E. D. Gaskins moved the admission of Jeffrey Dana Bradford, Kathleen Anne Cavanagh, Cary Elizabeth Close, James Alan Crouch, James McKinley Hash, Frank Caldwell Laney, Pamela Wachter McAfee, Mary M. Markovitch, Jerry Talmadge Myers, WCBA President Christie Speir Roeder, Christina McAlpin Taylor, Vanessa Noel Totten, William Hardy Weatherspoon, Jr., Elizabeth Weddington Voltz and Catherine Elizabeth Lee. Thankfully, the Chief Justice saw no reason to deny Mr. Gaskin's motion.

After the ceremony, the group had the special privilege of meeting privately with General William Suter, the Clerk of the United States Supreme Court, who shared his insight and behind the scenes view of the Court. He shared insight about the Justices' views of a well written brief, and of sound, and simply stated oral argument. General Suter advised the best arguments were based on three tenets, "preparation, preparation, preparation!" He discussed the existence and importance of camaraderie among the Justices.

Justices Scalia, Ginsberg and Sotomayor were kind enough to drop in and visit briefly with our group at a post-court reception. Justice Scalia was good humored and congratulated the group of new admittees. Justice Scalia told the group he often spends time at his house in Corolla on the Outer Banks. Showing a sense of humor in a whimsical manner, he remarked the Justices are not quite as nice to counsel during an argument as when first sworn in to

the Court. Justice Ginsberg arrived, dressed to the nines. She expressed her well wishes to the group, and commented on her fond experience at the Umstead in Cary. Justice Sotomayor stayed to talk to and take questions from the group. She explained the burden of knowing the Justices' opinions were final, but joked she "thankfully [is] not indecisive, because you can't be a judge if you're indecisive." Justice Sotomayor posed for pictures and warmly invited the group to return to the Court to watch an argument.

Afterward, the group returned to the courtroom for a lecture on the operations, history and architecture of the Court. The docent included such details as the marble materials used in the building and an overview of the figures on the friezes. She spoke of President Taft, who had always wanted to be the Chief of the Supreme Court. Taft initially served as President of the United States to please his wife and then was appointed to the Supreme Court. While he was serving as President, he arranged for the funds to build the existing building for the U.S. Supreme Court, which previously had no home of its own. We wish to extend our personal thanks and appreciation to Debbie Hildebrand-Bachofen, Christina McAlpin Taylor and Lauren V. Reeves, co-chairs, and to Whitney von Haam, Executive Director at the WCBA, John Moye, Bryan Brice, and Ryan Shurman for their efforts in organizing the event. Their labors made for a seamless and exciting trip for all involved.

Look for the next opportunity to experience the grandeur and thrills associated with admission before the Court with fellow members of the WCBA in 2013.



General William Suter, Clerk of the United States Supreme Court joined members of the Wake County Bar Association to celebrate the swearing in of 15 new members of the Court.

Welcome New WCBA Members

Christopher James Anglin
Justin R. Apple
Mary Asbill
Imogen Jayne Baxter
Christopher Lee Beacham
Karen S. Boardman
David W. Boone
Melissa Bowers
Catherine Elizabeth Bragg
Kelly Ann Brewer
Robert Thurston Broughton
Erin Lee Brown
Christopher Patrick Farris Brown
Philip Zoltan Brown
Lynn C. Bruce
Andrew Richard Bruch
Prateek Chandak
Lori G. Christian
Ryan William Coffield
Michelle Connell
David Shay Corbett, II
William Ezekiel H. Creech
Nehmath Douglass
Mary P. Easley
Jena Edelman
Peter Ellis
Edward Enarson
Kristen Fetter
Alisa Mary Garvey
Stephanie O. Gearhart
Maria Denisse Gonzalez
Amy Micheala Goodman
Thomasina V. Gore
Elizabeth Graham
Kristen Smith Greene
Paul Jason Griffin
Julie Faenza Halatek
Carrie Elizabeth Hall
Wendelyn Harris
Douglas Blown Heath
William Merritt Hedrick
Joshua Higgin
Aleece M. Hiller
Jennifer Lee Edwards Hoverstad
Leah E. Hutton
Evia Laverne Jordan

