



Bar Briefs E-Newsletter

28th Judicial District Bar

September 2007

Save a tree. We still need your email address!

To get the news more quickly and help our bar save money, please supply your email address or let us know if you need help setting up an email address. Contact our Bar Administrator by email at greta@ashevillebuncombelaw.net.

NOTICE OF September 12th, 2007 Bar Meeting & Luncheon: Please RSVP by September 10, 2007 so we can make sure there is enough food and seating for all guest and members.

UPCOMING EVENTS:

Bar Meeting & Luncheon

The next monthly luncheon meeting of the 28th Judicial District Bar will convene at 12:30 on Wednesday, September 12, 2006 at the YMI Cultural Center, 39 South Market St. Cost of the luncheon is \$10 for members and \$18 for guests. Our speaker will be Judge Cash.

Open House

Please stop by our Open House at the Bar's New Office Location at 64 Broadway in downtown Asheville from 5:30 to 7 p.m. on Thursday September 20, 2007. Our office is upstairs to your right and straight back. This is an opportunity to meet the new Bar Administrator, Greta Camp, executive committee board members and to thank some of your hard working members for taking this step forward in our Bar's history in having an office.

New Attorney Swearing in Ceremony

On Friday, September 21st we will hold our new attorney swearing in ceremony will occur for new attorneys. We would like to thank **Cathie St. John-Ritzen** who has graciously volunteered to organize the orientation for new attorneys. There will be a reception following orientation in the court house Rotunda beginning at 5:30pm. All attorneys who have recently sat for the Bar exam should contact Cathie St. John-Ritzen directly at cathie@asheville-elderlaw.com or by phone: (828) 255-8813 or Fax: (828) 255-8823 to confirm your participation in this event. It is the responsibility of the new attorney to bring their license to the event.

CALENDAR

9/12	Bar Meeting & Luncheon
9/20	Open House at New Bar Office
9/21	Swearing in Ceremony
9/26	Executive Committee Meeting
10/04	NCAWA Conference
10/11	Bar Meeting & Luncheon
10/18	NCBAW/Ginsburg Event
10/19	NC Academy of Trial Lawyers at Tressas
10/24	Executive Committee Meeting
12/14	Holiday Party/Toy Drive

★★★★★★★★★★
 ★ A special thanks to ★
 ★ Roberts & Stevens, P.A. ★
 ★ for a sponsorship in the ★
 ★ hospitality reception for ★
 ★ the Superior Court ★
 ★ Judges back last fiscal ★
 ★ year. ★
 ★★★★★★★★★★

OTHER EVENTS:

The 2007 North Carolina Association of Women Attorney's (NCAWA) Annual Conference will take place at the Holiday Inn Sun Spree Resort in Wrightsville Beach on October 4-6. Please see the NCAWA.org website for details to register by September 4, 2007. Our own **Susan M. "Smitty" Dotson-Smith** will be elected as the incoming president at the conference. There will also be Charity dinner and Business meeting on August 26 for the local chapter of NCAWA at Cyndy Eller's house. Please RSVP to **Smitty** by phone: 350-8595 or susan@dotson-smithlaw.com. Bring yourself and a gift for either or both charities. The charitable organizations we will be contributing to include: the NCAWA Scholarship Fund & the League of Women Voters.

The **North Carolina Bar Association Women** in the Profession Committee cordially invites you to The Changing Face of Justice: A View From The Bench featuring A Conversation with The Honorable Ruth Bader Ginsburg, Associate Justice of the United States Supreme Court. The event will be on Thursday, October 18, 2007 at the Grove Park Inn Resort & Spa. Please register directly at the North Carolina Bar Association's website: <https://www.ncbar.org/about/committees/wipEventRegistration.aspx>.

The CEO of the **NC Academy of Trial Lawyers**, Dick Taylor and Joe Cheshire, have invited all members of the Buncombe County Bar to the NCATL Criminal Law Section meeting on October 19. The meeting will be held at Tressas at 28 Broadway in downtown Asheville from 4-6 pm. Joe Cheshire, President of the North Carolina Academy of Trial Lawyers will be one of the speakers of the event. Please contact Liz Avery-Jones, Public Education Coordinator for the NC Academy of Trial Lawyers by email at liz@ncatl.org if you have any questions.

Mark your calendars for the Holiday Party on Friday, December 14. More details in future newsletters. This is also a charity event where we donate toys for the community.

