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OF COUNSEL

THE ALUMNI NEWS MAGAZINE

NORTH CAROLINA CENTRAL UNIVERSITY SCHOOL OF LAW

Spring 1995

Volume 1, Number 1



EDITOR'S NOTE: *Of Counsel* is published by North Carolina Central University School of Law for alumni, friends, and members of the School of Law community. Contact the School of Law at (919) 560-6333 if you have any comments or suggestions.

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ABOUT THE COVER:
Students from the School of Law gather at the University's most famous landmark, the statue of University Founder Dr. James E. Shepard.

(Cover photograph by Robert Lawson, University Photographer.)

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FROM THE OFFICE OF THE DEAN

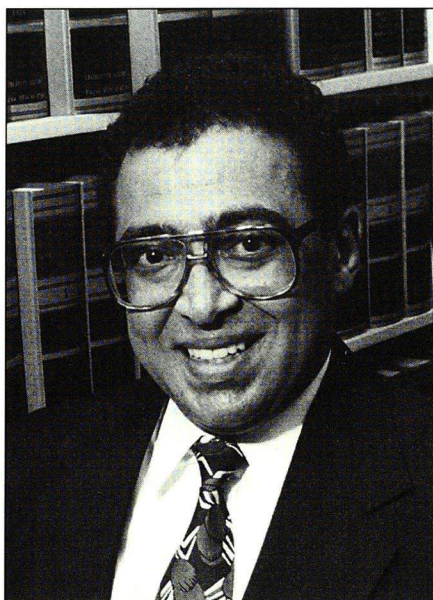
Percy R. Luney, Jr.

The North Carolina Central University School of Law is in its sixth decade of instruction. As part of a young institution, our opportunities are limitless. "Each new hour holds new chances for new beginnings," reads Maya Angelou in her poem for the 1992 presidential inauguration. Her words apply to our School of Law as fully as they do to our nation. This is a time to reflect on our past and to contemplate new directions. "Even if you're on the right track," Will Rogers once observed, "you'll get run over if you just sit there."

The inaugural issue of this North Carolina Central University School of Law publication represents a new beginning. It is also a revitalization that builds on the dedicated efforts of faculty, students, alumni, staff and friends for almost fifty-five years. Tradition must be balanced with renewal and revitalization. The School of Law of the Twenty First Century will be markedly different from the School of Law today.

The School of Law is a vital resource for the State of North Carolina. Our legal clinics and student interns provide legal services in State and Federal courts and offices and for private practitioners. Faculty members have been generous in giving time and commitment to government agencies and non-profit organizations requiring their counsel and expertise.

American legal education is entering a period of major adjustment, much of it driven by such



fundamental issues as access, cost and commitment to public service. We are at the beginning of what will be an ongoing debate about the role of legal education in preparing law students to become lawyers. Merely staying competitive will be difficult. We must continue to produce graduates not only to practice law effectively but to practice law faster and more economically.

Our mission includes the training of lawyers to provide legal services to traditionally underserved, poor and rural communities. We cannot permit students to graduate from law school with such heavy debt burdens that they cannot afford to devote a portion of their time to public service. In our campaign for the Twenty First Century, we must substantially increase

our endowment for future commitments to student scholarship assistance.

Our students need more summer and permanent employment opportunities and successful alumni must assume a greater responsibility in providing these opportunities. Our strength as an institution is directly dependent on the success of our alumni. We must support each other politically and economically. As our alumni become more unified and supportive of each other, they will become more successful individually.

The effort to improve our School of Law will be expensive. To retain and attract outstanding faculty, we must obtain funds to support faculty research and development. More money is needed to support labor-intensive professional skills courses and to purchase computers and other equipment necessary to instruct our students in the effective use of information technology.

As I mark nine months as dean of the North Carolina Central University School of Law, I look forward to listening to and consulting with all persons who care about the School of Law and have a stake in its success as we develop a vision for the Twenty First Century. I thank all students, faculty, alumni, staff and friends for your support and encouragement. I urge you to support the School of Law financially and politically as we move toward the Twenty First Century.

A MESSAGE TO ALUMNI AND FRIENDS

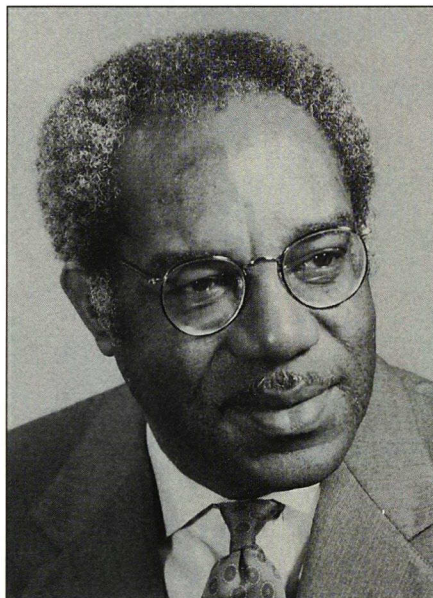
From Chancellor Julius L. Chambers

On behalf of the University, I am extremely proud to greet you in this inaugural publication. This publication is extremely important for the School of Law and for the University. It offers an effective forum for the University to communicate with our alumni and friends about the School of Law's growth and development and to build closer ties. I have always felt that our strength comes not just from faculty and students, but from our alumni. You provide the School of Law and the entire University with a wealth of knowledge, insight and experience.

Every graduate of North Carolina Central University School of Law has a rich history. Every graduate has blazed his or her own trail. It is for this reason that I encourage you to "reconnect" with the School of Law and the University. Your experiences and your expertise are needed as the School of Law attempts to revitalize its alumni association and bring long lost alumni back into the fold.

I am excited about the transformations taking place in the School of Law. Most importantly, the School of Law has enjoyed a significant increase in applications from prospective students. Second, the School of Law has seen a marked improvement in its bar exam passage rate. From a disappointing 38% passage rate in 1985 to 84% in 1993 and 83% in 1994.

Moreover, the establishment of the Charles Hamilton Houston Chair by Franklin Anderson and Susie Powell will bring a nationally recognized professor to the School of Law in the area of constitutional



law and civil rights. The recruitment of renowned faculty to serve alongside the distinguished faculty currently at the School of Law will not only strengthen the legal education provided to NCCU law students, but will focus national attention on the School of Law and the entire University.

Of equal importance, under the direction of Dean Percy Luney, the

School of Law has become more involved in a number of activities and programs designed to improve its role and status locally, nationally and internationally. We all know that the School of Law is an exceptional institution. We no longer want to keep it a secret.

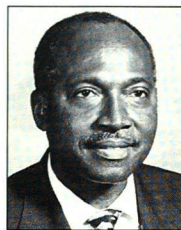
How can you, as alumni, help our efforts? You can start by being openly proud of your alma mater. Talk it up among your colleagues, other professionals, and your friends and family members. Every person who hears what this law school has provided you may be a potential employer of a student, a potential resource person for the administration, or a potential benefactor for the school. Having benefitted from an education at the School of Law, you are the school's greatest marketing tool.

You can also help our efforts by returning to the University and lending your expertise and experience. I have seen the progress made at other institutions when its alumni return to provide the students and faculty with the benefit of their voice and presence. Every student knows that this law school was founded with a very specific mission — to train lawyers who will go back into their communities and serve. Students need to see for themselves that alumni are fulfilling this mission. I urge you to join in our efforts as we work to increase alumni involvement and further the mission of North Carolina Central University School of Law.

Sincerely,
Julius L. Chambers
Chancellor

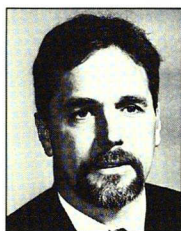


NEW FACULTY & STAFF



Charles E. Smith has been named an Associate Dean and Professor of Law. As Associate Dean, Smith is in charge of student related matters. Additionally, Smith teaches Contracts, Patent Law, and Insurance.

He earned his B.S. from California Polytechnical University in 1965, his J.D. from Georgetown in 1972 and he received his LL.M. from Duke in 1983. He has been on the faculty of the School of Law since 1979.



Mark W. Morris has been named an Associate Dean and Professor of Law. Morris will be in charge of academic affairs at the Law School. In addition to his administrative

duties, he teaches Torts, Remedies, Administrative Law, and Worker's Compensation.

Morris earned his B.A. from the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill, his J.D. from NCCU summa cum laude, and his LL.M. from Harvard University in 1983, summa cum laude. Morris is co-author of North Carolina law of Torts, and has recently completed a new publication, Tort Liability: A Manual for North Carolina Local Governments. He is also an AOC Certified Mediator.



Adrienne L. Meddock has been appointed Assistant Dean for the Evening Program. Meddock received her A.B. from UNC-Chapel Hill in 1984 and her J.D. from the School of

Law in 1991, graduating summa cum laude. Before becoming Acting Dean, Meddock was the Academic Development Specialist and Director of Legal Writing. Currently, Meddock is the co-chair of the North Carolina Bar Association's Lawyers and the Arts Committee and is the Secretary of the NCCU School of Law Alumni Association.



Sandra J. Polin has been named the Assistant Dean and Associate Professor for the Day Program. She received a B.A., cum laude from Williams College in 1980 where she was a member of

Phi Beta Kappa. She earned her J.D. from the University of Toledo in 1983. After law school she practiced civil litigation in a New York law firm before returning to the University of Toledo to teach on the law school faculty. She also taught at the Thomas M. Cooley School of Law faculty in Lansing Michigan before joining the faculty at NCCU. In addition to her administrative duties, she teaches Contracts, Antitrust and Business Associations.



Paul L. Jones has been named as the Director and Supervising Attorney for the Civil Rights Clinic. Currently, he is also serving his second three year term on the State

Bar of North Carolina's Disciplinary Hearing Commission.

Jones received his B.A. from North Carolina A & T State University in 1971 and his J.D. from NCCU in 1974. A native of Kinston, Jones was in private practice for 15 years in Kinston before accepting employment as an attorney with the United States Supreme Court. In 1991, Jones received the North Carolina Association of Black Lawyers Community Service Award.



Grady Jessup has joined the faculty as a visiting Assistant Professor. Jessup works with the Criminal Litigation Clinic and teaches a course on Housing and Community Development.

