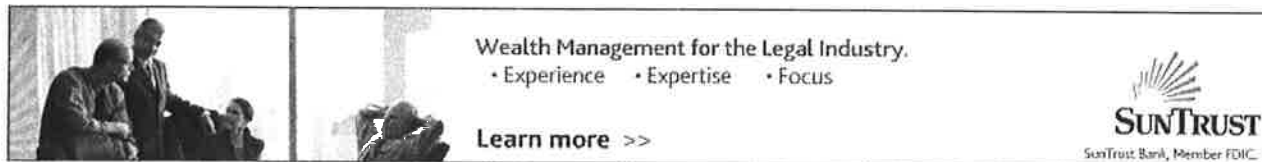


# NORTH CAROLINA LAWYERS WEEKLY

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## Lawyers In The News

### Lawyers In The News

The North Carolina Bar Association presented its Liberty Bell award to **Herbert H. Taylor** of Tarboro as part of its observation of Law Day. The group also sponsored a free Ask-A-Lawyer booth at Crabtree Valley Mall in Raleigh....

Brunswick County Attorney **Huey Marshall** served a stint in the Peace Corps and taught fifth and sixth-grade science and math in his old Pender County elementary school before going to law School at North Carolina Central University. As a volunteer in Liberia, Marshall put his Wake Forest biochemistry degree to work as a health educator and vaccinator, spending three years installing toilets and teaching the dangers of bacteria. He told the *State Post Pilot* that a high school 4-H trip to Washington opened his eyes to another world....

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Rocky Mount lawyer **Kelley McKay** was named Woman of the Year by the local chapter of the American Business Women's Association....

Raleigh lawyer and ATLA president **Howard Twiggs** wrote an editorial column in the *News & Observer* advocating strong consumer rights in the courts. He said if there was any lawsuit explosion, it was in business litigation, which comprised nearly half of all federal court cases between 1985 and 1991....

**Bill Baity Jr.** has opened a solo practice in Statesville. A 1996 graduate of the Thomas M. Cooley Law School in Michigan, his mother Betty Jean Baity is the former clerk of the Iredell County Superior Court....

**Timothy O'Sullivan** was made a director in the RTP office of Bell, Seltzer, Park & Gibson, which also has offices in Charlotte. Meanwhile, Bell Seltzer is talking merger with the Atlanta firm of Alston & Bird, **Jack Sullivan** told *Triangle Business*. Alston's Atlanta and Washington offices have 330 lawyers, and Bell Seltzer has 55. July 1 is the target date for the nuptials....

Wake County Bar President **Barbara Weyher** wrote a fond portrait of **Jerry Alvis** in the *Wake Bar Flyer*. The two practiced together for a time in the Raleigh firm of Young, Moore Henderson & Alvis, where she said he often came to work at unusual hours dressed in jeans and cowboy boots – long before the advent of casual Friday. Citing his gift for creating novel legal theories,

Weyher recalled that Alvis once argued to the Court of Appeals that a plaintiff claiming emotional distress was contributorily negligent when he confronted his wife and another man in bed. Alvis was keenly aware of conflicts that could arise in insurance defense, she said, and always counseled that the defense lawyer's duty to the insured transcended his duty to the insurance company....

State **Sen. Ellie Kinnaird**, D-Orange, was presented the **Clifton E. Johnson Award** by the NCCU School of Law in honor of her public service and legal work. Formerly the mayor of Carrboro, Kinnaird has served with the Christic Institute South, Legal Services of North Carolina, and is currently a member of N.C. Prisoner Legal Services. The award is named for the retired N.C. Court of Appeals judge who was the first black member of the court....

**Leon Henderson Jr.** of Rocky Mount was on the program at the 1997 meeting of Commercial Law Affiliates in Phoenix. A partner in Battle, Winslow, Scott & Wiley, he spoke on roles and responsibilities of member contacts....

Winston-Salem attorney **Deborah L. Fletcher** has co-authored "Bankruptcy: A Survival Guide for Lenders," a book designed to assist lenders understand bankruptcy and their role in the bankruptcy process. She practices with Womble Carlyle....

