



Bar Briefs E-Newsletter

July 2008

Our website is www.ashevillebuncombelaw.net.
There is **no** Bar Lunch Meeting this month or next.

President's Prospective:



Thank you for the opportunity to serve as President of the 28th Judicial District Bar. I will do my best to honor the confidence you have placed in me. You have elected an excellent Executive Committee to support the work of our Bar and I look forward to working with them.

As I write this column, I am listening to portions of a 2004 interview of George Carlin by Terry Gross of NPR. Carlin was being remembered as he had died over the weekend. Gross asked him if he had any fears of becoming debilitated as he grew older and Carlin said he would "hate to lose my power of speech." He was referring to the loss of the physical ability to speak and not to the loss of the ability to influence others by what he said. Somehow, I believe he was also thinking about the loss of the power of persuasion. After all, Carlin is remembered for the U. S. Supreme Court case about the seven words one cannot speak on television. The Court ruled in that case in a 5-4 decision.

On the same date I am writing this column, news from Zimbabwe is that Morgan Tsvangirai had withdrawn from a runoff race for President due to the death of and violence against his supporters. Tsvangirai feared that if his supporters voted in the upcoming election, their vote would cost them their lives.

Somewhere in the U. S. today, some one is planning for fireworks and speeches for the Fourth of July. Somewhere in the U. S. today, supporters are working hard on campaigns to get their candidates elected. Somewhere in the U. S. today, some one is without the ability to speak for themselves. Somewhere in the U. S. today, a lawyer works alone or with others to protect the rights of others. Somewhere in the U.S. today, some one paused to think about these things.

Happy Fourth of July!!

Patsy Brison

Congratulations to
Jack Stevens
Centennial Award
&
Sara Davis
Professional Award
(See page 4 for details.)

Submissions to the newsletter are due the 15th of each month. Share your news.

CALENDAR

7/16	Women Attorney's Luncheon 12:30 - Café on the Square
7/30	Executive Committee Meeting 12:30 p.m.
8/20	Women Attorney's Luncheon 12:30 - Café on the Square
8/25	Executive Committee Meeting 12:30 p.m.
9/10	Bar Lunch Meeting
9/15	Executive Committee Meeting 12:30 p.m.
9/17	Women Attorney's Luncheon 12:30 - Café on the Square
9/26	Swearing in Ceremony 5th Floor - Courthouse & Reception

Bar Administrator News - Greta Camp

Have you updated your profile in the bar directory on our website www.ashevilleuncombelaw.net? Please contact the bar office at 252-5733 or by email greta@ashevilleuncombelaw.net and I'll help you do so.



Our communication task force met in June to discuss ways to improve communication with our members through our website, newsletter, and emails. We are in the process of formulating new policy on how to better serve you through these communication channels. Thank you to **Patsy Brison**, **Heidi Stewart**, and **Cindy Holman** for their contributions and efforts.

Did you know that the last time a membership directory was created was in 1996-97 when **William Parker** was bar president? We hope that you will choose to participate in our membership directory on the website. When you change your mailing address and/or email address in the directory, it would be helpful to receive an email from you. Consider adding a picture to your profile if you have not already done so.

Many of you missed the opportunity to have your picture taken at a very reduced cost of \$10 last spring. We request a commitment of an appointment from over **40** members to be able to provide this photography service to you. *Would you like to take advantage of having your photograph made at one of our meetings in the fall?* Pictures taken at the April and May meetings are ready to be picked up at bar's office on 64 Broadway in the upstairs atrium.

For those of you who are new to our bar, please note that our fiscal year is July 2008 to June 2009 with invoices sent out this month.

New attorneys and new members are invited to participate in the swearing in ceremony in September. All members who joined last year are also welcome to be recognized. To be included, your reservation is *required* to prepare adequately for this event.

Our new executive committee will not be taking a break this summer. We will be meeting to plan this year's bar events. If you would like to contribute your ideas and volunteer, please contact the bar office or your executive committee members. Have a sensational and relaxing summer.