He is a Trial Advocacy Board Advisor and is the current President of the Law School's Alumni Association.

Jessup earned his J.D. from NCCU in 1986. After graduation, he was a real estate broker in New York and served for seven years with the Public Defender's Office in Charlotte. In

1992, Jessup received the Law School's prestigious Julian T. Pierce Award for public service.



Audrey Boone Tillman has joined the School of Law faculty as the supervising attorney in the Civil Litigation Clinic. She also teaches Appellate Advocacy, Civil Litigation, and Law Office Management, and advises the Moot Court Board.

An Atlanta native, Tillman received her B.A. from the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill in 1986, and her J.D. from the University of Georgia in 1989. After graduation, she clerked for the Honorable Richard C. Erwin, United States Chief District Judge for the Middle District of North Carolina in 1989-90. Before joining the faculty, she worked as an associate with Smith Helms Mulliss & Moore in Greensboro in the areas of civil and criminal litigation.



Tracey Hicks Barley has been appointed as the Director of Law School Recruitment and Continuing Legal Education, a newly created position on the faculty. Barley received her B.A. from

Winston-Salem State University in 1983 and her J.D. from the School of Law in 1993, graduating cum laude. Prior to attending law school, Barley was the Assistant Director of Admissions at Winston-Salem State University from 1984-1990.



Nichelle M. Jones is the newly appointed Academic Development Specialist in charge of the Performance Based Admissions Program (PBAP), which includes the tutorial program and

the writing lab. Jones received her J.D. from the School of Law in 1993. Prior to this appointment, Jones was an associate in a Fayetteville, NC law firm and served as a judicial clerk to the Honorable Clifton Johnson on the North Carolina Court of Appeals.

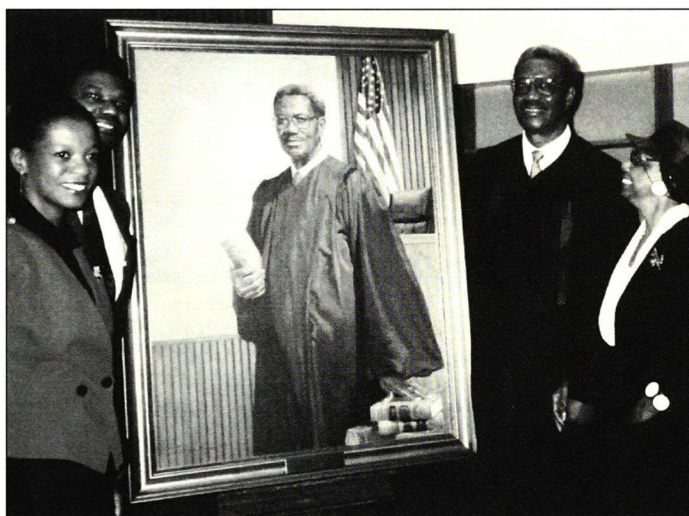
JUSTICE ROBERT DAVIS GLASS: *Portrait of An Achiever*

When Robert Davis Glass graduated from the North Carolina Central University School of Law in 1951, he had reached a life-long dream which he shared with his mother. Just how far his legal career would soar, however, was beyond his wildest dreams. Robert Glass, a young man born and reared in Wetumpka, Alabama, who spent his youth caddying on the golf course for judges and lawyers, would become the first African American Justice to sit on the Connecticut Supreme Court. This "first" by Justice Glass was important not just for the State of Connecticut, but equally as important for the School of Law in that he is the first, and to date, the only NCCU School of Law graduate to sit on a state Supreme Court.

Justice Glass started his education at Alabama State College in 1941 where he entered on a basketball scholarship. Admittedly, he did little more than play basketball while at Alabama State, but at 6'7" he played well enough to earn a letter before being drafted into the army in 1943. He served in the army from 1943 until 1946, and, oddly enough, it was his Executive Officer in the army who first mentioned NCCU to him after he had shared his intention of becoming a lawyer. Justice Glass recalled that his officer, who was himself a Howard University grad, mentioned "a new school in North Carolina" where there was a small student body and thus a greater likelihood of more attention from the faculty.

In September 1946 Justice Glass enrolled under the G.I. Bill in what was then referred to as North Carolina College. Having to start virtu-

ally from scratch after his days at Alabama State, his "mission" upon arrival was to receive both his undergraduate and law degrees in five years. True to form, he finished up his education at NCCU in 1951 having received his bachelor's degree magna cum laude and his law degree cum laude and first in his class.



Judge Glass is joined by his family at the unveiling of his portrait in Waterbury. L-R: daughter Rosalyn; son Robert, Jr.; Judge Glass; wife Doris.

Justice Glass describes his days here at NCCU as "heaven." Because he was under the G.I. Bill, he was being paid to go to school, and this time around was taking it very seriously. To this day he still believes that "the best thing that happened to poor people as a result of the war was the opportunity to go to school under the G.I. Bill." Very soon after beginning at the School of Law, he realized that his Executive Officer had been correct about the likelihood of receiving individual attention from the faculty. He recalls having "a lot of fun" taking contracts and constitutional law from then Dean Albert Turner and taking evidence from Professor Harry Groves. According to Justice Glass, the faculty made a "great impres-

sion" upon him and helped to shape the course of his legal career.

After finishing law school and taking the attorney's oath on September 27, 1951, his parents mortgaged their small home in Alabama and with those funds he opened a general law practice in Charlotte. It was in Charlotte where Justice Glass met and later married his wife, the

former Doris Powell, who was at that time a young Connecticut transplant teaching in Charlotte. Two years after coming to Charlotte, he moved his family to New Bern when a group of African American community leaders recruited him after the death of Ralph O'Hara, who had been the only African American lawyer in New Bern.

Justice Glass stayed in New Bern for seven years until 1960 when he and his family moved to Hartford, Connecticut, where his wife Doris had obtained a job as a schoolteacher.

After qualifying for reciprocity (it took 18 months for the Connecticut bar to complete its investigation of his application) the Glasses finally settled in Waterbury because at that time there was no African American lawyer there. At that time, Justice Glass and his wife Doris had expanded his family with their three children: Robert Jr., Roberta and Rosalyn ('83).

In Waterbury, Justice Glass became president of the state Federation of Black Democratic Clubs. This position enabled him to meet and work with several prominent politicians which would very quickly prove beneficial to his legal career. In 1966, after working as a general practitioner, he was

SCHOOL OF LAW'S LIBRARY GOES HIGH TECH

Recent observers of the School of Law's library might liken it to television's Energizer Bunny, it just keeps on growing and growing and growing! For those who haven't visited the library in awhile, there are several additions. Most notably, the library has expanded its technological services and installed a state-of-the-art computer system.

The library's main computer system is located in the Computer Lab, which is currently equipped with fourteen IBM compatible computer terminals and fourteen HP Deskjet printers. Because all of the terminals are equipped with either WordPerfect 5.1 or WordPerfect 5.2 for Windows, students now have the capacity to do all of their wordprocessing tasks in-house.

Also housed in the library is the Permanent Learning Center, where the computerized legal research terminals are utilized. The Permanent Learning Center is so named, according to Professor Deborah Jefferies, the School of Law's Librarian, because "for years whenever the WESTLAW and LEXIS representatives would come to train the students and faculty, we would have to come up with a makeshift area where they could set up terminals on a temporary basis. We named this new area the Permanent Learning Center because we now have our own permanent facilities for computerized legal research." The Center currently houses six WESTLAW research terminals and six LEXIS research terminals. In addition, the Permanent Learning Center houses two new CD-ROM players which

are provided for legal research.

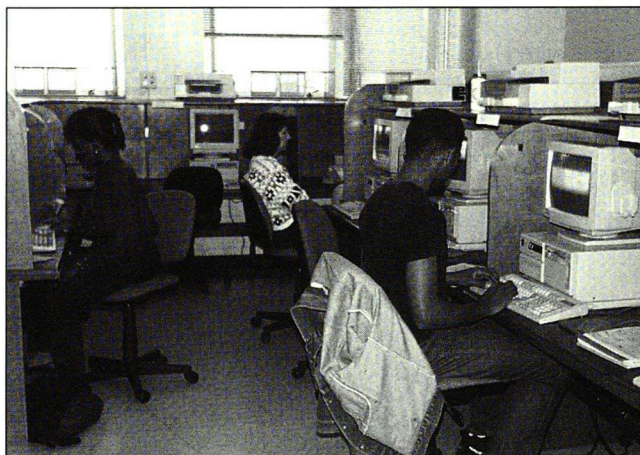
The main portion of the library contains what is referred to as the Ready Reference Area. This area houses the library's on-line catalogue terminal and three NEC 286 computers with CD-ROM players

The library has significantly increased its book volume in the last academic year. In 1993, a special legislative appropriation in the amount of \$884,000.00 facilitated the acquisition of a substantial number of volumes in the library.

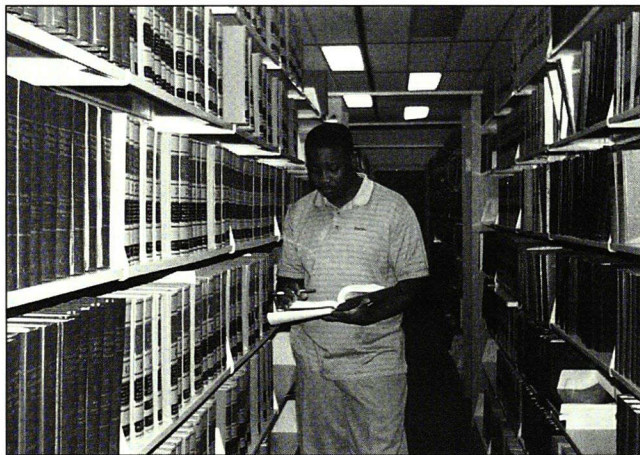
Professor Jefferies states that, among other things, the additional funds were used "to purchase approximately 4,200 book titles, 123 new journal titles and a large number of microfiche." The Floyd B. McKissick Civil Rights Collection was also notably enlarged. Moreover, the Library received more good news with a legislative appropriation in the same amount for 1994. Professor Jefferies indicates that the 1994 funds were used to continue enhancing the library's volumes and to purchase more computer and CD-ROM products.