Robert Julius Lane, III
Kimberly Joyce Lehman
Jeremy Ryan Leonard
Hans Christian Linnartz
James Prescott Little
Paula Kathleen McGrann
Jess Daniel Mekeel
Lauren Elizabeth Miller
Lauren A. Miller
Samuel Earl Mills
William Fuller Moss
George Nickel
Ann Catherine Ochsner
Kevin Michael O'Brien
Garbrielle D. Phillips
Lori McDowell Price
Justin Puleo
Casey Rego
Natalie Marie Rice
David Adam Robinson
Ayana D. Robinson
Stephanie Nicole Robinson
Chilton Rogers
Kathryn Shields
Kimberly Woodell Sieredzki
Samuel Allen Slater
Katrina Louise Smith
Elesha M. Smith
Bridget Smith
David Davis Smyth
Whitney Sorrell
Alka Srivastava
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Jennifer Nichole Stevens
Terry Allen Swaim, Jr.
Brett Andrew Thompson
Ronald Allen Traud, Jr.
Ronald Tucceri
William Junior Vasquez
Alesia Vick
Lindsey Elizabeth Wakely
Christopher Charles Wilms
Robert Newlin Wood, III
Bradley Wooldridge

Attention Wake County Attorneys

You may save a life or help improve the quality of someone's life. The Lawyer Support Committee has volunteers who are always ready, willing and able to help others. Don't put off asking for help for yourself or encouraging someone else to seek help from BarCARES, your Lawyer Support Committee, a mental health professional or a minister with your church or synagogue. Even lawyers have problems.

Call BarCARES at:

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or contact Whitney von Haam at the Wake County Bar office, 919-677-9903, or whitney@wakecountybar.org, for a confidential referral.



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Memorial Scholarship Fund

*Brian O. Beverly,
Endowment Scholarship Award and
Oversight Committee Chair*

The WCBA Memorial Scholarship Fund is a means for individuals and firms to make donations in the memory of, or in honor of, WCBA members. The fund is used to provide law school scholarships for Wake County residents. The Endowment Committee maintains a roster of donors and honorees. Memorial gifts and honoraria are acknowledged directly to the families of the deceased or honored member. If you or your firm wish to make a contribution, please contact Whitney von Haam at 919-657-1572 or whitney@wakecountybar.org.

N.C. Supreme Court Library

The North Carolina Supreme Court Library is located on the fifth floor, Justice Building, 2 East Morgan Street, Raleigh. To gain access to the facility, attorneys should provide their state bar number and photographic identification to the guard on duty. Employees of attorneys should present a completed visitor authorization form (see Library's website for this form) or library card. State employees need only show employee badges to gain access. Normal hours of operation for the facility are 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m., Monday through Friday.

Holiday Schedule

Christmas..... December 26–27

Public Service Projects

Public Service Committee

Carrie Barbee and Michelle Cofield, Co-Chairs

Please consider the following requests for assistance:

The Capital Area Teen Court is an alternative sentencing program for first offender youth who commit a misdemeanor and admit guilt to the charge.

The Teen Court is funded by a grant from the North Carolina General Assembly. Due to budget cuts, however, the Teen Court received \$20,000 less than it needs this fiscal year to run its operations. One way WCBA members can help is to provide them with office supplies they would otherwise not be able to afford. Amy Hall, the administrator of Teen Court (919-856-5671), provided the following list:

- standard staples
- folders with pockets on each side with fasteners in the center
- paper clips (large and small)
- pens (Sanford Uniball)
- scotch tape refills
- printer paper
- colored/black ink for Dell 948 printer
- Post-it notes
- clear address labels
- colored/black ink for Dell Photo 966 printer (for 2 printers)
- manila folders (3 tab positions)
- Sharpie highlighters
- correction tape/white out tape
- legal pads
- pencils
- liquid paper

We greatly appreciate your help.

