

28th Judicial District Bar Buncombe County, NC



Calendar

- 10 - 2** **NCAWA Annual**
- Thru** **Conference**
- 10 - 4**
- 10 - 6** **Executive**
- Committee**
- Meeting**
- 10 - 8** **Bar Lunch Meeting**
- & CLE**
- 10 - 15** **Women Attorney's**
- Luncheon 12:30 -**
- Cafe on the square**
- 11 - 3** **Executive**
- Committee**
- Meeting**
- 11 - 12** **Bar Lunch Meeting**
- 11 - 15** **PLS Jazz for Justice**
- 11 - 19** **Women Attorney's**
- Luncheon 12:30 -**
- Cafe on the square**
- 12 - 5** **Holiday Party &**
- Santa Pal Toy Drive**

President's Perspective:



On September 11 of this year I was in New York City. We were in a boat for a sunset cruise along the East River and the Hudson River when two beams of light rose above the skyline from the footprints of the Twin Towers and stretched up to the sky as far as the human eye could follow. On a smaller island across from Manhattan, the arm of the Statue of Liberty lifted another beam of light into the night sky. Up the Hudson River, the Empire State Building was awash at the top in red, white and blue lights. These three symbols in the night sky made me think of events of the past and hope for the future.

The Buncombe County Courthouse is at one end of downtown Asheville. At the other of downtown is the Federal Courthouse. By day or by night, these buildings are symbols of the judicial system in our country. It is a system built on foundations of the past, weathered and tested over time, and stretching and bending to meet the future.

The practice of law is steeped in history and full of its own symbols. Those of us who practice law are indeed its symbols most visible to the public. We have a responsibility to bring light where there is darkness, even when the cloudy or the gray are more appealing. We have a responsibility to learn from the history of the law, to meet the tests of today and to be leaders in the future of our communities. We need to remember that we are symbols of the judicial system in our country.

What will a visitor to your practice see? What symbol will you provide? What legacy will you leave? Will light or darkness rise from your footprints?

Patsy Brison

BAR ADMINISTRATOR

Last month we had a computer virus and this caused numerous problems as you may well imagine. Yes, we had back up for our records and anti-virus software, but still the virus stole my time. Our executive committee approved the purchase of a new computer to update our computing capabilities, which I am grateful for. I am still transitioning our files to the new computer (we went from a PC to a MAC). For any of you who are pros with MAC technology, I'd love to hear from you.

Despite the gas crunch, we had ten attorneys sworn in or recognized as new members on Friday, September 26, 2008 in the fifth floor courtroom. See details below. A special thanks to **Cathie St. John-Ritzen** for doing a fantastic job coordinating the Orientation and Swearing In Ceremony for our new attorneys. Thank you to our President-elect **Heidi Stewart** for providing flowers. Thank you to **Otto Debruhl's office** for providing tables for this event and to the courthouse staff for cleanup.

Greta Camp

Welcome

New
Members

Our Bar President, **Patsy Brison** welcomed our new attorneys, family, and friends at the Swearing In Ceremony held on the 5th floor of the courthouse on September 26, 2008 at 4:30 PM.

The Honorable Shirley H. Brown presided. The following new members were recognized or sworn in:

Amanda and Scott Armstrong of Armstrong & Armstrong
Janet K. Haney of Messer Law Firm
Lynn A. Key of Leicht & Olinger
Lindsay M. Parris of Van Winkle, Buck, Wall, Starnes & Davis
Benson T. Pitts of Pitts, Hay & Hugenschmidt, PA
Lori M Ritter of the US District Court, WDNC
Hayley Roper of McGuire, Wood & Bisette, PA
Fredilyn Sison of the Federal Defenders of WNC
Mark K. Williams of Young, Williams, Kirk & Stone, PC

These new members were not present for the event:
Ms. Emily A. Harrell, an Assistant Public Defender
Robert S. Jackson of McGuire, Wood & Bisette, PA
Jeffrey Dunlop of Van Winkle, Buck, Wall, Starnes & Davis
Matthew Kitchens of Van Winkle, Buck, Wall, Starnes & Davis