Another new development in the 1994-95 academic year was the library's link into the Triangle Research Libraries Network (TRLN). This network is comprised of a consortium among the other research institutions in the Triangle area, namely UNC-Chapel Hill, N.C. State and Duke. NCCU law students can now use computers on campus to access the on-line catalogues at any of these institutions.

These innovative changes are a direct result of the law school administration's on-going commitment to make major improvements in the library. Asked where the library is going from here, Professor Jefferies smiles and says, "Hopefully, this is only the beginning."



Students working in the Computer Lab.



Additional volumes being put to good use by students.

attached. One CD-ROM player is devoted to Shepard's, another is equipped with Michie's North Carolina law on disk and the third player holds the Casebase legal research program which includes North Carolina court decisions and the North Carolina Administrative Code.

Attorney General Mike Easley Speaks to Entering 1Ls

The Attorney General for the State of North Carolina, Mike Easley, reminisced about his law school days at the School of Law during this year's Orientation for new law students. The Orientation program was held on Thursday, August 11, 1994 for the benefit of the 109 students making up the first year classes in the day and evening programs.

Easley, a 1975 graduate of the School of Law, provided words of encouragement and motivation for his anxious audience. He also displayed his excellent sense of humor to put the new students at ease. He

teased the students by telling them that the most important thing he could tell them was to start all essays with "The issue is . . ."

Easley also shared with the students how his years here in the School of Law helped to shape him politically. He recounted that the early exposure that NCCU provided him to students of different races was extremely beneficial, as well

as the emphasis that the School of Law places on public service.

The comments from students, alumni and faculty proved that the speech by Attorney General Easley was overwhelmingly successful. Sterling Thomas, a first year student remarked, "I was encouraged and motivated by Easley's speech. I realized that I could successfully complete law school."

Following his remarks, Easley held what resulted in a lengthy question and answer session with the students wherein he very graciously discussed recent cases and issues from the Attorney General's Office.

Below Left: Attorney General Easley chats with Dean Loney and his wife Gwen Swinson after delivering his address to students. *Right:* Second year student Jason Groves introduces himself to Attorney General Easley after hearing orientation address.

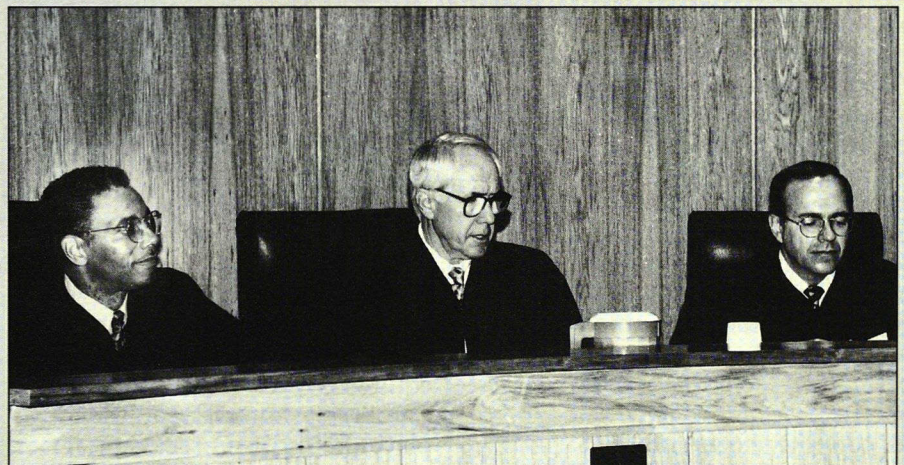


Court Holds Historic Session at School of Law

On November 30, 1993, the North Carolina Court of Appeals for the first time in the Court's history, held a session here at the School of Law. At that time, this session was only the Court's second on-site visit to a state university since the Court's inception. Due to the overwhelming response to this experience, the Court returned for a second visit on November 16, 1994.

The Honorable Clifton E. Johnson, a 1967 graduate of the School of Law, orchestrated the initial visit of the Court. "I felt it was important to come to Central primarily

CONTINUED ON PAGE NINE



(L-R) Judge Clifton Johnson, Chief Judge Gerald Arnold, and Judge John Martin in the Moot Court Room.

RECORD SETTING GIFT GIVEN TO SCHOOL OF LAW:

*Couple makes \$667,000.00 donation to endowment
for establishment of Charles Hamilton Houston Chair*

The old adage that it is better to give than to receive has always been exemplified by a Durham couple, independent businessman Franklin Anderson and his lawyer wife Susie Powell. The couple has on several occasions made very sizable donations to historically Black colleges with which they share some connection. Most fortunately for the School of Law, it is currently a recipient of the couple's benevolence. This recent gift has proven to be the single largest private gift ever made in the history of the School of Law. Mr. Anderson and Ms. Powell, neither of whom are graduates of the School of Law, are nonetheless big promoters of the School and emphatically state that it is with a sense of "pride" that they make this benefaction.

What drives a couple to such altruism? Another old adage comes to mind

... to whom much is given, much is expected. Both Anderson and Powell hail from what one would describe as meager backgrounds in terms of material wealth, yet both over the course of their lives have worked to place themselves at the very top of their respective professions.

Mr. Anderson jokes that he was born in a town in Alabama so small that "the name of it was 'Over in the Hole'." With prodding he admits that his birthplace was in the rural part of Phenix City, Alabama. When his family realized they couldn't make a living in Alabama,

they moved to Cleveland, Ohio. While in Cleveland, Anderson attended the Cleveland public schools and graduated from Cleveland State University. He then went to Harvard University where he earned a Masters of Business Administration degree in 1971.



Entrepreneurs Franklin Anderson and Susie Powell in their Durham home.

Ms. Powell was born and reared on a farm in the rural eastern North Carolina town of Whitakers. She graduated from Bennett College in Greensboro with a degree in English then attended Smith College where she earned a Masters in English. She ultimately gravitated toward a career in law and graduated from the Case Western Reserve School of Law in 1973. It was in Cleveland, while a law student, that she met and later married Franklin Anderson.

After receiving his MBA, Anderson returned to Cleveland to work in the communities that he had

known as a youth. At one time he was the CEO of Community Development Corporation of Cleveland which was a company formed to bolster the economic growth of the Black community in the area. A portion of Community Development Corporation was Hough Area

Development Corporation which was a construction and development company launched to rebuild the areas of Cleveland torn apart during the race riots. It was at this time in his young career, that Anderson states three events occurred of which he is the most proud. First, that he and other members of his company put together the deal for the first Blacks to purchase McDonald's franchises in the United States. Those first two historic purchases were made "right in Cleveland, Ohio." Second, his company built 1800 units of new hous-

ing and rehabilitated 900 additional units, all in Cleveland. He takes further pride in the fact that "the company that was started to do the construction is still doing it to this day." Third, he claims, is the fact "that I convinced my wife to marry me and move to North Carolina."

Since that time he has had what he describes as a "varied business career" which includes having purchased several businesses, most notably Custom Molders, Inc., a plastic injection molding company which at one time was the largest Black-owned manufacturing company in North and South Carolina.

Ms. Powell began her legal career with Legal Services in Cleveland where she worked in the litigation department, specifically in the area of housing reform. She then spent two years with the clinical program at Cleveland State University School of Law. After moving to North Carolina, she worked at North State Legal Services as the managing attorney.

In 1981 Ms. Powell joined the faculty at the School of Law. During her stay on the faculty she taught Contracts, Trial Practice, and Legal Methods and also supervised students in the Clinic. She left the School of Law in 1986 to become corporate counsel for the family corporation, Custom Molders, Inc. While serving as corporate counsel, she notes that she was able to draw upon her legal services background to develop the company's employment policies which would incorporate a "pro-employee perspective."

It was during Ms. Powell's five years at the School of Law that the idea of a possible endowment first surfaced. "I enjoyed my work at the law school," states Powell, "but I also learned from that experience how insufficiently endowed the school was." In late 1992, when looking for a way to help the University as a whole, the couple decided to focus on the School of Law and to give a "significant gift that might encourage others to give as they are able." According to Anderson, the \$667,000.00 gift was given because "we were hoping to change the focus of the bourgeoisie in North Carolina to giving. Hopefully gifts that would be lasting and have a significant impact."

Dean Luney is confident that the gift by Anderson and Powell will have the lasting and significant impact which they sought. "The School of Law and the entire University owe much to the generosity of Franklin Anderson and Susie Powell, who have given their time and resources to ensure the University's and the School of Law's

strength. We are deeply indebted for their service, generosity and dedication."

It costs \$1 million to endow a chair in the University of North Carolina system. The remaining \$333,000.00 was matched by the North Carolina legislature, enabling the Charles Hamilton Houston Professorship to be established. Chancellor Julius L. Chambers believes that the gift by Anderson and Powell will benefit not only the School of Law, but the entire University as well. "Both the University and the School of Law are extremely fortunate to have the gift from Franklin and Susie. It's exceedingly important for our students and the School

"We really want to see Central take its proper place."

— SUSIE POWELL

of Law to have leading legal scholars on the faculty." Adds Chambers, "the gift also enables the University and the law school to do much more in encouraging others to support the School of Law."

The decision to name the chair after the renowned attorney Charles Hamilton Houston was not a difficult one for the couple. It is obvious when speaking with them that they are great admirers of his work. Charles Hamilton Houston was for many years a Dean and Professor at Howard University's law school. During his tenure there, he personally trained many of the lawyers who would go forth and sponsor the major civil rights litigation of the 1950's and 1960's. Perhaps his most famous pupil was Thurgood Marshall, who would credit Houston on numerous occasions when

accepting accolades himself. It has been said by many participants in the civil rights movement, Thurgood Marshall included, that it was Houston who put together the strategy that lead to the major legal victories of the movement.

The Charles Hamilton Houston Chair is currently being advertised nationally. In deference to Houston, the Chair will be offered to a professor with a distinguished record of teaching, research and publications, and public service in the areas of Constitutional and Civil Rights Law.