The Sawbones beat the Jawbones 68-57 in a benefit basketball game played between doctors and lawyers in East Flat Rock, where 1,000 western North Carolina fans saw a lot of action, some of it resembling hoops. Among the Jawbones: **Bill and Sharon Alexander, Donald Barton, Ervin Bazzle**, 6-foot-10-inch **Ed "The Eclipse" Bleynat, Kelly "Bruiser" Calloway, Will Cathey, Tim Cosgrove, Michael Edney, Linda Goodwin, Jeff Hunt, Bob Haggard**, top-scorer **Bill Moyer** (13 points), **Roy "Rodman" Neill, Christopher Nichols, Robert Orr, Thomas Ramer, Scott Shelton, Angela Skerrett, Jack Tate, David Vines and Bryant Welch**. Leading cheers was **Page "Wasaboyski" Collie**, while **Sam Neill** was the team mascot, Jaws. The game raised more than \$34,000 for two organizations that help children who are victims of sexual abuse....

In other western North Carolina sporting news, a team of Buncombe County lawyers played members of the area Psychological Association in a softball game billed as the Shrinks vs. the Sharks. No admission fee was charged, but donations taken up at the game went to the regional Child Abuse Center....

District Attorney **Charles Hipps** says his office is first in the state among multi-county districts in docket management, and tied for third overall. Two of his cases pending since last year involve non-payment of child support. His seven-county district handled 21 murder cases last year, and has disposed of 10 so far in 1997....

Lawyers from the **Richard Schwartz** law firm in Raleigh have been hired by the Guilford County schools superintendent to help train principals to assist teachers evaluate their classroom performance. The outgoing president of the local NCAE chapter urged the school board to end the practice. "Get these million-dollar lawyers out of the classrooms," she said to the school board, according to Greensboro's *News & Record*. The firm concentrates in education law....

Sanford's city attorney **Susan Patterson** has been hired by the town of Broadway as its attorney. A native of Havelock, she went to law school at Campbell. She will replace **Gerald Shaw**, who left in January....

The town of Kernersville is getting its own assistant district attorney, Winston-Salem lawyer **Michael Hurst**. Since the court only meets once a week for criminal cases, Hurst will continue his law practice at Blanco Tackabery Combs & Matamoros, where he is a partner. A Wake Forest law grad, Hurst was a correctional officer in Florida in the late 1970s....

Judges, lawyers and court officials will spend five five years in a construction site when renovations begin next year on the Randolph County Courthouse. Serving on planning committees for the project are Superior Court Judge **Rusty Walker**, District Judge **Bill Neely**, District Attorney **Garland Yates**, and County Attorney **Alan Pugh**....

Mike Matthews, who concentrates on labor issues, spoke at an employment relations seminar put on by the Mooresville Chamber of Commerce. He covered employee handbooks, covenants not to compete, and substance abuse policies....

Campbell law grad **Steve Phillips** has joined the Washington law firm of Cerner, Liipfert,

Bernhard, McPherson & Hand. The former senior policy advisor to Sen. Jesse Helms is not the only new face at the firm -- presidential candidate Bob Dole works there too....

**David R. Fricke** has become a partner in the Raleigh office of Hunton & Williams, headquartered in Richmond....

Raleigh lawyer **Richard "Gus" Gusler** has settled a lawsuit against a company that he and a business partner claim stole their idea for Walnut Creek Amphitheater, and cut them out of the deal to build the music venue. The defendant agreed to pay \$4.5 million to avoid a trial, where treble damages might have come into play....

Cumberland County trial court administrator **Kim Tucker** has been appointed district court judge by Gov. Jim Hunt. She will complete the term of Judge **Patricia Timmons-Goodson**, who was named to the Court of Appeals in February. Tucker is a 1989 cum laude graduate of the Campbell University School of Law....

Forsyth County DA **Tom Keith** and one of his assistants, **Frederick Bauer**, are setting up a four-hour course on driving safety for teens charged with traffic violations. Under the plan, teens will not be allowed to enter plea agreements until they take the class. The program focuses on common weaknesses of inexperienced drivers. Keith launched it after four successive fatal accidents involving young Forsyth drivers. There was one common thread in each -- the cars ran off the right side of the road, and wrecked when the drivers pulled too sharply on the steering wheel to get back on the roadway. The course is designed by the North Carolina Safety and Health Council....

**Philip E. Searcy** has joined Wells Jenkins Lucas & Jenkins as a principal. He focuses on industrial, residential and commercial real estate law....

**James T. Williams**, the chairman of the management group for Greensboro's Brooks, Pierce, McLendon, Humphrey & Leonard, has been elected a trustee of Blue Cross and Blue Shield of North Carolina....

**James E. Ferguson II** of Charlotte is the new chair of the Board of Trustees of the National Institute of Trial Advocacy, and will preside during its 25th anniversary year. A member of NITA's board since, 1987, Ferguson is also a general counsel for the ACLU, on the NCBA board, and has served on the Academy of Trial Lawyers board, the NC Legal Services Corporation, and the National Law Project....

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