Thank You Sponsors For Your Support and Welcoming Our New Members

Hosting Reception in Rotunda



Attorneys Title

A division of United General Title Insurance Company



THE
VAN WINKLE
LAW FIRM

Hosting the Pro-Bono Lunch

Elder Law Attorneys:
 Susan Dotson-Smith
 Cynthia Alleman
 Cathie St. John-Ritzen
 & Heidi Stewart

Hosting the Breakfast Buffet

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

President: Patsy Brison

President-Elect: Heidi Stewart

Vice President: Bill Christy

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 - State Bar Councilor

Upcoming Bar Events & News

NCAWA Annual Conference Oct. 2-4

The Foundation & Future of Women Attorneys: 30 Years of NCAWA will be held on October 2-4, 2008 at the Crowne Plaza Resort in Asheville. The Outgoing President's Reception, honoring **Susan Dotson-Smith**, Smitty, will be Thursday, October 2, 6:00 - 8:00 pm at the Crowne Plaza. Please RSVP to info@ncawa.org.

"Come one, come all to special October 8th Bar Lunch...."

Please RSVP to our administrator for the Bar Lunch Meeting the Monday before the meeting.

Place: YMI Cultural Center, 39 South Market Street. Price: \$10 members, \$18 for guests. The public is welcome to attend.

Exploring Meaning and Satisfaction in the Practice of Law through Pro Bono Service and Ethics CLE Registration

Come one, come all, to a special October 8 Bar Lunch, where we will explore as a community how pro bono practice and stewardship of low-income clients leads to greater satisfaction and meaning in the practice of law. A lively panel featuring our 2008 NCBA pro bono nominees **Cindy Strom**, **Susan-Dotson Smith** and **Brad Stark**, as well as pro bono stalwarts **Vince Childress** and **Bryant Webster**, will provide the volunteer lawyer with tools on how to create meaningful pro bono attorney-client relationships and to holistically help the client lift themselves out of poverty; thus, leading to greater fulfillment in the practice. Michelle Cofield, Director of Public Service & Pro Bono Activities of the NCBA, will be on hand to recognize and honor our 2008 pro bono nominees for their outstanding "Champion of Justice" service rendered—an honor the NCBA has decided to bestow statewide.

Following the luncheon, the NCBA has generously offered us a video replay reduced cost (it's only \$30!) three hour CLE (two hours ethics, one mental health) featuring a "medley" of ethics topics.

Discussions will include: Commencing the Attorney - Client Relationship • On the 'Broken' Road of Recovery with the Next Generation • and The Mental Health Risks to Attorneys in Representing High Conflict Clients. Anyone interested can contact the NCBA CLE office at 1-800-228-3402 and reference program code 444YMI on October 8. Please register before this Wednesday, as they cannot guarantee books for anyone who registers within

one week of the program. Courtesy of **Jennifer N. Foster**, MAVLP Administrator.

Evening forum on "Gun Control: The U.S. Supreme Court and the 2nd Amendment" at UNCA's Reuter Center on Oct. 8 at 7 PM

Joseph P. McGuire of McGuire, Wood & Bissette, P.A. invites you to a free evening forum starting at 7 PM on Wednesday, October 8 at UNCA's Reuter Center on "Gun Control: The U.S. Supreme Court and the 2nd Amendment." The speaker, **Bob Levy**, served as co-counsel in the recent Supreme Court 5-4 decision that overturned the District of Columbia's handgun ban and acknowledged a personal right to bear arms under the Second Amendment. This event, open to the public, should be of special interest to attorneys. Joe will be serving as moderator.

Women Attorney's Lunch at Cafe on the Square on Oct. 15 at 12:30 PM

Please RSVP Sheila Lambert slattorney@aol.com.

2008 Jazz For Justice, A Roaring Twenties Gala on Nov. 15 at 6 PM

Pisgah Legal Services invites you to their 30th Anniversary Celebration on Saturday, November 15, 2008. The event is being held at The Renaissance Hotel in Asheville, NC and starts at 6 PM. Tickets are \$ 55.00 per person. Save this date for an evening of dinner, drinks and dancing. Music is by the Firecracker Jazz Band. If you would like to purchase a ticket or become a sponsor please contact Betsy Fedder, 828.210.3444 or betsy@pisgahlegal.org.

Survey on Bar's Website



I'd like to win a few free bar lunches!