ONGOING EVENTS:

The **Buncombe County Women Attorneys** meet socially for lunch on every THIRD Wednesday of the month from 12:30-1:30 at Cafe on the Square. If you would like to receive an email reminder, and other announcements to the group, please notify Sheila Lambert at slattorney@aol.com.

CLE OPPORTUNITY:

Pisgah Legal Services is pleased to announce a special 3 hour CLE program (credit pending) to be presented at UNCA on Friday, August 24, 2007 from 9:00 am to 12:30 pm. The program, entitled "Assisting NC Homeowners Facing Foreclosure", will be presented by Mallum J. "Mal" Maynard, Director of the Financial Protection Law Center in Wilmington, N.C. Mal is one of the most distinguished consumer advocates in North Carolina, and all attorneys who represent or are interested in assisting homeowners with foreclosure and predatory lending cases are encouraged to attend.

Asheville Holistic Lawyers invites you to hear the Honorable Chief Judge Gary Cash speak on "Peacemaking from the Bench" on Wed. September 5, 2007 from noon to 1:30pm to kick off this series of events. RSVP: Jennifer Foster (255-5400); J Kim Wright (279-1957) or Jack Poisson (252-9889)

CLE REQUEST:

Keith Snyder has requested 1 hour of CLE in substance abuse during 2007. Please contact Keith at his email: Keith.Snyder@buncombecounty.org if you know of any training in the area.

Membership News

Share your news! Whether professional or personal, we want to share your significant news with other members of the bar. Contact greta@ashevillebuncombela.com or 252-5733.

ANNOUNCEMENTS:

Jason M. Peltz, Esq. announces the opening of Peltz Law Firm, PLLC Law firm located at 263 Haywood Street, Asheville, NC 28801. His practice areas are commercial, residential real estate, and development law. He can be reached by phone at P: 828/255-2728, F: 828/255-2724.

Lisa M. Morrison has moved from DSS to the DA's office.

Please welcome **Kristen R. Smith** of Van Winkle Law Firm as a new member.

Meredith Pressley has moved from the Estate Planning Counsel to Buncombe County DA's office as an Assistant DA

Michael W. Drye, P.C., has relocated to 510 Swannanoa River Road, Asheville, NC 28805. His new phone and voice mail # is (828)298-1484. My new fax # is (828)298-1470.

Please welcome **Alex Gomes**, who works at Pisgah Legal Services as a Domestic Violence Attorney.

Aleece Hiller is now with Wall Street Law and Mediation.



BIRTHS:

Congratulations are in order to Meredith (our former assistant to the Bar) and attorney Tikkun Gottschalk on the birth of their second child Sophie Amarit Gottschalk, born July 21, 8 lbs., 2oz. Big sister Justine lovingly holds her baby sister Sophie Amarit. Mom is doing well.

For Sale: a 18 X 33 X 30" metal filing cabinet with locking door and combination safe, two drawers for letter files, one drawer for two rows of index cards for \$50.00 sale. Contact **T. Bentley Leonard**, Attorney at Tel: (828) 255 0456 and Fax: (828) 252 6469.

JOB OPENINGS:

Pisgah Legal Services seeks a Part Time MAVL Administrator. Salary dependent on experience; excellent benefits. Submit resume and cover letter by August 24, 2007 to: MAVLP Administrator Position, Pisgah Legal Services, P.O. Box 2276, Asheville, N.C. 28802.

SPECIAL THANKS:

Thank you attorney, Michael Ciochina for the use of a desk and typewriter for our new office.

AWARDS AND HONORS

Asheville attorneys **George Ward Hendon** and **William E. "Bill" Anderson** are the recipients of two awards presented at the annual meeting of the 28th Judicial District Bar on June 13, 2007.

Mr. Hendon, a senior partner with Adams, Hendon, Carson, Crow, & Saenger, PA, was honored with the North Carolina Bar Association **2007 Centennial Award** in recognition of his outstanding efforts in providing community service.

Mr. Anderson, an Asheville attorney since 1968, was honored with the 2007 Professionalism Award of the 28th Judicial District Bar in recognition of his exemplary professionalism in the practice of law.