Dean Luney adds, "by establishing the Charles Hamilton Houston Chair, Frank and Susie have enabled the School of Law to attract a nationally distinguished professor and make prominent the name of the chief engineer and first major architect of the twentieth century civil rights movement."

Since selling Custom Molders, Inc. in 1991, both Anderson and Powell have engaged in various undertakings, including extensive travels. Powell spends the majority of her time writing. She is currently the Fiction Editor for Obsidian, a literary magazine published out of North Carolina State University. Anderson "manages to do some consulting" and currently serves on several boards.

Despite the deliberately quiet way in which they have gone about making such a tremendous contribution to the School of Law, it is evident that both Anderson and Powell care a great deal about the University and its future. Anderson explains, "Susie served on the faculty of the Law School for a number of years, and I am on the Board of Trustees for the University and am a long time member of the Shepard Society. Central has such historic significance and has a personal significance to us as well."

Adds Powell, "we really want to see Central take its proper place."

With a start like the one they've provided, the School of Law is well on its way.

Judge Higginbotham Joins Faculty as Visiting Professor

During the spring semester of 1994, the School of Law was fortunate to have as a Visiting Professor, Judge A.

Leon Higginbotham, Jr., former Chief Judge on the United States Court of Appeals for the Third Circuit. Judge Higginbotham taught a seminar entitled Contemporary Legal Issues which explored a number of topics, specifically the trend in United States Supreme Court decisions in the area of civil rights.

Judge Higginbotham has had one of the most distinguished legal careers of any American jurist. After graduating from Yale Law School, he served as an assistant district attorney, a

partner at a Philadelphia law firm, and federal district court judge before being appointed to the Third



Circuit by President Carter. Upon retiring from the federal bench in 1993, he began serving as Of Counsel to the law firm of Paul, Weiss, Rifkind, Wharton & Garrison in New York, and continues to serve in that capacity in addition to doing independent research and writings.

Judge Higginbotham is also one of the most popular speakers on the national lecture circuit. Since authoring the highly publicized law

review article, *An Open Letter to Clarence Thomas From a Federal Judicial Colleague*, 140 U. Pa. L. Rev. 1005 (1992), Judge Higginbotham has spoken on dozens of college campuses across the country and is a familiar face presenting lectures on C-SPAN. Most recently, he, along with Henry Kissinger and other U.S. dignitaries, was sent by President Clinton to advise and monitor South African officials during the first open elections held in that country.

Judge Higginbotham agreed to become a visiting lecturer after receiving a personal invitation from his good friend, Chancellor Julius L. Chambers. Upon learning that Higginbotham would be in Durham doing research for an upcoming book on Justice Clarence Thomas, Chancellor Chambers immediately requested that Higginbotham share

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HISTORIC SESSION

CONTINUED FROM PAGE SIX

for two reasons: first, because of my allegiance to the University; [and] second because I felt it would be beneficial to the entire law school community," said Judge Johnson.

"I enjoyed the visit and believe that the other Judges on the panel, Judge Elizabeth McCrodden and Judge John Martin, enjoyed the change of scenery as well." Judge Johnson added, "the attorneys who argued before the Court on the day of the visit, including a 1993 Central alumnus, indicated that they too enjoyed presenting here; but I think that might have had something to do with not having to worry about finding a parking space in downtown Raleigh."

Chief Judge Gerald Arnold says that the Court's commitment to holding sessions at the law school was based upon several reasons, most importantly because the oral arguments help the students "to bridge the gap between legal education and the actual practice of law." Moreover, he added "the judges just plain enjoyed it." Judge Arnold was also overwhelmed by the positive reaction of the Bar and the participating lawyers. "The lawyers seemed to really like being back in the academic environment." Due to the positive response of everyone involved, Chief Judge Arnold has made a commitment to Dean Luney to hold a session at the School of Law on an annual basis.

School of Law Enjoying Record High Bar Results

For the past two years, the School of Law has enjoyed its highest bar results ever — 84 percent in 1993 and 83 percent in 1994. The high passage rates are the direct result of several changes implemented by the School of Law, namely a series of intensive programs implemented over the past several years.

The School of Law began to offer an intensive three year writing program designed to sharpen research and analytical skills. Among a variety of assignments, students write complaints, persuasive briefs, case notes, and comments. Additionally, the school offers a weekly voluntary writing tutorial for students who need additional assistance. The writing classes are staffed with full-time faculty members, particularly senior ones.

The faculty also developed interactive computer tutorials which are similar to the multi-state questions that graduates face on the bar exam. Additionally, each first year course and several second year courses offer voluntary tutorials. Second and third year students are selected to tutor classes based on their demonstrated academic abilities. A full-time faculty member oversees the tutors, and tutors are required to work closely with the professor who teaches the actual course.

In the spring semester of each year the School of

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THE FABULOUS STATE STREET BOYS: *Fred Whitfield and Charles Blackmon*

Fred Whitfield and Charles Blackmon love sports. They played basketball every Friday afternoon while in law school at NCCU back in the mid-80s. Today, they still play the game, but their basketball court has become a law office in downtown Greensboro's historic State Street district, and the rules of the game have become those of contract negotiation and sports management.

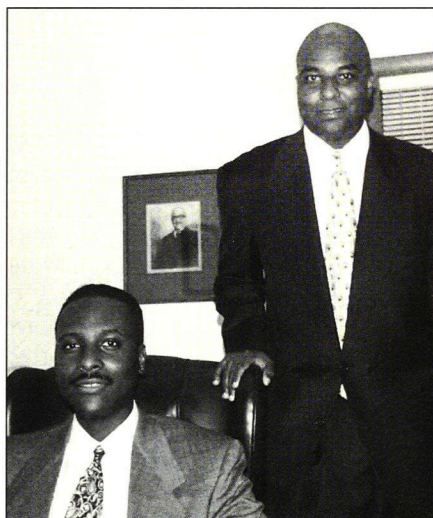
Whitfield and Blackmon, both 1988 graduates of the School of Law, are no longer law students with a love for sports, they are Sports and Entertainment lawyers.

"The reason I went to law school was because I wanted to become a lawyer, and use my legal background as a way to stay in sports," says Whitfield.

Sports have always been an integral part of Whitfield's life. He played basketball as an undergraduate at Campbell University in Buies Creek, N.C. while earning a Bachelor's degree in 1980, and served as assistant coach for the Men's Varsity team until he earned an MBA there in 1983.

Continuing his enthusiasm for the game, ten years ago, Whitfield began a basketball camp in Greensboro "as a way to give something back to the community." Every summer, approximately 300 kids enroll in Whitfield's *Achievements Unlimited* camp for lessons from NBA players like Michael Jordan, of the Chicago Bulls; Muggsy Bogues and Dell Curry of the Charlotte Hornets; Kendill Gill with the Seattle Supersonics; and Johnny Newman with the New Jersey Nets. The camp also stresses academics and puts out an anti-drug message.

Whitfield is currently the director of the Carolinas region of Falk Associates Management Enterprises or FAME. FAME is the third largest sports management company in the country. They negotiate playing



Law school chums turned power brokers, Charles Blackmon (left) and Fred Whitfield.

contracts with professional teams for their clients, they negotiate endorsement deals, and also provide financial planning and other types of personal services. The firm is comprised of five attorneys, four certified public accountants, and three MBAs, most notably, David Falk, the renowned sports agent and the company's namesake.

Whitfield currently manages two NBA clients and five NFL clients. He is also responsible for recruiting potential NFL and NBA clients. He concentrates on schools within the Atlantic Coast Conference but also looks for potential clients from the Big Ten Conference, namely the University of Michigan, University of Wisconsin, Illinois and Michigan State.

Whitfield says he was fortunate this year in that he was able to sign two of the top six draft picks in the NBA draft. He signed Juwan Howard from the University of Michigan, the number five pick drafted by the Washington Bullets, and Sharone Wright from Clemson University, the number six pick drafted by the Philadelphia 76ers.

"Central helped me fulfill my dream of being a representative for professional athletes," says Whitfield. "I really appreciate the legal experience that Central provided me, and I feel that as far as the learning experience, I can't imagine there being a better one anywhere."

Charles Blackmon is the entertainment side of the house. His practice is primarily in the area of entertainment and corporate law, but he also does personal injury and traffic law.

"We have corporate representation agreements with Adams Farm Community Association, Emerald Pointe Water Park, Mail Masters Plus of North Carolina, Southeastern Paper Co., and Cafe Pasta Restaurant. We do some of their corporate work and all of their traffic work."

In the entertainment arena, Blackmon says, "you have a lot of aspiring musical artists, rappers or R & B vocalists who are talented but just need to be directed to the right people or the right organization so as to get their product on the market." He adds, "I act as a conduit in that regard, by putting artists in touch with record labels, and helping them with recording contracts." Blackmon has worked with Atlantic Records, Mercury Records and a myriad of independent labels. "To be effective requires a strong knowledge of contract law, a lot of negotiation skills, and success is really grounded in the people that you know," says Blackmon.

Blackmon joined Whitfield in October of 1993 after working for almost five years with a mid-sized employment law and civil litigation firm in Philadelphia, *Dessen, Moses and Sheinoff*. This firm also introduced him to the area of entertainment law. "I stayed in contact with Fred, and when he

CONTINUED ON PAGE THIRTEEN

FOR ALUMN DALE DEESE THE ROAD LEADS HOME:

Dale Deese ('89) divides his talents between serving as an attorney and being an advocate for Native American causes.

There is an old saying that "home is where the heart is."

Dale G. Deese, a member of the Lumbee Tribe of Cheraw (commonly referred to as Lumbee) has made this proverb his personal philosophy. He has spent most of his adult life back in his hometown in Robeson County, advocating for the rights of the thousands of Native Americans who reside in eastern North Carolina.

Deese is currently the Executive Director of Lumbee River Legal Services, Inc. (LRLS), the local legal services agency which services Robeson, Scotland, Hoke and Cumberland counties. The region has the highest Native American population in the state. It also has one of the highest poverty levels. And, like so many midwestern states with a dense population of Native Americans, many of the local residents in the LRLS service area suffer from poor health, unemployment and drug dependency.

