

# NORTH CAROLINA LAWYERS WEEKLY

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## Lawyers In The News

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**Jennifer E. Gottlieb**, formerly in-house counsel for Wachovia Bank's fiduciary service groups, has joined Blanco Tackabery Combs & Matamoros in Winston-Salem, where she will concentrate in estates and trust administration. She is a UNC law graduate....

**Jerry J. "Jeff" Davis**, an attorney in Moore & Van Allen's Charlotte office, was inducted into the American College of Trial Lawyers at the group's annual meeting in New York. Davis' practice is concentrated in construction, energy contract, securities regulation and business disputes....

#### ADVERTISEMENT

New officers and executive committee members of the Forsyth County Bar Association's young lawyers division have been elected. Officers are: **J. Jason Link**, Kilpatrick Stockton, president; **Deborah S. Halvorsen**, Davis & Harwell, president-elect; **Benjamin D. Porter**, Morrow Alexander Tash Kurtz and Porter, vice president; **Leigh Anne P. Miller**, Blanco Tackabery Combs & Matamoros, secretary; and **Kevin J. Williams**, Comerford & Britt, treasurer. Elected to the executive committee were: **Mark A. Leach**,

Orbock Bowden Ruark & Dillard; **Jennifer Martin**, assistant district attorney; **Ashley Matlock**, Kilpatrick Stockton; **Devin Thomas**, Orbock Bowden Ruark & Dillard; and **Clinton W. Vranian**, Womble Carlyle Sandridge & Rice....

Jeffrey Walker has opened a law office in Boone, where he will concentrate in criminal and civil litigation, employment law, workers' compensation, personal injury and real estate law. In practice since 1980, he is admitted before the U.S. Supreme Court and appears in state and federal courts in North Carolina and Florida....

Raleigh lawyer **Howard Twiggs**, who earned both his bachelor and law degrees at Wake Forest University, has won the University's 2002 Distinguished Alumni Award. Twiggs is a former member of the N.C. House of Representatives, and was president of the N.C. Academy of Trial Lawyers and the American Trial Lawyers Association....

District Attorney **G. Dewey Hudson** has gotten a federal grant to staff a team to handle domestic violence cases in Sampson, Duplin, Onslow and Jones counties. Assistant DA **Catherine Rhodes** will lead the section, which will prosecute with or without victims' testimony.

In Sampson County alone, there have been nine domestic violence-related deaths since 2000, the *Sampson Independent* reported....

Alamance County District Judge **Jim Roberson** has been selected as one of 16 judges to participate in the N.C. Juvenile Judges Certification Training Program, coordinated by the Institute of Government for the Administrative Office of the Courts. Roberson will undergo nine days of training over a four-month period, and end up with a practicum where he will preside over at least 100 juvenile hearings....

Teen Court volunteer **Martin Scott** of Whiteville's Williamson & Walton firm was pictured in the *Whiteville News Reporter* giving pointers to a student in preparation for the court's first session in Columbus County. Assistant District Attorney **Randy Catrett** and other officials educated the teens about the justice system and helped them put on a mock trial....

In Charlotte, **Gary W. Jackson** of Lewis & Roberts has been elected chair of the NCBA's litigation section for 2002-2003. He was also recently selected to co-chair the construction defect litigation group of the American Trial Lawyers Association. This spring, he taught at Duke law school, where he is a senior lecturing fellow....

Shelby lawyer **Robert H. Lutz** spoke at an NCBA program titled "Basics of Bankruptcy." The Georgia State College of Law grad is a partner in Yelton, Farfour, McCartney & Lutz....

Fifteen domestic relations lawyers in the Piedmont Triad have formed the Triad Collaborative Practice Group, whose aim is to settle domestic disputes in by an informal process rather than litigation. Greensboro lawyer **Christopher Craig**, who has been trained in collaborative law techniques, told *The Business Journal* that lawyers can have a sense of success by helping people resolve dispute rather than by winning in court. **Pamela Simon**, Statesville lawyer and chair of the collaborative law section of the NCBA's family law council, is also affiliated with the group. "I personally think that within a decade, collaborative law will be the norm rather than the exception of dissolving marriages," she said....

The new Brunswick County courthouse drew glowing praise from Cumberland County Superior Court Judge **Jack A. Thompson**, who presided over a capital case there. The \$16 million, 100,000 square-foot facility features metal detectors and an x-ray machine as part of the security package....

Charlotte's **Martha Barber** was recognized for her expertise in trademark law by *Managing Intellectual Property* magazine. She is a partner in Alston & Bird....

District Attorney **Tom Lock** has appointed **Mike Beam** as interim Senior Assistant District Attorney to take over the post that was held by **Bill Higgins**, who was fired when criminal charges were lodged against him. Beam, who has been an assistant DA in Lock's office since 1989, told the Sanford Herald he wished he could be in Lee County under circumstances other than replacing Higgins, who is awaiting trial for conspiring to murder his wife....

The Colombo Kitchen law firm hosted an American Red Cross bloodmobile visit at its Greenville offices....

**Christopher D. Congleton** has joined the Tarboro firm of Bridgers, Horton, Rountree & Boyette. He is a 2000 Campbell law graduate....

Manteo Superior Court Judge **Jerry R. Tillett** was appointed by Gov. **Mike Easley** to the College of the Albemarle Community College board of trustees. Tillett practiced in Nags Head for seven years before going on the bench. In Sanford, the governor reappointed **William T. Wilson** to the board of trustees of Central Carolina Community College. The NCCU law graduate is a sole practitioner in his own firm....

**James T. Johnson**, formerly of the firm of Lewis & Roberts, has opened his own law office in Raleigh, where he will focus in personal injury, commercial and insurance litigation....

**John J. Korzen** of Anderson Korzen & Associates in Kernersville, was recently admitted to practice before the U.S. Supreme Court....

The civil docket in the 24th Judicial District is shrinking, according to Superior Court Judge **James L. Baker**. With 29 fewer cases pending at the end of fiscal year 2002 than the year before, the caseload reduction continues a long-term trend over a seven-year period, despite an

increase in the number of filings. Baker credits the civil mediation program and a strict approach to continuation of cases for the efficient disposal of civil cases in his district, which has seen an overall increase in filings over the last few years....

North Carolina Court of Appeals Judge **James A. Wynn Jr.** addressed the National Hispanic bar Association in Atlanta on the topic of judicial independence....

**David Irvine** appeared at the Williamston Stampede with his rock and roll ensemble, the Mr. Johnson Band. Irvine plays guitar and does lead vocals for the group....

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**William Farthing Jr.** has been named the new managing partner at Parker, Poe, Adams & Bernstein. He concentrates in regulatory and employment law in the firm's Charlotte office....

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