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE BOARD

President: [Patsy Brison](#)

President Elect: [Heidi Stewart](#)

Vice President: [Bill Christy](#)

Immediate Past President: [Judge Calvin Hill](#)

Treasurer: [Victor Garlock](#)

Secretary: [Doug Tate](#)

Members at Large:

[Jerry Miller](#), [Cathie St.John-Ritzen](#), [Mae Creadick](#), [Jason Peltz](#), [Cynthia Harbin Holman](#), [Peter Kanipe](#), [Ingrid Friesen](#), [Suzannah Plemmons](#), [Mike Drye](#), [James Ellis](#), [Howard Gum](#)

Membership News

Welcome New Members

Please welcome **Sam B. Craig** of the Craig Law Firm, PLLC who has relocated here from Shelby, North Carolina. Sam can be reached at his office on 223 E. Chestnut St., Asheville, NC 28801 or by phone at 828-989-1595 and by fax: at 828-707-9595. His email is: sam@ashevilllaw.biz and his website is: www.ashevilllaw.biz.

Please welcome back **Kelly Whitlock** who has returned to the Office of the City Attorney after working in Shelby, NC where she was a member of the 30th JDB.

Office Changes

Jason Wilson opened his own practice the **Wilson Law Office** in the Jackson Building at 22 South Pack Square, Suite 304, Asheville 28801. By phone he can be reached at 828-350-3606 and by email at: wilsonlawoffice@bellsouth.net. His website for his practice is: jasonwilsonattorney.com. His practice is focused on criminal defense. (Last month we incorrectly announced that Jason Wilson was with the Messer Law Firm.)



Welcome New Baby

Erin Dunnuck of **Dungan & Associates, P.A.** and her husband, Todd Dunnuck, are pleased to announce the birth of their son, Flynn Matthew Dunnuck, who was born on March 17, 2008.

Classifieds - Looking for A Decendent's Will

Dan Hitchcock of **Adams Hendon Carson Crow & Saenger, PA.** is looking for a will for David Frederick Olson, III of Swannanoa. Dan's mailing address is 72 Patton Ave., Asheville, NC 28801. His phone is Tel 828-252-7381, Fax 828-252-5018, and email is: dhitchcock@adamsfirm.com.

Announcements - Women Attorney's Luncheon

Join the Buncombe County Women Attorneys on July 16, 2008 from 12:15 p.m. until 1:45 p.m. at Cafe On The Square. Please RSVP to **Sheila Lambert** at SLattorney@aol.com.

NCAWA Annual Conference

The Foundation & Future of Women Attorneys: 30 Years of NCAWA is on October 2-4, 2008 at the Crowne Plaza Resort in Asheville.

News from Asheville Area Paralegal Association (AAPA)

AAPA is planning to present a special seminar for paralegals on September 12, 2008, from 9:00 a.m. - 12:30 p.m. The seminar is currently under development, but will allow attendees to obtain three hours of CPE credit, including a minimum of one hour of ethics. The Van Winkle law firm has generously given permission for AAPA to once again use their Starnes Conference Room for the presentation.

Awards and Honors

Distinguished Local Lawyers Jack Stevens and Sara Davis Honored with Annual Awards

Two local lawyers were honored with surprise accolades at the Annual Meeting of the 28th Judicial District Bar (Buncombe County) on June 11, 2008. Attorney John ("Jack") S. Stevens, partner at Roberts & Stevens, was recognized as the recipient of the annual Centennial Award, while Attorney Sara Davis of Westall, Gray, Connolly and Davis, received the distinguished Professionalism Award.



The Centennial Award - Mr. Jack Stevens

John ("Jack") S. Stevens, partner at Roberts & Stevens, P.A., is the 2008 recipient of the Centennial Award under the co-sponsorship of the N.C. Bar Association and the 28th Judicial District Bar (Buncombe County). The Centennial Award annually honors an individual lawyer for outstanding effort in providing community service, benefiting the county from which local bar membership is drawn. The award is named in honor of the Centennial Anniversary of the N.C. Bar Association (1899-1999).

Mr. Stevens was born Asheville, North Carolina and admitted to North Carolina Bar in 1961, after graduating from the University of North Carolina Phi Beta Kappa. (A.B., 1956; J.D., 1961). He was a member of the North Carolina House of Representatives, General Assembly from 1969-1976, and served as the President of the North Carolina Bar Association from 1995-96. Mr. Stevens served as Chairman of the North Carolina Administrative Rules Review Commission from 1986-1990. He was a member of the Board of Trustees of the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill from 1979-1983. He was also Chairman of the Asheville Regional Airport Authority from 1980-1988 and President of the Asheville Area Chamber of Commerce in 1990-1991. In addition, Mr. Stevens acted as chair from 1995-98 for Mission & St. Joseph 's Health Systems, Inc., and the University of North Carolina Health Care System from 2001-2003. He is a Member of the North Carolina Bar Association (President, 1995-1996) and 28th Judicial District and North Carolina State Bars, American Counsel Association, and Board Member for Lawyers Mutual Liability Insurance Company of North Carolina, 1981-present, and a Member of the State and Local Fiscal Modernization Study Commission, 2006 to present.