Nonetheless, after graduating from UNC-Chapel Hill in 1983 and finishing law school at NCCU in 1989, Deese returned to Robeson County to work as a staff attorney at LRLS. "I knew coming in to law school that I would go back to Robeson County," says Deese. "Legal services was fortunately the vehicle for me to serve my community."

Neither the legal plights nor the poverty of the Lumbees could discourage Deese from returning. "The history of the Lumbee people is very rich. We gain a lot of support from each other even though there is not a lot of material wealth," explains Deese. "That's home for us. It's where we can go and be

understood and accepted without somebody asking 'What is your identity?'"

After spending both his first and second year summers as a summer intern at LRLS, Deese accepted



a position as a staff attorney after graduation. He worked in this capacity for three years before becoming Managing Attorney for the agency in 1992. After a year as Managing Attorney, he became the acting Executive Director for the agency in August of 1993 and received the formal appointment in

December of the same year. In his present position he is responsible for the agency's two offices and a staff of seven attorneys, five paralegals, and nine support staffers.

In addition to servicing the everyday legal needs of its clients, LRLS, under the direction of Deese, also represents several Native American tribes in their quests to obtain recognition from the federal government. "We [Native Americans] are the only people in the country that have to prove to the U.S. government who we really are."

At the School of Law's annual SBA/Law Day banquet on March 19, 1994, Deese was awarded the Julian T. Pierce Award for outstanding service in a public interest field. In his acceptance speech, Deese moved the audience when he expressed his appreciation to the School of Law for what it had given him. Recounting his speech, Deese said, "at the time, Central was the only school to offer me an opportunity. Part of its mission is to train and educate caring and committed

people to go back into the community. I benefitted from that."

The Julian T. Pierce Award was especially meaningful to Deese because Julian Pierce played a significant role in his decision to apply to law school. After his graduation from UNC, Deese worked for Clergy and Laity Concerned, a Robeson County agency dedicated to working on issues affecting poor people. At the same time he enrolled in a Business Law course in the evening program at Pembroke State University. The course was taught by Julian Pierce. During the course of the semester, Pierce began to encourage Deese to attend law school. "He thought that I would make a good lawyer, and coming from him I couldn't argue."

Outside of his legal work, Deese is also involved in the many health issues effecting his community. Adds Deese, "the area where we live is referred to as the 'stroke belt.'" He is currently serving on the Board of Robeson Healthcare. Always looking for ways to enrich his community, he has also recently begun to focus more on economic development and land loss issues. "That's the only way that impoverished communities will make it."

In the midst of his schedule he and his wife Mindy, a medical records abstractor at Southeast Regional Medical Center, devote a great deal of time to their church, Harper's Ferry Baptist Church.

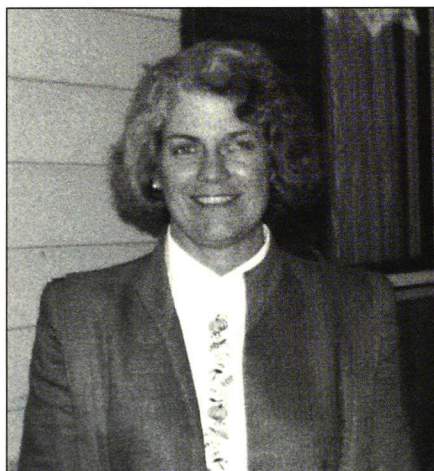
Asked whether he is an activist for Native American causes, Deese replies with a strong "Yes!" Asked whether he believes that he is a role model for young Lumbee Indians, and Deese responds with a somewhat reluctant, "I don't know." Despite his hesitation to admit that he is indeed a role model, without a doubt, Deese's "homecoming" has benefitted his people and the community he serves.

JANET WALES BROWN: *Alternative Lawyering*

The law offices of Janet Wales Brown have dual roles; the reception area is also a living room, the conference room doubles as a dining room, and the office where she does most of her legal work could be called the family study. Ms. Brown's law offices are also her residence, a lovely farmhouse located on the south side of Durham that she shares with her husband, Rick Johnson, two children and an array of friendly canines.

Sound unconventional? Not for Brown. These days, along with the conventional practice of law, Brown serves as a certified Superior Court Mediator with the state of North Carolina, a somewhat novel, if not unconventional, career choice.

After graduating from the School of Law in 1985, Brown worked with an all female law firm, *Thompson and McAllaster* where she did mostly real estate work. Today, after becoming the first woman to be certified in mediation in the state, she spends the majority of her time as a lawyer who doesn't represent either party in a dispute. "You're there just to work with the attorneys and the parties," says Brown.



Janet Brown outside her Durham home/office.

Court-ordered mediation has and will continue to become an integral part of civil practice throughout the nation. To date, there are twelve pilot mediation programs in North Carolina. Brown worked on the North Carolina Bar Association committee for Superior Civil Court mediation. Durham is not a pilot district. "We have arbitration in Durham. In arbitration, you act more as a judge," says Brown. In mediation, attorneys must take a forty hour course to become certi-

fied. Non-lawyers can become mediators by taking a forty-six hour course. Mediation occurs when a case is filed in court and the court orders that case into mediation. "Primarily personal injury cases," says Brown. The court will appoint a mediator or the parties can choose one from an available list. The mediator then sets up the time and place for the parties to meet and addresses all parties together before the process commences. Each party presents their side of the case, then the mediator usually goes into individual confidential conferences with each side. "The mediator is there to facilitate the settlement negotiation," she says.

"You can do things in mediation that you can't do in court," says Brown. She says, "Part of an agreement can be something like, 'Susan can keep Aunt Mary's portrait throughout the year except on Thanksgiving and Christmas when Jane can use it for family dinners.'" Brown says, "Sometimes, it's just saying 'I'm sorry' that's important to people."

"Both sides win in mediation," says Brown. Her specialty is sexual medical malpractice cases that reach her before complaints have been filed. "One of the reasons to settle these cases is because of the privacy aspect," she says.

"As attorneys, we spend more time in negotiation than we do in court," Brown says. "I think the success rate with mediation is well over eighty percent, and it is sure to go statewide," she says.

Looking to the future, Brown says she is interested in court ordered family law mediation. She says she would also like to teach an alternate dispute resolution course at NCCU. Whatever Brown's choices are for the future, she's sure to be on the cutting edge, blazing new trails, doing something new, exciting and unconventional.

BAR EXAM

CONTINUED FROM PAGE NINE

Law offers a weekend "Early-Bird" bar review course which is free to all students. A voluntary essay writing class is scheduled the first week after final examinations in the spring semester. Students are also encouraged to take the Statutory Interpretation course, which hones students essay writing and statute analyzing skills.

Bar examination results in the past several years have offered proof that the School of Law's efforts are solidly on track. After steadily increasing from the high 60's to more

than 70 percent, the fluctuations in passing rates appear to be over.

According to former Dean Mary E. Wright, whose administration implemented many of the academic programs that lead to the current statistics, "the substantial increase in our bar passage rate in recent years is the culmination of many years of hard work by faculty and administrators committed to fulfilling the Law School's mission. Thanks to these efforts, the programs implemented here are among the most innovative law school programs in the country, and the success of these programs is reflected in the enhanced bar passage rate of our graduates."

TRIAL ADVOCACY BOARD FLYING HIGH

The School of Law's Trial Advocacy Board was rejuvenated during the 1993-94 academic year. The Board had been inactive in recent years and had not participated in any national or regional competitions for more than eight years. The Board was reactivated during the fall semester of 1993 through the efforts of a dedicated group of law students with the assistance of Visiting Professor Grady Jessup and Professor Thomas Ringer. According to Professor Ringer, the idea of re-forming the Board had been considered for several years; however, the arrival of Professor Jessup was instrumental in the reorganization of the Board. Professor Jessup, a 1986 graduate of the School of Law, had been a member of the last team that had participated in a regional trial advocacy competition in 1985.

The purposes of the Board are to enhance the litigation skills of students, to promote excellence in trial advocacy, and to sponsor trial teams that will compete in regional and national trial advocacy competitions against teams from other law schools. During the 1993-94



Members of the team competing in the Houston, TX competition. L-R: Robert Thompson; Valerie Elder; Grady Jessup, Advisor; Michelle Fletcher; Dwayne Jones

academic year, approximately thirty students joined the Board. Membership on the Board is divided into three categories: Solicitors are members-at-large who have not competed in any intraschool, regional or national competitions; Junior Barristers are members who have only competed in intraschool trial advocacy competitions; and Senior Barristers are members who have competed in at least one regional or national trial advocacy competition.

In February of 1994, two teams represented the School of Law in the Texas Young Lawyers National Trial Competition in Fayetteville,

Arkansas. According to Professor Jessup, who accompanied the teams to the competition, the team members performed well and gained valuable trial simulation experiences.

The Board also sponsored a team to participate in the Association of Trial Lawyers of America Regional Competition held in Raleigh, N.C., in March of 1994. The team made a good showing in advancing to the second round of competition.

During the 1994-95 school year, the Board will sponsor teams to represent the School of Law in both national and

regional trial advocacy competitions. More than sixty students have joined the Trial Advocacy Board for the current year. The Board has also invited several outstanding trial attorneys and judges to participate in a series of lectures and demonstrations related to trial advocacy.

The members of the Board need and request the support of alumni and members of the Bar to assist the Board in preparing for competitions and to provide financial support in defraying the costs of participating in regional and national competitions. If you can assist, please call Prof. Ringer at (919)560-6551.

STATE STREET BOYS

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went solo, he and I had some conversations about joining practices," said Blackmon. Blackmon is licensed to practice in both N.C. and Pennsylvania. In fact, he is still "of counsel" with his former firm in Philadelphia.

Blackmon is a Durham native with an undergraduate degree from the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill. Although he enjoys his practice, he says of his initial decision to go to law school, "My mother wanted me to be a lawyer."

The State Street boys still manage to find time to play a real game of basketball. Now they play on Monday nights in a league with other lawyers and doctors in town.

Inaugural Competition Honors Former Dean Mary Wright

In the Spring of 1994, the first annual Dean Mary E. Wright Trial Advocacy Board competition was held at the School of Law. Nearly twenty first year students competed by presenting closing arguments in front of distinguished panels of judges and faculty members. Students were judged on their organizational skills, quality of argument, and time management. After a dramatic "showdown" between the four finalists, Jannika Cannon of Nashville, Tennessee, happily accepted the first place trophy.