Assistance League of the Triangle Area

(ALTA) Thrift Shop (Antiques to Zippers Resale Shop) is located at 1689 North Market Drive, Raleigh, NC 27609. (919-875-8901)

Shop for household furnishings and much more. Volunteers work to support Operation School Bell, WIN (Women In Need), KID'S PLACE at Wake Med (919-856-5671) and scholarships. Many of these programs support family development. The Thrift Store is open Wednesday, Thursday, Friday and Saturday 10 a.m.–4 p.m. ALTA accepts donated items and will provide receipts for income tax purposes.

Guardian ad Litem — Volunteers are needed to serve either as (1) guardians ad litem, to investigate and advocate for the best interests of abused and neglected children in juvenile court, or (2) pro bono appellate attorneys, to either appeal juvenile court decisions or defend against appeals on behalf of the best interests of the children. If you are interested in option one, contact Naeime Livingston at 919-755-4120 or naeime.n.livingston@nccourts.org. If you are interested in appellate work, please contact Kurt D. Stephenson or kurt.d.stephenson@nccourts.org or visit their website at www.nccourts.org/Citizens/GAL/Default.asp.

YMCA Big Brothers Big Sisters — Volunteers are needed to mentor youth ages 8–16 in the Wake County area. Training and ongoing support are provided. Required time is extremely flexible. If interested, contact Ruel Charles or Eva Hobson at 919-828-1140.

The RL Mace Universal Design Institute (www.udinstitute.org) – a Triangle-based 501(c)(3) nonprofit dedicated to education and training in making the built environment accessible to all persons regardless of ability, needs the following:

- LCD projector
- computer printer (any make/model)

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If you know of a community need, contact Elaine Whitford at 919-789-9315 or whitelaine@aol.com.

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The Secret Identity of the Professional Lawyer

By Leonor Bailey Hodge, Professionalism Committee

My father grew up in the 1950s and 60s. He spent much of his leisure time as a kid reading comic books. Most of the comic books of his day were about superheroes. By the time I was born, the comic book rendition of these heroes was replaced by the television cartoon versions: Superman, Batman, Ironman and every girl's hero, Wonder Woman.

If you were a superhero, it didn't matter what powers you had or from whence these powers came; you all had one thing in common: the secret identity. The superhero's secret identity is a stark contrast to the public persona and often incorporates characteristics that society would deem detrimental to the greater good. Think: Superman vs. Clark Kent, who is constantly fearful and scared to stand up for anyone, even himself; Batman vs. Bruce Wayne, a reclusive billionaire who uses his money to keep himself protected from the crime that riddles the other citizens of Gotham City; and Ironman vs. Tony Stark, a reckless billionaire socialite who doesn't care for anyone but himself.

The secret identities of superheroes remind me of the lesser known side of lawyers: lawyers as providers of free legal service for the poor. Like superheroes, lawyers have a public persona. Unfortunately, it is the public face of lawyers that too often displays the characteristics the public deems detrimental to societal good – lawyers often bear the burden of the negative public persona of “hired gun,” an advocate of justice for only those who can afford it.

In addition to a public persona, the professional lawyer also has a secret identity. The professional lawyer's secret identity — provider of free legal service to the poor — is like the public persona of the fictional superhero characters in that it is through volunteer service to the poor that the lawyer brings his or her special gift (legal

training and skill) to the aid of those who need it but cannot rely on their own means to obtain it.

Do you have the professional lawyer's secret identity? If so, then you can stop reading here because your “yes” to the preceding question means that you are already familiar with the Wake County Volunteer Lawyer Program of Legal Aid (VLP), and thus you stand ready to serve with a group of other committed faithful who answer Celia Mansaray's calls to service.