Mr. Stevens has been a long time supporter of Pisgah Legal Services through participation on the non-profit TEAM through the Mountain Area Volunteer Lawyer Program. He presently serves on the Justice for All Capital Campaign Leadership Committee for Pisgah Legal Services.



The Professionalism Award - Ms. Sara Davis

The annual Professionalism Award was established in 2004 by the 28th Judicial District Bar to honor a local lawyer who demonstrates the utmost in civility and professionalism, conducting themselves with the highest of standards both in the courtroom and the community. Attorney Sara Davis is the first woman to receive the award and her record of both local and statewide service shines as an example of professionalism to all North Carolina attorneys.

Sara Davis has practiced bankruptcy law in Asheville for 25 years. She has primarily represented consumer debtors and for the past 20 years has served as staff counsel to David G. Gray, Chapter 13 Trustee for the Asheville/Bryson City Divisions of the U.S. Bankruptcy Court. Sara became a certified specialist in Consumer and Business Bankruptcy Law in 1987 by the North Carolina State Bar Board of Legal Specialization, and she was certified in consumer bankruptcy law in 1994 by the American Board of Certification. Sara graduated with a BA in History from University of North Carolina-Asheville and received her JD degree from University of North Carolina-Chapel Hill. Sara has been a lecturer at numerous bankruptcy seminars over the years.

Awards & Honors Continued

In 2006 the Sara H. Davis Excellence Award was created by the North Carolina State Bar Board of Legal Specialization in her honor. The award is presented annually to a certified specialist who exemplifies excellence in his/her daily work as an attorney and serves as a model for other lawyers. Outside of the practice of law, Sara enjoys outdoor recreation activities such as hiking and canoeing, and served for 16 years on the Board of Managers of the Appalachian Trail Conference.

Patsy Brison of Roberts & Stevens is selected for Citizens Award

Our own Patsy Brison was recognized at the NCBA annual meeting in Atlantic Beach on the weekend of June 19-22 as one of the 11 outstanding citizen lawyers. A 1983 graduate of the Norman A. Wiggins School of Law at Campbell University, she serves on the national board of directors for Girl Scouts of the U.S.A. and previously served as president of the Girl Scouts Council of Western North Carolina and YWCA of Buncombe County. See their website for details <http://www.ncbar.org/news/1/3000/index.aspx>.

Article - MAVLP Update

The NCBA Young Lawyer's Division Committee on Pro Bono and Poverty Issues convened a diverse panel of local lawyers in Asheville on May 31, 2008, for an "Ask a Lawyer" Q & A discussion as part of its statewide effort to hold informational events for the low-income public. Co-sponsors included Pisgah Legal Services and the 28th Judicial District Bar Pro Bono Committee. Volunteer lawyers included Robert "Bo" Carpenter, Mary March Exum, Sarah Zambon, Holly Fairbairn, Susan Anderson, Alan Coxie and Don McCown. The organizers were Betsy Holt, law clerk to the Honorable Lacy Thornburg, in her position with the NCBA YLD, and Jennifer Foster, Attorney Administrator for the Mountain Area Volunteer Lawyers Program, administered by PLS.

The audience, primarily the homeless population of downtown Asheville, had substantial legal questions ranging from custody, DMV licensing, impingements, landlord tenant/unsafe conditions, domestic violence and divorce, Medicaid, fraudulent wills and probate, termination of parental rights, social security disability, employment, personal injury, small claims court and collections, criminal loitering and excessive force, consumer fraud, and credit card and credit reporting issues. Several potential PLS clients were identified and appropriate referrals to community agencies were made.

Of note, volunteer Bo Carpenter went beyond the call of duty to contact a credit card company on behalf of an elderly deaf woman who had mistakenly been charged over \$3,000. Not able to resolve the matter that day, Bo graciously agreed to provide further pro bono assistance.

Betsy Holt commented that "The Young Lawyers Division has had great success with Ask-a-Lawyer events all over North Carolina, and we were very pleased to be part of the effort of bringing the project to Asheville for the first time. We are especially grateful for the outpouring of support from the local bar, without which this event could not have taken place."

Thank you to **Jennifer Foster**, Administrator for Mountain Area Volunteer Lawyers Program (MAVLP) & Staff Attorney at Pisgah Legal Services for contributing this article and the one on our annual award winners.