Former Dean Wright stated that she was "very honored and pleased" to have the competition named in her honor. She also stated that she was "very impressed with the performance of all the participants in the competition."

In April, the class of 1997 took its turn in the second annual competition with Amanda VanRensselaer emerging as the winner.

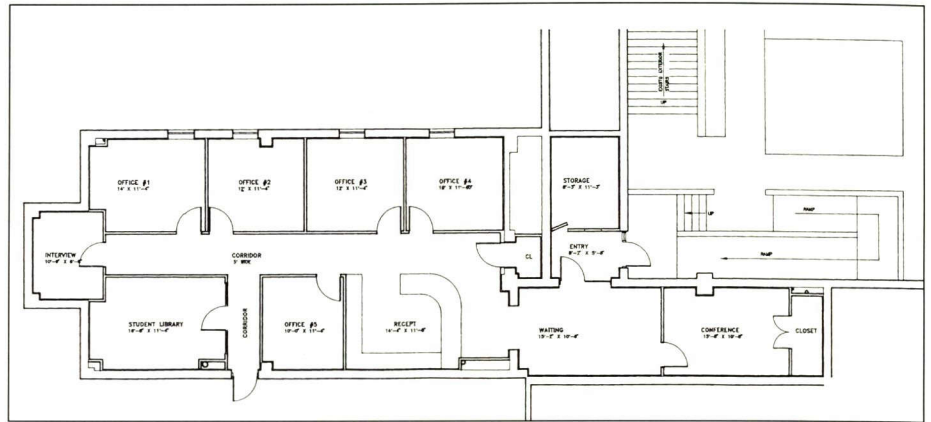
CLINIC TO MOVE INTO MODEL LAW OFFICE

The Clinical Legal Experience Program ("The Clinic") is planning a "change of venue" from its present location on the second floor of the law school building to an area in the basement of the School of Law. According to Professor Thomas Ringer, Director of the Clinical Program, the relocation of the Clinic will accomplish two major objectives. First, the move will enable the Clinic to significantly expand its office space and develop a "Model Law Office." Second, the move will provide additional office space for the expansion of the Placement Office and Recruitment Office on the second floor of the School of Law.

The Clinic will move into an area of the basement that was not finished at the time the School of Law moved into its present location in 1980. The General Assembly allocated funds to renovate and complete the unfinished basement area for the expansion of the Clinic. Architects have prepared initial drawings of the floor plan, which include five offices, an interview room, a student work area, a conference room, a secretarial work space and reception area.

The new clinical area will be designed to function as a "model law office." The most modern office technology, including computerized legal research, audio-video equipment, a word processing network and built-in modules will be incorporated into the new clinic space. According to Professor Ringer, "the new clinical area will be designed as a law office of the future."

The clinical experience provides an opportunity for third-year law students to handle client cases under the close supervision of experienced attorneys and law professors. At the present time, three clinical programs are offered. The Criminal Litigation Clinic provides an opportunity for third-year students to handle misdemeanor criminal cases in the Durham County District



Blueprints for the new clinical space in the School of Law.

Court. Professor Fred Williams is the Director of the Criminal Litigation Clinic and he is assisted by Visiting Professor Grady Jessup. The Civil Litigation Clinic serves legal services clients in a broad range of civil matters, including consumer problems, housing problems and domestic cases. Professor Thomas Ringer heads the Civil Litigation Clinic and Professor Audrey Tillman serves as the Supervising Attorney. During the 1992-93 academic year, the Civil Rights Litigation Clinic was established with the support of a Clinical Legal Experience Grant from the United States Department of Education. The Civil Rights Litigation

Clinic provides an opportunity for students to handle federal civil rights cases under the supervision of Attorney Paul Jones, who is the Director of the Civil Rights Litigation Clinic.

Most importantly, the practical experience provided by the clinical program proves invaluable to the students. "Working in the Clinic was great," said third year student Patricia Boone. "We were actually practicing and representing clients. I also liked the fact that we got to represent clients from legal services who otherwise would not have had access to the legal system."

HIGGINBOTHAM

CONTINUED FROM PAGE NINE

his judicial wisdom as a Visiting Professor in the School of Law. "Judge Higginbotham is one of the most renowned jurists of our time. At another time and place, he very likely would have been the candidate to fill Justice Marshall's seat on the United States Supreme Court. I know that our students benefitted tremendously from his tutelage," said Chambers.

The course received rave reviews from the students. "It was a really good seminar," according to Anton Bell, a current third year stu-

dent who also served as a research assistant to Judge Higginbotham during the semester. "He conducted the class as if it were a courtroom and created a real moot court atmosphere." Students were also impressed by the extent to which Judge Higginbotham analyzed the materials. Said Bell, "We went over every aspect of the decisions. At times, we would dissect one case for the entire two hours."

At the end of the semester Judge Higginbotham returned to his home in Massachusetts where he continues to work on his book on Justice Clarence Thomas.

School of Law Celebrates International Year of the Family with Lecture by Marian Wright Edelman and Establishment of Scholarship

On Tuesday, April 12, 1994, the School of Law was fortunate to host Marian Wright Edelman, founder and president of the Children's Defense Fund (CDF) as the featured speaker for the University's celebration of the International Year of the Family. The School of Law co-sponsored the event along with other departments in the University.

The United Nations resolution proclaiming the International Year of the Family was passed on December 8, 1989 by the UN General Assembly; however, the official celebration year was set for 1994. The United Nations' hope was that following this special year of emphasis, families would continue to be recognized as a significant part of our global society for years to come.

The organizers of the University's observance believed that there could be no better speaker to commemorate this occasion than Edelman, whose organization has had



Before speaking to a capacity crowd, Mrs. Edelman chats with long-time friend and former colleague, Chancellor Julius Chambers.

as its mission to educate the nation about the needs of children and encourage preventative investment in children and families. "Marian Wright Edelman has done so much in the area of promoting families and children. We were really fortunate to have her here for our celebration," said Professor Cheryl Amana, who directed the School of Law's participation in the event.

In keeping with the spirit of the program, and in honor of Mrs. Edelman, the School of Law unveiled its plan to establish a scholarship in the name of Marian Wright Edelman to be given annually to a law student who is a single parent. According to Assistant Dean Sandra Polin, who was the catalyst behind the scholarship, it was established in an effort to assist students with the financial hardships associated with being the primary caretaker for a child and a full-time law student, "We wanted to name the scholarship in

honor of Ms. Edelman because she is such an advocate for children. We knew that by helping the parents with their child care needs, we would ultimately help the children as well."

The School of Law awarded the first Marian Wright Edelman Scholarship to 3L Karrean Holmes of Illinois.

Professor Fox Forms A Russian Coalition

Professor Adrienne Fox has always shared her trial advocacy skills with attorneys and law students all over the United States. Recently, however, Professor Fox has been recruited to share her expertise with attorneys and students in the former Soviet Union. During the 1994-95 academic year, Professor Fox worked with the University of St. Petersburg Law School faculty in St. Petersburg, Russia, to aid the faculty in planning and developing a trial advocacy skills course that will be offered to their students in 1995.

Because of the changes in the Russian legal system resulting from the break-up of the Soviet Union,

both civil and criminal cases are becoming more adversarial and the significance of effective courtroom practice is becoming more important. As a result, Russian legal educators have been soliciting outside assistance to share with them the nuances of trial practice. Professor Fox is working as a consultant with the ARD/Checchi Rule of Law Consortium. ARD Checchi is a consulting corporation in Washington and has a grant from the Agency for International Development (AID) to perform the work.

Professor Fox's first trip was October 10 through 19, 1994. During that visit she advised the St. Petersburg law faculty on the

structure and contents of a trial advocacy course. She also observed the legal system there and met with several members of the legal community. Based on these meetings and observations, she will be working with her Russian counterparts to develop a set of training materials to be used in the course and will also be preparing the law faculty there to teach the course.

After the October visit she has continued to work with the faculty in St. Petersburg and more recently, guided a delegation from the St. Petersburg faculty as they traveled in the U.S. making preparations for the course.

Dr. George Maha: Merging Science With the Law

George Maha, Ph.D. is a medical geneticist and Director of Laboratory Operations in the Department of Paternity Evaluation at Roche Biomedical Laboratories, Inc. in Burlington, N.C.

George Maha is also a law student, and will add the title of Juris Doctor to his name when he earns his law degree from the School of Law in May of 1995.

"I became interested in the law primarily because of my job. I recognized a need to be able to effectively communicate with the legal community because I work intensively with lawyers;

I talk to legal groups, and it's sort of difficult when you don't have a legal background."



At Roche Biomedical, Maha does identity testing usually geared towards determining parentage, maternity and paternity, but also includes the areas of immigration, incest and rape. He does prenatal diagnosis, amniocentesis and chromosome analysis for certain types of cancer.

He also serves as an expert witness in genetic testing. To date, he has testified in over 70 cases, in 16

states and 42 jurisdictions. Moreover, he continues to conduct continuing legal education seminars across the country.

Maha earned his undergraduate and Masters in Biology degrees from St. Louis University in St. Louis, Missouri. He earned his Ph.D. in genetics and development from the University of Illinois, Urbana.

As to his experience at the School of Law, Maha says, "I've been pleased. The quality of the teaching has been very good, exceptionally good. And I like the diversity of the class; we have people who are already established in life."

Interested in scientific law and patent law, Maha says "all doors are open" upon graduation from law school.

Small Town Girl Takes A Bite Out of the Big Apple

The reason most don't recognize opportunity is that oftentimes it walks around disguised as hard work. Vershenia Ballance, a third year student, recognized opportunity and worked hard. Her payoff — she will be the first student ever hired from NCCU as an associate at the prestigious New York law firm, *Skadden, Arps, Slate, Meagher and Flom* (Skadden, Arps). Beginning in mid-September or October of 1995, Ballance will begin working with the firm at a starting salary of \$87,000 to \$92,000 a year.