If your answer was no, you must read on. VLP was started in 1982 when 200 WCBA lawyers responded to the call from the Raleigh Legal Aid Office to provide legal help for Wake County's impoverished residents. Since then, WCBA lawyers have continued to provide legal services to those in our county who live below the poverty line – including providing almost 3,000 hours of pro bono service this year. However, the need today is greater than ever. At the end of September 2011, Legal Aid of North Carolina closed three of its offices that serve 100,000 households in 12 counties, including the office located in Wake County's neighboring Smithfield. As these offices close, the number of those in need continues to grow. Won't you consider developing your secret identity today by contacting Celia Mansaray and signing up as a volunteer?

If you are a younger lawyer who is hesitating to volunteer because of a concern that you will not have all of the skills needed to effectively represent a Legal Aid client, consider the encouragement provided by Jake Epstein, four-year volunteer for VLP and VLP liaison for his firm: “Legal Aid is amazing at providing support.” Or those of Mark Sullivan, a 40 + year provider of pro bono legal service: “Don't hesitate to sign up, you're not alone, if you need help Celia will find a mentor to assist [you].”

If you are a seasoned lawyer with a full practice and little time, consider the experience of veteran lawyer and VLP volunteer James F. Jordan: “I try to leverage my own time by bringing others on to make a volunteer case a team effort, just as any other case. I participate in the excellent extern program for Campbell Law students run by Margaret Currin which helps me do better work through research, fact gathering and negotiating by giving a 2L or 3L student ‘real law’ experience while they provide a service and even get academic credit.” Jordan is careful to note that though he leverages his time by bringing in law students to help, the VLP cases he handles must be given the same supervision and attention as any other matter.

If today is the day you will develop or cultivate your secret identity, contact Celia Mansaray to sign up as a VLP volunteer:

Celia Mansaray
Coordinator, Volunteer Lawyers Program
P.O. Box 1731
Raleigh, NC 27602-1731
919-863-1446
Celia@legalaiddnc.org

Leonor Bailey Hodge, a member of the Wake County Bar Association and Tenth J.D. Bar Professionalism Committee, is Deputy Counsel to the North Carolina State Bar, and can be reached at 919-719-9299 and lhodge@ncbar.gov.

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WCBA Young Lawyers Division Upcoming Activities

YLD Socials

Please join us on Thursday, January 5 at 6 p.m., for our first social of the new year at Cantina South, located at 510 Glenwood Avenue. Socials are typically the first Thursday of each month. No need to RSVP, just come as you are. We hope to see you there! For more information, contact our 2012 Social Chairs, Rufus Allen (RALLEN@ncdoj.gov) and Doug Jeremiah (djeremiah@cgspllc.com).

Thank You

The YLD would like to thank everyone who participated in this year's packaging event for Stop Hunger Now. Through your donations and volunteer efforts we were able to package almost 3,000 meals! These meals are of incredible value to the people affected by the drought in the Horn of Africa and will be distributed through internally displaced persons camps, orphanages and other distribution centers to the hungry people in Somalia.

Clothing Drive

The Young Lawyers Division is gearing up for its Twelfth Annual Holiday Clothing Drive. When: Friday and Saturday December 9 & 10. Where: Morrisville Outlet Mall, 1001 Airport Blvd right next to RDU. Come on out to sort and bag clothes side by side with some of North Carolina's finest attorneys!!! As in past years, the event will benefit homeless and low-income individuals and families in the Triangle area. Last year, we sorted, bagged,

WCBA YLD Officers

President

Stephanie Gaston (sgaston@cshlaw.com)

Secretary

J.T. Crook (jcrook@bdixon.com)

and donated more than 400 large bags of clothes to more than a dozen Triangle-area charities. We'll be collecting clothes from November 21 through December 9, so start cleaning out your closets (donations are tax

deductible)! Thank you in advance for your generosity. For more information, or if you would like to serve as the clothing coordinator for your legal employer, email Max Rodon (mrodon@battenlee.com).