Answer 8 questions for a chance to win a prize! Your Bar would like for you to respond to a short survey telling us how we're doing with our new website, www.ashevillebuncombelaw.net. Participants earn a chance to win 3 months' free admission to the Bar lunch, a \$30 value to the winner. Click the link below to take the survey and submit your prize entry. The winner will be announced shortly after the survey ends on 11/30. http://www.surveymonkey.com/s.aspx?sm=DeZJUNVT2cMDeBRPy8LVUA_3d_3d.



Memorial

We regret to inform you that Attorney J. William "Bill" Russell passed away on September 4, 2008. Services were held on September 11 at 2 p.m. at Francis Asbury United Methodist Church on Asbury Rd. in Candler. Memorials may be made to Pisgah Legal Services, 89 Montford Avenue, Asheville, NC 28801 or Asbury United Methodist Church, P.O. box 67, Candler, NC 28715. The guest book may be signed on-line at http://obit.grocefuneralhome.com/wrapper_gb.php?id=580557&listing=Current.

Announcements

Appointment of David S. Cayer as U.S. Magistrate Judge.

The **Honorable Robert Conrad**, Chief Judge of the US District Court for the Western District of North Carolina, is pleased to announce that **Judge David S. Cayer** has accepted appointment to the position of U.S. Magistrate Judge for the Western District of North Carolina. Judge Cayer was selected from a pool of 50 candidates from across the country and was one of five finalists recommended to the court by a Merit Selection Panel of lawyers and lay persons. Judge Cayer has served as a Resident Superior Court Judge for Mecklenburg County since 2003.

Prior to his election to Superior Court, Judge Cayer was a Mecklenburg County District Court Judge for ten years. He is also a former Mecklenburg County Assistant District Attorney and Assistant US Attorney for the Eastern District of Virginia. Please join us in welcoming Judge Cayer to the federal bench.

Bar President Letter 9/17/08

A letter from Patsy Brison as well as a diagram of the law library in the Buncombe County Courthouse is included. Your input was requested by 9/30/08. Click here for full text of letter: [http://www.ashevillebuncombelaw.net/resources/Bar Library email from Bar President.pdf/view](http://www.ashevillebuncombelaw.net/resources/Bar%20Library%20email%20from%20Bar%20President.pdf/view).

Ann-Patton Hornthal (formerly Ann-Patton Nelson) of Roberts & Stevens, P.A., married Lang Hornthal on September 13, 2008. Her new email address is aphornthal@roberts-stevens.com.

Joe G. Adams of Adams Law Firm has changed his address to 107-B Merrimon Avenue, Asheville, North Carolina 28801.

Bruce Elmore has opened his own practice, The Elmore Law Firm, P.A., located at 366 Merrimon Avenue, Asheville, North Carolina, 28801. The office phone number is: 828-253-1492, and he can be reached by e-mail at elmore@theelmorelawfirm.com. His web site is: www.theelmorelawfirm.com. Bruce's practice will continue

to focus on plaintiff's personal injury, medical malpractice, and nursing home negligence.

Immigration Poverty Law Attorney

Pisgah Legal Services (PLS) is seeking an immigration poverty law attorney. Please see their website for details at <http://www.pisgahlegal.org/about/job-opportunities>.

Awards & Recognitions

Pisgah Legal Services Honored for Excellence by Community Foundation of WNC

Pisgah Legal Services recently received the Community Foundation of Western North Carolina's Chairman's Award in recognition of "Excellence in WNC Nonprofits." The Community Foundation's Board of Directors selects one nonprofit from the region to receive this award each year. The Community Foundation presented this award at its annual luncheon on September 8th. **Jim Barrett** had the opportunity to share information about PLS' significant impact on the lives of low-income people to more than 480 luncheon guests. In his presentation, Jim noted the outstanding support that PLS has received from the Bar over Pisgah Legal Services' 30-year history. The Community Foundation has provided numerous grants to support PLS programs and increase its organizational capacity since 1991.

NC Bar Association Committee Appointment for 2008-09, Attorney Anna R. Hamrick

Anna R. Hamrick was appointed to the Medico-Legal Liaison Committee for the 2008-09. The Medico-Legal Liaison Committee is responsible for periodic review of and revisions to the Medico-Legal Guidelines and for promoting the understanding and cooperation between the bar and the medical profession.