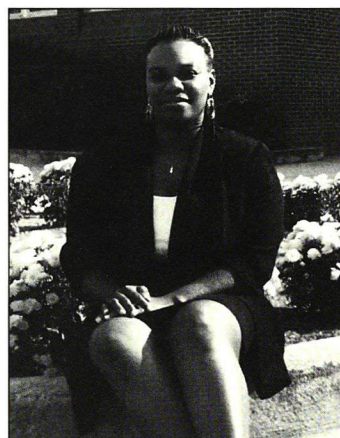
"Amazing," said Ballance of her experience as a summer associate at *Skadden, Arps* this year. "I really enjoyed the people. It was definitely a really good learning experience." On her first visit ever to New York, Ballance was one of 11 Black summer associates hired by *Skadden*. Of that 11, only 10 received offers of permanent employment. Out of the 400 to 450 attorneys at the firm, Ballance says there are only "12 or 13" Black attorneys. "And presently only three Black females

work for Skadden," she said.

Skadden, Arps recruited summer associates from schools like Howard University, Fordham University, Rutgers, Harvard, University of Chicago, New York University, and North Carolina Central University. This year, "they [the firm] made a conscious decision to look at schools they perhaps wouldn't consider in the past," says Ballance.

Ballance's small town dreams have become big town reality. Born and raised in Aulander, an agricultural town in eastern North Carolina, she attended the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill where she earned a degree in Political Science in 1992. Rather than taking a break and working, she chose to accept a scholarship from the School of Law and began classes in the fall of that same year.

Ballance has had a stellar academic career. In addition to her success in the classroom, she has held the positions of first-year class president and vice president of the



Student Bar Association. She is also a member of the Law Journal and has competed in Moot Court competitions. Her summers have been spent not only at *Skadden, Arps*, but also at a corporate firm in North Carolina, namely, *Petree, Stockton*, in Winston-Salem, North Carolina.

Ballance says her professional areas of interest are tax, products liability, corporate and securities litigation and anti-trust. She may have long, hard hours ahead of her at *Skadden, Arps*, but it's likely that she doesn't view it as hard work. To her, it's probably just opportunity knocking.

NCCU's Glaxo Contingent

Moonlighting doesn't always mean going to a second job after working all day; it can also mean going to school. For many employees of Glaxo, Inc., a pharmaceutical company with offices in Research Triangle Park, moonlighting has meant going to law school.

Glaxo has an attractive educational assistance program where the company pays tuition costs for its employees' continued education. "The company encourages its employees to return to school," says Irma Clement, a 1994 graduate of the School of Law, CPA and manager of state and local taxes for Glaxo. Clement is one of several employees of Glaxo that have successfully completed the evening program at the School of Law.

Gardiner Smith is a scientist and worked in that capacity until he graduated from the School of Law in 1992. He is now one of Glaxo's

patent attorneys. Charles Joyner was formerly a patent agent for the company. He also graduated from the evening program in 1992 and is now one of the company's patent attorneys as well. Sheila Sanders was a paralegal for Glaxo. She finished the evening program in 1991 and is now a corporate attorney for the company. Kenneth Gibbs finished the program with Clement and he currently serves as Director of International Taxes and as a CPA for the company.

"The educational assistance program was one of the company's selling features when I was considering employment with them," says Steven Thomas, an accounting analyst with Glaxo, and currently enrolled in the evening program. Thomas said he wanted a job that afforded him flexibility and Glaxo was the answer. Graduating from



L-R: Kenneth Gibbs; Irma Clement; Sheila Sanders; Gardner Smith

A&T State University with a B.S. in accounting in 1992, Thomas said a law degree "sounded great to me." He was glad Glaxo had such a program to give its employees an opportunity to improve themselves. This is Thomas' second year in the program and he will graduate in May of 1997.

Thomas will round out those Glaxo employees trained at the School of Law. Nevertheless, NCCU Law may not have heard the last of Glaxo and its employees in search of the law.

Bart Njoku-Obi Brings International Perspective to Study of Law

"Ndeewo nde ozo nke imu-ihe iwu na NCCU." Twenty-five year old Bart Njoku-Obi, a second year student with Nigerian heritage says, "Greetings to others that studied law at NCCU."

Njoku-Obi is one of many NCCU law students currently enrolled who bring diverse racial and ethnic backgrounds to the study of law. "I was attracted to Central because of the community atmosphere, its relatively small student population and its reputation for hard work," he says.

Njoku-Obi was born in the United States, but in 1976 his Nigerian-born father relocated his family to his native country. Spending nine years in Imo, Nigeria in a city called Owerri, Njoku-Obi received his primary and secondary education in Nigerian schools. He is fluent in the West African language of Igbo.

With a B.S. in both Economics

and Agricultural Economics in 1991 from North Carolina State University, Njoku-Obi plans to eventually work in international trade and development for the U.S. However, he says he wants to settle in North Carolina.

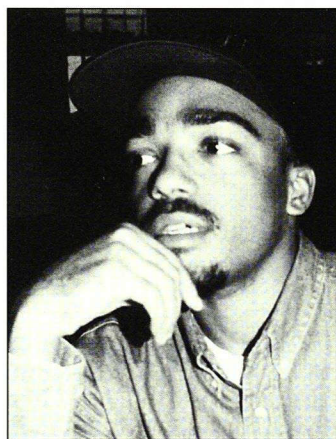
His most recent visit to Nigeria was this past summer when he interned for Shell Petroleum Development Company in Warri, Nigeria. Njoku-Obi says he has a great affinity for the country of Nigeria, but his true love is his Nigerian hometown of Owerri, located in the Southeastern portion of the country. "It is extremely humid there, a tropical evergreen rain forest. It rains six months out of the year." Despite the climate, Njoku-Obi says he looks forward to returning for

frequent visits. He has many relatives and friends there. His grandfather was a village chief.

Njoku-Obi's immediate family

resides in Durham, however. His father, a civil engineer for an international construction company, is based here in Durham. His mother doesn't work outside of the home, and he has a sister enrolled at UNC Chapel Hill and a younger brother in the sixth grade.

Njoku-Obi says his bi-cultural experience has given him an appreciation for the diversity of the peoples of the world and for the government of the United States. NCCU Law School is proud to have him as a student.



1950's

Sammie Chess Jr. '58. Serving as Administrative Law Judge for the North Carolina Office of Administrative Hearings.

1970's

Arnold Locklear '73. Arnold is senior partner in a firm in Pembroke, N.C., where he lives. His son, Mark Locklear, is following in his father's footsteps, as a 2nd Year law student at NCCU.

Richard K. Foster '73. Richard and his wife, Danielle, have two children, Jessie, age 12 and Meegan age 10. They live in Lincoln, Rhode Island and own a horse farm there.

Dorothy C. Bernholz '75. Dorothy is teaching an undergraduate course in political science at UNC-CH. She is also Director of the Carolina Student Legal Services.

John Kilby '75. John is the senior partner in a law firm in West Jefferson, N.C. His eldest daughter, Heather, is a senior at Western Carolina University. His youngest, Maggie, is a freshman at Appalachian State University. What a rivalry!

Bernard P. Bacchetta '75. Bernard is licensed to practice in both New Jersey (where his office is) and New York. He is also licensed before the U.S. Supreme Court.

Deborah Mayo Jefferies '76. Deborah is NCCU's Law Librarian and an Associate Professor. She teaches our bewildered first year law students how to survive in the Law Library! She is also widely published in professional journals.

A. Root Edmonson '76. Professor Edmonson teaches Professional Responsibility at the NCCU evening program. He is also deputy counsel for the N.C. State Bar.

Donna Helen Crisp '76. Donna's "practice" is not your traditional legal job, she is a psychiatric/mental health nurse and is pursuing her Master's in Nursing at UNC-CH.

Guy W. Crabtree '78. Guy and his wife Debbie recently had their first child, uhh . . . children that is, their twins were born in November 1993. Guy is a Partner in a law firm in

Durham, N.C., specializing in civil litigation.

Bernard B. Hollowell, Jr. '78. Bernard is a newly elected member of the local Board of Directors of Wachovia Bank. He is living in Bayboro, N.C.

Philip Pittman Godwin, Jr. '78. Philip and his wife Nora have two children; Hannah, age 12 and Pittman, age 9. Philip is a partner in a law firm in Gatesville, N.C.

Barry S. McNeill '79. Barry is a member of the Capital Case Litigation Project for the North Carolina Attorney General's Office. He works and lives in Raleigh, N.C.

1980's

V. Thomas Jordan '80. Thomas and his wife Janet have two children, Christine and Jonathan. Thomas is a general practitioner in Knightdale, N.C.

W. Philip McRae '81. Philip and his wife Gail live in Laurinburg, N.C. and have three children; Phil (who is just out of the Navy, and recently made his parents proud Grandparents!), Pat, age 6 and Katie, age 4.

Kenneth Price Rothrock '81. Kenneth and his wife Rita (a class of '87 alum), live in Hillsborough, N.C. and have a one year old son, Kenneth "Whit" Whitlow Rothrock.

Clement Brown '81. Clement is the Director of the Neuse River Community Penalties (NRCP) in New Bern, N.C. and an Adjunct Professor at North Carolina Wesleyan College and Craver Community College.

Renee L. Bowser '82. Renee received her LL.M. from the University of Wisconsin Law School in 1985. She is an Assistant General Counsel for UFCW International Union Legal Dept. in Washington, DC.

Harold G. Pope '83. Harold is a partner in a law firm in Whiteville, N.C. After his recent appearance before the N.C. Supreme Court, Harold was heard to say, "Where was Professor Ringer when I needed him?"

Aviva Jeruchim '83. Aviva and her husband Michael, live in Weston, MA, and have three children; Talia, age 7, Daniel, age 5 and Adam, age 2.

Franklin H. Deak '84. Franklin is working with the legal department of GTE Telephone Operations in Tampa, Florida. He is also a regular volunteer with the Bay Area Legal Services Volunteer Lawyer Program.

J. Seth Whipper '84. Seth recently resigned from his position as Summary Court Judge to enter the political arena. He is the Democratic nominee for the South Carolina State House of Representatives.

Risa Juergens '84. Risa, who has a civil practice in Hilton, New York, is the proud mother of Mary Renee Juergens, who is now two years old.