Silent Partners

In need of a mentor? The Silent Partners Program can help! The Silent Partners program has available spots for mentors and mentees. Anyone interested in the program should contact Rebecca Redwine at rredwine@hendrenmalone.com.



Leonard T. Jernigan, Jr.
Attorney at Law

Leonard T. Jernigan, Jr., attorney and adjunct professor of law at NCCU School of Law, is pleased to announce that his 2011-12 supplement to Jernigan's *North Carolina Workers' Compensation: Law and Practice, with Forms* (4th edition) is now available from West, a Thomson Reuters business (1-800-344-5009).

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Basketball Sign-Up

(2245 Garner Road, Raleigh)



Are you ready for the 2012 Lawyer's League Basketball season? Well, start taking the stairs, hide your remote, or at least pump your own gas. The league starts Saturday morning, January 14, at J.D. Lewis Multipurpose Center and finishes before the ACC tournament. Referees will call the games, for which we'll need \$20 from each player for the year.

Fax or email this form, then go find YOUR form.

Name _____

Employer _____

Height _____

Weight _____

Law School Class Year _____

Work Phone _____ Fax _____

Home Phone _____

E-mail Address _____

Who captained your last Lawyer's League team? _____

I can play: Every Saturday Most Saturdays

At your first game, please give your captain a one-time contribution of \$20 towards the referees' salaries.

*Please complete and fax/e-mail to: Jason Tuttle by **December 31** at fax 919-755-0009 or jason@eghlaw.com.*

Questions? Call 919-755-0025.

Other Meetings

Capital City Lawyers Association

The Capital City Lawyers Association meets the first Thursday of every month. During our meetings, we conduct "Law Experience Seminars" and provide CLE opportunities. Please see a member for additional information or contact Dayatra Matthews at dmatthews@bdixon.com. Please visit us at www.thecapitalcitylawyers.org.

Wake County Chapter – Christian Legal Society

The CLS meets on the third Friday of every month at Pam's Farmhouse off Western Blvd. (12:30 p.m.). We have a keynote speaker (local attorney, clergy, parachurch organization leader, etc.) who gives an inspiring talk, usually geared towards applying faith to legal practice. To be placed on the CLS monthly email or fax list, call Rik Lovett at 919-783-9333 or riklovet@mindspring.com.

Solo Women In Law

Women attorneys who practice law solo and are interested in networking are invited to a monthly lunch of SWIL. Lunches are held on the second Thursday of every month at noon at Rancherita on the corner of Six Forks Rd. and Sawmill Rd. in north Raleigh. For information call Jan at 919-870-1770 or Leslee at 919-846-6585.

Emerging Family Lawyers

Early- and mid-career family law attorneys are invited to meet for lunch on the third Friday of each month. Gatherings are informal, and discussion topics run the gamut from legal issues, to local rules and procedures, to building and managing your domestic practice in Wake County. For more information contact Jeff Gillette at 919-747-8290 or jeff@GilletteLawNC.com.

Senior Lawyers

Any Wake County Bar member who publicly admits that he or she is 60 years of age is welcome and encouraged to attend. Senior Survivors meet the third Tuesday of every month (except June, July and August). Meetings are held at the University Club with lunch at 12:30 followed by a speaker. For more information, contact Bob Smith at 919-832-5000.

Wake Women Attorneys

Wake Women Attorneys invites you to attend its monthly luncheon on Thursday, December 8. It will be held at noon at Sitti located at 137 S. Wilmington St. Raleigh, N.C. 27601. Telephone: (919)239-4070.

Our speaker will be Judge Robert N. "Bob" Hunter, Jr., who will present a Substance Abuse CLE, "Your Brother and Sister's Keeper - Duty to others in our profession." Judge Hunter was elected in November, 2008 to serve an eight-year term as a Judge on the North Carolina Court of Appeals. He is a graduate of the University of North Carolina and its law school. Before election, Judge Hunter practiced law with the firm of Hunter, Higgins, Miles, Elam and Benjamin, PLLC, as managing partner with a concentration in civil litigation, including real property, decedent's estates, securities, and election law. Judge Hunter was in the first class of certified mediators in North Carolina and continues this work with the court's mediation program. Judge Hunter currently serves as immediate Past President of BarCares, Inc., an affiliate of the North Carolina Bar Association which focuses on delivery of programs and counseling services to meet the psychological health needs of the bench and bar.