David Gantt, Asheville lawyer and Buncombe County Commissioner, recently received two (2) legal honors for his work in the legal and local community. On June 23, 2007, The NC Bar Association awarded Gantt one of the inaugural **"Citizen Lawyer" Awards** for involvement in the Asheville community outside his law practice. During Gantt's induction at the 2007 Annual meeting, he was cited for twelve (12) year public service on the Buncombe County Commission, leadership with Land of Sky Regional Council, membership on nine (9) Boards, including United Way and Eblen Charities, PTA presidency, and a lifetime of public service in youth sports coaching and organization. Earlier in the week, the **NC Academy of Trial Lawyers** inducted Gantt into the 2007 "Order of Service" for contributions to legal education and service to the trial bar

during their Annual meeting.

Gantt was also honored by two (2) recent awards for his environmental work as a Buncombe County Commissioner. He received both the **"Friends of River"** and **"Riverwise"** awards from Land of Sky Regional Council and RiverLink for his efforts to protect and preserve the French Broad River basin area with local ordinances and strategic property purchases. Gantt was cited for his involvement in efforts to limit over development on ridge tops, steep slopes, and river basins in the Asheville area in the presentation of both of these awards.

President's Message: Judge Calvin Hill

Greetings and I hope the summer has been enjoyable for all. The 28th Judicial Bar is looking forward to an exciting year! We have just signed a lease to house our newly hired administrator Greta Camp. Mrs. Camp is from St. Augustine, FL and has resided in the Asheville area for the last two years.

We have some exciting events coming up in the near future. Supreme Court Justice Ruth Bader Ginsberg is coming to the area in October. This function will require registration and there is a cost for dinner. The event will be held at the Grove Park Inn. This event will surely draw a crowd and space is limited. (Please give any additional info needed for registration)

Judge Gary Cash will be our Guest speaker for our Bar Lunch meeting on September 12. Judge Cash will be talking about recent district court matters of concern to the Bar. Judge Cash is the Chief District court judge and has been on the bench for 21 years. He is a graduate of Davidson College and the University of N.C. School Of Law. We welcome your suggestions for future speakers.

Letter of Introduction: Greta Camp, Bar Administrator



Dear Members,

Salutations. It has been an exciting beginning in my new position with the 28th District Judicial Bar. I am enjoying meeting each of you by email, phone and individually. One of the things I've learned about you all is that you are a hard working group of dedicated attorneys. You are willing to take on time consuming volunteer jobs in order to benefit our Bar and our community.

I have received many questions regarding the **Mandatory Bar Dues Notice** you recently should have received in the mail. If you have not received your dues notice, please contact me and I will resend the bill. Several of you have had your office manager/bookkeeper contact me asking: "*Why am I being billed again when I just paid my bill 6 months ago?*" The answer is two fold. First, our fiscal year is from July 2007 to June 2008. Second we want our billing to match our fiscal year. In the past, we were billing six months after the fiscal year began. We make a report to the state bar every year at the end of our year. (Thank you to our previous secretary officer **Carleton Metcalf** for sending that in.) Billing members and receiving dues is a good way to find out who our current members are and update our records so that we can accurately report to the state. Your previous executive board realized this as a better practice and the membership approved the change as well as the dues increase in order to cover the cost of our growing Bar with an expanded position and a new office.

We are currently in the process of constructing a website for our members! The website will be for members to use and public pages will be added on. We will have our web designers upload our database to feed into the member directory and then each of you will have the opportunity to edit your information. Special thanks to **Bill Whalen** for his continued support in this endeavor.

We would like a professional headshot for each member in the size of 75 y 100 pixels. If you have one, you will be able to use the one you have, just size it to the specifications and send it to us by email. If you would like to get a photo done for the website you may visit **Iris Photo/Graphics** on 110 Merrimon Ave. in Asheville. The cost is \$25 for the photo to be taken and emailed. Please call 828-254-6103 ahead to make an appointment Monday through Friday.

Please feel free to come by our open house and see your Bar's new office space at 64 Broadway. A special thanks to **Cindy Holman** and **Shannon Lovins** and the **Executive Committee Board** for making this happen. I look forward to serving the members of this Bar and helping it continue it's traditions of excellence.

Sincerely,
Greta Camp

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE BOARD

President: Judge Calvin Hill
President Elect: : Patsy Brison
Vice President: Heidi Stewart
Immediate Past President: Bill Whalen
Secretary: Doug Tate
Treasurer: Victor Garlock

Jerry Miller, Judy Rudolph, Cathie St.John-Ritzen,
Mae Creadick, Shannon Lovins, Jason Peltz,
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Howard Gum, James Ellis