Pamela Thorpe Young '85. Pamela is serving as the ethics advisor to the Speaker of the Texas House of Representatives. She and her husband Reuben (below) are proud to announce the recent birth of their second son, Avery.

Reuben F. Young '85. Reuben is an Assistant Attorney General in Austin, Texas. The Young's are obviously a family having quite an impact on government in Austin, Texas!

Dawn A. Kelly Mobley '85. Dawn, who is an Assistant Cuyahoga County Prosecutor in Cleveland, Ohio, is proud to announce the recent birth of her daughter Nicole Ellyse Mobley.

Tamara S. Holder '85. Tamara is working on her seventh year of active service in the Judge Advocate General Corp. in the United States Air Force. She is currently stationed at Barksdale AFB, LA.

Alexander Dawson '85. Alex doesn't let running his law firm monopolize all his time. Besides sailing his yacht, the 2nd Wind, in the Pamlico Sound, Alex was recently featured in the local news in Graham, N.C. for his culinary skills.

C. Miller Sigmon '86. Miller's past work as the President of the N.C. Volunteer Lawyers for the Arts recently resulted in his appointment to the Board of the N.C. Arts Council, by Governor Jim Hunt.

Grady Jessup '86. Grady is a Visiting Law Professor at NCCU, specializing in Trial Practice. He has recently argued before the N.C. Supreme Court in both capital

CLASSACTION

murder and rape cases. He attended the National Institute for Trial Advocacy's (NITA) Teacher Training Program at Harvard University. Professor Jessup is also the President of the NCCU School of Law Board of Directors of the Alumni Association.

Rita Whitlow Rothrock '87. Rita and her husband Ken ('81), have a one year old son, Kenneth "Whit" Whitlow Rothrock.

Joseph Jackson Williams '88. Congratulations to Joseph who is now Judge Williams! Joseph was recently appointed District Court Judge for the 20th Judicial District, by N.C. Governor Jim Hunt.

Fred A. Whitfield '88. Fred, whose specialty is Sports Law, represents such sports figures as Juwan Howard (Wash. Bullets), Sharone Wright (Phil. 76ers), Chris Slade (New Eng. Patriots), Dwight Hollier (Miami Dolphins), Rondell Jones (Denver Broncos), Greg Jeffries (Detroit Lions), and James Wilson (Detroit Lions).

David Mark Hullender '89. David, who practices in Kings Mountain, N.C., completed his LL.M. at the University of Florida in 1990.

Anita L. Smith '89. Anita, who lives in Ahoskie, N.C., is presently serving as the Chairperson for the Hertford County Democratic Party. She is also the first African-American female elected to the Ahoskie Town Council.

1990's

Deborah Hargett-Robinson '90. Deborah is a sole practitioner in York, PA. She is proud to announce the birth of her first child, Aois Omara Hargett-Robinson.

Adrienne Lea Meddock '91. A funny thing happened to Adrienne on her way to Columbia to get her LL.M.; NCCU Law School Dean Percy Luney made her an offer she just couldn't refuse. Now she is Dean Meddock, Assistant Dean for the Evening Program at NCCU. Adrienne is also Secretary of the NCCU Law School Alumni Association. In her "spare time", she also DJs at Duke's radio station.

William R. Pittman '91. William is an Associate General Counsel to Governor Jim Hunt, and a resident of Raleigh, N.C.

Sheila Mathis Sanders '91. Sheila is a corporate attorney for Glaxo Inc. in Research Triangle Park, N.C. She is also Co-Editor of The Business Lawyer, and a member of the Board of Directors of the NCCU Law School Alumni Association.

M. Scott Boyles '91. After working with Carolina Legal Assistance for three years, Scott has opened his own office in Durham. Scott and his wife have a new baby, Mason David.

Eleanor G. Kinnaird '92. Eleanor is finishing her fourth term as the Mayor of Carrboro, N.C.

Lt. Cassandra Darden-Barnes '92. Cassandra is a member of the Navy's Judge Advocate General's Corp., and was recently promoted to Lieutenant. She lives in San Diego, CA, and is the Secretary of the National Naval Officer's Association.

Frank Thomas White '92. Frank is currently the Pastor of Young Missionary Temple A.M.E. Church in Raleigh, N.C.

Lydia Ellen Lavelle '93. Lydia is currently serving as a law clerk to our own Judge Clifton E. Johnson ('67), of the North Carolina Court of Appeals.

John H. McWilliam '93. John lives and practices in Raleigh. Since recently breaking his leg in a Rugby game, John says he enjoys going to Federal Court and setting off the metal detector, with the plate in his leg. Make us Proud, John!

Ted Greene '93. Ted, who practices in Charlotte, N.C., and his wife, Beverly, are proud to announce the recent birth of their fourth child.

Lisa Thompson McDow '93. Lisa is a general practitioner in Wilmington, N.C. She is proud to announce the recent birth of her daughter Elise Gabrielle McDow.

Steven B. Phillips '93. Steven works for IBM in the Intellectual Property Department, in Durham, N.C. In March, he was admitted to practice before the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office.

Women's Caucus Energized

During the 1993-94 school year, several female law students rejuvenated the Women's Caucus at the School of Law with the objective of "advocating and working in furtherance of issues that relate to and concern women and promoting a fuller understanding of issues affecting women and the law." Current membership stands at about 25 students; however, any student registered at the School of Law is welcome to join.

Some of the events sponsored so far by the Caucus have been a Breast Cancer Awareness Forum to discuss the legal aspects of insurance companies' coverage for the treatment of breast cancer. The forum was held in conjunction with National Breast Cancer Month and was open to the Law School, the general NCCU campus and members of the Durham community.

The Caucus also holds informal discussion groups which meet once a month to discuss and share information about various topics of interest to women. During one forum, Anne Christian, lobbyist for the N.C. Association of Women Attorneys gave an update on current issues affecting women in the North Carolina legislature. At another forum, Law School faculty members Sandra Polin, Cheryl Amana and Marilyn Bowens presented current research they were working on. The Caucus also submitted a proposal to the Law Faculty Curriculum Committee asking that a "Women in the Law" course be added to the curriculum. The Caucus is pleased to announce that the course was added to the curriculum as of the Spring Semester of 1995.

The enthusiasm among Caucus members is overwhelming. Cathy Surles, a third year student and one of the group's reorganizers feels that the Caucus is extremely important to women in the School of Law. "The Women's Caucus is a place where we can say that women matter . . . in the law school and in the profession."

THE PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

"A Call For Engagement"

Dear Alumni:

As North Carolina Central University School of Law prepares for the Twenty-First century under the leadership of our new dean, Percy R. Luney, Jr., the School of Law's Alumni Association assesses its achievements and endeavors to reach even greater heights. The School of Law's family arguably is in transition, however, there is much to be excited about. The North Carolina State Bar passage rate amongst our graduates is higher in recent years, thanks to the institution of innovative programs and the diligent efforts of administration, faculty, staff and students. Moreover, the School of Law's alumni continue to make inroads into positions of employment which were historically unavailable.

However, the challenges to the School of Law's viability continue

to persist. The Alumni of the School of Law have the responsibility of remaining actively engaged in the life of North Carolina Central University School of Law.

We, the Alumni of the School of Law, in consultation with the Dean, must focus on the same vision for the School of Law. That vision being the continued growth and development of the institution and the increased awareness of the School of Law's excellence on a national level.

The School of Law's Alumni are very diverse individuals. Our diversity is our most potent resource—a resource which is virtually untapped. The School of Law Alumni Association Board of Directors serves as the governing body of the Alumni Association. One of the responsibilities of the Board of Directors is to respond to the concerns of its constituency. Therefore,

we invite you to correspond with any Board Member concerning any area of interest that may be important to you. Your opinions are vital to the effective administration of "your" association.

The officers of the Alumni Association are nominated and elected at the Annual Meeting held during Law Week each year. All members of the Association are invited and encouraged to attend the Annual Meeting. I solicit your participation as we endeavor to reach greater heights and further the mission of North Carolina Central University School of Law.

Very truly yours,

Grady Jessup, '86
President

*North Carolina Central University
School of Law Alumni Association*

JUDGE GLASS

CONTINUED FROM PAGE FOUR

appointed the first African American Assistant United States Attorney in Connecticut where he served for one year until being appointed to a Juvenile Court judgeship. In 1978, the Juvenile Courts of Connecticut were merged with the Superior Courts where he served until 1984 when he received an appointment as the Administrative Judge of the Waterbury Judicial District.

By 1987, having already served as a "first" in so many capacities, his greatest professional achievement was yet to come. On May 13, 1987, he received an appointment from Governor William O'Neil to become the first African American Justice on the Connecticut Supreme Court. Although he was already near the age of which judges in

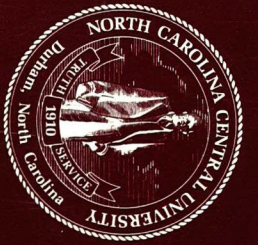
Connecticut could take senior status, with the gentle persuasion of family and friends, he decided to accept the Governor's nomination. His nomination went before the legislature where he was approved and sworn in on June 26, 1987. He served as an associate justice until November 28, 1992, when he reached the mandatory retirement age set for justices in Connecticut.

Since retiring from the court, Justice Glass has served part-time as a state trial referee, a position held by senior court members upon retiring from their respective courts. Justice Glass recently received a fitting tribute to his remarkable career when his portrait was hung in the courthouse in Waterbury. This one event was especially moving for him because of his mother, who before her death had worked as a domestic for judges in Alabama and

always believed that judges were good and noble. Now her son's portrait is prominently displayed in the number one courtroom in the courthouse in Waterbury, the first portrait of an African American judge to be hung in a courthouse in the state of Connecticut.

Justice Glass, a delightful man who is surprisingly indifferent about his many achievements, was asked recently what one does after coming to the end of such an illustrious career. He responded with a chuckle, "I play a lot of golf. Every chance I get."

Note: Justice Glass recently found time to return to his alma mater. The School of Law was fortunate to host Judge Glass for an entire week in January when students and faculty benefitted from a series of guest lectures he presented.



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