Lunch is \$13/members; \$17/non-members. Please RSVP to Amber Liggon at aliggon@hedrickgardner.com by Friday, November 4.

WCBA Breast Cancer Support Group Come Eat Lunch With Friends!

The Breast Cancer Support Group meets periodically at 12:15 p.m. at 42nd Street Oyster Bar (508 W. Jones St.). Anyone who is a Wake County lawyer or family member is welcome to eat with us. We have camaraderie, compassion and confidentiality, and we always have a great lunch. Call or email Cindy Wittmer (919-890-4171 or cindywittmer@parkerpoe.com) for information on the next meeting or to get your name on the email list.

Wake County Family Lawyers

Attorneys interested in family law issues are invited to meet for dinner and discussion on the third Wednesday of each month. For more information, please contact

familylawyers@rosen.com or the Rosen Law Firm at 919-787-6668 ext. 0.

Wake County Academy of Criminal Trial Lawyers

WCACTL provides regular email bulletins on criminal law issues and legislation, judicial forum opportunities, social events and CLE for members.

Please join us the second Wednesday of every month for our regular meeting at 5:30 p.m. at Tir Na Nog Irish Pub (located on Blount Street). All members and those interested in joining are encouraged to attend. Dues are \$35 for the year. For more information contact Devon Glick, Membership Chairperson, at 919-873-9955 or at devon@dglicklaw.com for questions.

Collaborative Lawyers

Attorneys interested in or practicing family collaborative law are invited to meet for lunch and discussion on the first Friday of each month. Rotating location. For details contact Randolph (Tré) Morgan, III at 919-781-1311 or tmorgan@nichollscrampton.com.

Wake County Real Property Lawyers Association

The Wake County Real Property Lawyers Association meets for lunch and brief program on the third Wednesday of each month at the Cardinal Club at noon. Please contact Maureen Miller at mmiller@bridgetrusttitle.com for reservations and further information.

Raleigh-Wake Paralegal Association

The Raleigh-Wake Paralegal Association has its member luncheon/speaker meeting the second Wednesday of the month at 12:30 p.m. at the Holiday Inn on Glenwood and I-440. For information on becoming a member or upcoming meetings, please go to www.raleigh-wakeparalegal.net. If you have any further questions, please feel free to contact RWPA President Dianne Shackelford at dianne.shackelford@klgates.com or 919-743-7300.

Editor's Note: If your organization has periodic meetings and you would like to "get the word out" to your fellow attorneys through the Wake Bar Flyer, please mail your information to Lucy T. Austin, Bar Flyer Editor, NC Court of Appeals, PO Box 888, Raleigh, N.C. 27602-0888, or email ltaustinlegal@gmail.com.

Strategic Planning

By Camille Stell

Strategic planning is hard. It is so much easier to write checks to consultants, to talk about improving your client selection skills or to hope that a budget appears on your desk than to spend the time thinking strategically about how to improve your law practice. The reality is that no one can manage your practice but you. However, if you rethink strategic planning, perhaps you can do some before the end of the year.

Most of us think about starting a strategy session outside of the office, preferable in a resort location with a high priced consultant or at least a cheap facilitator to tell us what to do with our practice. While that sounds fun, it isn't going to happen between now and December 31. So how about if you walk down the hall to your conference room to escape the phone and email and devote a few hours to thinking about your business.

One of the exercises a consultant would suggest is a **SWOT analysis**. Why not give it a try on your own? Get out a yellow pad, or a laptop or an iPad. Start by listing your **strengths and weaknesses**. Perhaps resolving client problems is your strength and getting new clients in the door is your weakness. This is actually a good problem to have. Client referrals are a great source of revenue for many lawyers, and if you are successful at resolving their problems, they are probably willing to refer work to you. You just need to make sure that you ask them to do this. It may seem difficult at first but the more you practice the easier it will get. Continue through identifying strengths and weaknesses until you feel you have identified enough items to set goals around.

The next two pieces of the SWOT analysis are to **identify opportunities and threats**. What is getting in the way of having a successful practice or taking your practice to the next level? Write the threats down and think through solutions. Unfortunately, in this economy, it's probably pretty easy to come up with a list of threats. Don't get

bogged down and don't get discouraged and stop the exercise. It's helpful to know what your challenges are, but it's pointless to try to resolve the world's financial problems in one sitting.

As you begin listing opportunities, this is the time to think of who your **referral sources** are or should be. Make a list. Who's on the list? Other attorneys, your banker, your CPA, professionals you interact with on cases, your clients, your friends, people you do business with. Get the idea?

Look at your calendar and start setting up breakfast, lunch, coffee or telephone calls to talk to these people and formalize the referral relationship. Perhaps you do it by asking them what their target client looks like so you can offer referrals to them. Don't look at your referral list as a one way meal ticket. The best way to get something is to give something. Share information. If you've used a great vendor, pass along that information. If you've found a wonderful web resource or great article, send it along.

After going through the SWOT analysis, begin to identify some **strategic objectives** and set some **tactical goals** that will allow you to meet those objectives. For the purpose of the exercise, feel free to have 3-5 strategic objectives and dozens of goals. Now you have arrived at the most important part of the exercise. Look at the strategies and decide how to prioritize for the coming year. At this point, you have to have a real conversation with yourself about what you can accomplish. You should keep the number of strategic objectives between one and three, with about three to five tactical goals for each objective. Don't get rid of the remainder, as you succeed in meeting your goals, these leftover goals are added to your strategic plan for next year.

Now that the goals are identified, you have to fit them into your **budget** and establish **time frames** when the goals should be reached. You can't reach out to 50 referral sources in January. Decide on a realistic plan, put it on your calendar and be **accountable** to yourself.

I'm not suggesting that strategic planning is painless. However, the end of the year is a great time to strategize about ways to improve your law practice.

Camille Stell is the Director of Client Services for Lawyers Mutual. With over 20 years of experience in the legal field, Camille has worked for law firms as a paralegal, legal recruiter and business developer. Are you a follower of social media? Follow us on Twitter at LawyersMutualNC or CamilleStell and like us on Facebook. Contact Camille at 800.662.8843 or Camille@lawyersmutualnc.com.

Committees of the Wake County Bar Association and Tenth Judicial District Bar

Committees without asterisks are Tenth Judicial District Bar Committees

* Indicates a Wake County Bar Association committee – only WCBA members may join

** Indicates a joint Tenth Judicial District and WCBA committee

***Athletics Committee** directs the basketball league, softball league and annual golf and tennis tournaments.

Bar Candidate Interview Committee arranges and conducts bar candidate interviews for the February and July bar examinations.

****Bench Bar Committee** serves as a liaison between the Bar and members of our judiciary in Wake County.

****By-Laws Committee** recommends changes and updates of the by-laws to the Board of Directors and membership.

***CLE Committee** coordinates and plans the WCBA's CLE programs.

****Communications/Technology Committee** oversees the publishing of the *Bar Flyer* and explores available technology that will enable the Bar and the justice system to work more efficiently and effectively for the profession and the public.

***Endowment Scholarship Award Committee** selects the annual memorial scholarship recipients and invests the memorial scholarship funds.

Facilities/Public Records Committee coordinates the needs of the WCBA/Tenth J.D. Bar office at the Bar Center.

Fee Dispute Resolution Committee resolves disputes involving fees between lawyers and clients.

Grievance Committee investigates complaints against members of the Tenth J.D. Bar and makes recommendations of whether probable cause exists for finding a violation of the Rules of Professional Conduct. **Must be licensed in NC for 5 years.**

***History Committee** collects and organizes records and other items that pertain to the history of the Wake County Bar Association.

***Lawyers Support Committee** supports and assists lawyers in need, including promotion of the BarCARES program.

***Membership Services Committee** surveys the membership and makes recommendations to the Board as to additional services that would benefit its members.

Memorial Committee plans a semi-annual program where deceased members of the Bar are memorialized.

****Professionalism Committee** devises ways to promote professionalism among attorneys.

***Professionalism Award Committee** oversees the selection of the annual recipient of the Justice Branch Professionalism Award.

***Public Service Committee** coordinates community projects that Wake County Bar members can participate in as a group.

***Social Committee** traditionally one of the most active in the Wake County Bar Association, plans the Holiday Party, Members' Only Party, Family Picnic, Afterwork Socials and other social opportunities throughout the year.

****Strategic Planning Implementation Committee** confirms that the elements of the current strategic plan are being considered and/or implemented.

***Summer Programs Committee** coordinates the annual summer clerk orientation program.

****Swearing-In Ceremony Committee** coordinates the semi-annual swearing-in ceremonies for new attorneys who have passed the bar exam. Also oversees coordinating a U.S. Supreme Court swearing-in in Washington, DC every few years.



2012 Committees

Members of both the Tenth Judicial District Bar and the Wake County Bar Association (WCBA) list their committee service as one of the most valuable experiences, in terms of impacting their community and profession, as well as networking. Please take a moment and consider your role in the WCBA and the Tenth Judicial District Bar. If you have interest in serving on any of our committees, please fill out the form below, **number in order of preference** and return to: kathyr@wakecountybar.org, Fax (919) 657-1564 or mail to:

2012 Committee Preferences
 Wake County Bar Association/Tenth Judicial District Bar
 P.O. Box 3686, Cary, NC 27519-3686

Please limit selections to three committees on which you would have an interest and willingness to serve.

Committee members will be appointed late in the year, and appointment letters will be mailed shortly thereafter.

PLEASE NUMBER IN ORDER OF PREFERENCE (1-3)

- | | |
|---|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Athletics *
<input type="checkbox"/> Bar Candidate Interview
<input type="checkbox"/> Bench-Bar**
<input type="checkbox"/> By-Laws **
<input type="checkbox"/> CLE *
<input type="checkbox"/> Communications/Technology **
<input type="checkbox"/> Endowment Scholarship Award *
<input type="checkbox"/> Facilities/Public Records
<input type="checkbox"/> Fee Dispute Resolution
<input type="checkbox"/> Grievance
<input type="checkbox"/> History * | <input type="checkbox"/> Lawyers Support **
<input type="checkbox"/> Membership Services *
<input type="checkbox"/> Memorial
<input type="checkbox"/> Professionalism **
<input type="checkbox"/> Professionalism Award *
<input type="checkbox"/> Public Service *
<input type="checkbox"/> Social *
<input type="checkbox"/> Strategic Planning Implementation **
<input type="checkbox"/> Summer Programs *
<input type="checkbox"/> Swearing-In Ceremony ** |
|---|--|

Committees without asterisks are Tenth Judicial District Bar committees

* Indicates a Wake County Bar Association committee – only WCBA members may join

** Indicates a joint Tenth Judicial District Bar and WCBA committee

Name: _____ Telephone: _____

Address: _____

Email address: _____

If you have specified interest in either the Grievance or Fee Dispute Resolution committees, please list your Practice/Specialty Areas of Law _____

Please check the category that applies to you:

- I am a Wake County Bar Association member only (Voluntary Local Bar)
- I am a Tenth Judicial District Bar member only (Mandatory Bar)
- I am both a Wake County Bar Association member and a Tenth Judicial District Bar member



WAKE COUNTY BAR ASSOCIATION, INC.
P.O. Box 3686
Cary, N.C. 27519-3686



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