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O F COUNSEL

A MAGAZINE FOR ALUMNI & FRIENDS

NORTH CAROLINA CENTRAL UNIVERSITY SCHOOL OF LAW
VOLUME 3 FALL 1998



Inside . . .

- Judge Clifton E. Johnson "SOARS"
- Stanley Sprague, *PRO BONO AWARDEE*
- Charles Hamilton Houston Chair Robert Belton
- *And Much More!*

OF COUNSEL

A MAGAZINE FOR ALUMNI & FRIENDS

NORTH CAROLINA CENTRAL UNIVERSITY SCHOOL OF LAW
VOLUME 3 FALL 1998

Editor's Note:

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Please see the inside back cover to submit ideas for future articles or to send news or articles for inclusion in *Of Counsel*.

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About the cover:

Retired Judge Clifton E. Johnson '67 sits in front of the former Law School (now the William Jones Building) on the campus of North Carolina Central University with his grandchildren, Jeffrey Ervin II and Olivia Ervin.

photo by Robert E. Lawson

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A Message from the Dean

*Life affords no higher pleasure
than that of surmounting difficulties,
passing from one step of success to another,
forming new wishes and seeing them gratified.
He that labors in any great or laudable undertaking
has his fatigues first supported by hope
and afterwards rewarded by joy.*

Samuel Johnson

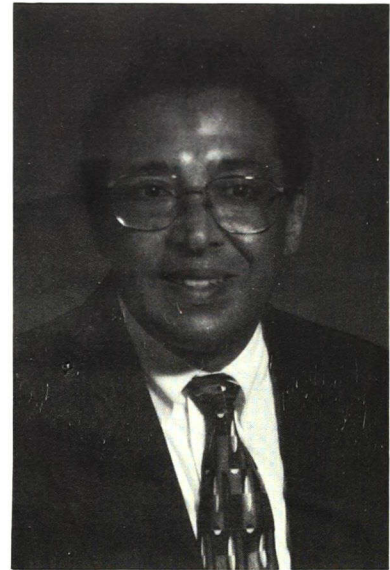
Greetings, Alumni and Friends:

Samuel Johnson's words somehow seem fitting for this issue of *Of Counsel*. As you read about the lives and accomplishments of persons such as Judge Clifton E. Johnson and Herman Taylor, legal icons who surmounted unimaginable difficulties, you will undoubtedly feel a sense of joy that must have been sevenfold for these pioneers.

In our own day-to-day lives, however, we each labor in "great" and "laudable" undertakings. Let me take a moment to share with you a few undertakings we have here at the Law School.

The foremost undertaking for which we are all preparing is the accreditation inspection which will be made by the American Bar Association of our Law School in November, 1998. Many of you will receive details about this in a separate mailing from my office. Suffice it to say that this event which occurs once every seven years is a number one priority for all of the administrators, faculty and staff at the Law School. It is always an opportunity to scrutinize the Law School through a Self-Study and to describe and address in detail the many successes we have had as well as areas in which we need to improve.

Another undertaking is our expanded outreach to Alumni and Friends. Our Alumni Relations Office is now up and running. We have a new alumni database we are refining which will give us information that we have not had in the past. We have had several receptions for alumni this past spring and summer and are planning our first Alumni Reunion. We recognize that in order for us to move forward into the year 2000 and beyond, we need the support of our Alumni and Friends.



Luney

And, of course, we are always undertaking the task of promoting and enhancing our Law School. This is where we need your help. You can help us identify prospective outstanding undergraduate students and put them in contact with our Recruiting Director if they are considering Law School. You may be aware of agencies we have not yet identified who do pro bono or public interest work and who can provide our law students with working experiences through our Pro Bono Program. If you know engaging legal speakers and scholars who would be willing to share their expertise with our students via a seminar or a special affair, you can put us in contact with those persons. As you upgrade your computer systems at your offices, you can donate your old computers to the Law School for use by our students.

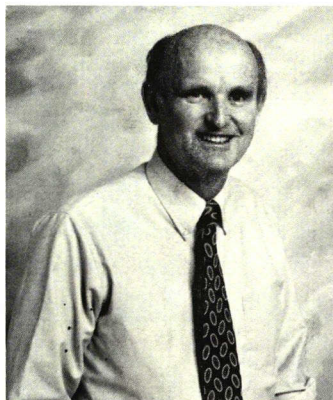
If we all work together to constantly promote and enhance the North Carolina Central University School of Law, we will indeed be "supported by hope" and "rewarded by joy".

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Percy R. Luney, Jr.".

Dean Percy R. Luney, Jr.

Professor Tom Earnhardt Has "Gone Fishing"



Earnhardt

The North Carolina Central University School of Law is about to lose a superb professor, Tom Earnhardt. After twenty years at the law school, Professor Earnhardt has decided to retire. Over the past several decades, Professor Earnhardt has

used his vast knowledge to teach others. This man with a wealth of knowledge has taught not only students, but also individuals, all over the world.

Professor Earnhardt is a graduate of Davidson College and the University of North Carolina School of Law. Over the years, Professor Earnhardt has worked in various legal fields. As a former student body president of Davidson College, Professor Earnhardt realized an interest in the political realm. After graduation from the University of North Carolina School of Law, Professor Earnhardt worked in the Attorney General's Office, and then was hired to work for Fieldcrest, a textile company, as Associate Counsel. It was at Fieldcrest where he gained his knowledge about business. In the 1970's, North Carolina Governor Jim Holshouser appointed Professor Earnhardt as Assistant Secretary of Administration. In this position, Professor Earnhardt dealt with an array of issues, ranging from government contracts to personnel. He entered the private practice of law in Goldsboro, North Carolina with Lindsey Warren in the 1970's, where he worked with small business development. In 1978, Professor Earnhardt was asked to join the faculty at the North Carolina Central University School of Law. Dean Harry Groves was searching for individuals with practical experience to join the law school. Professor Earnhardt was excited about this opportunity to teach.

One benefit of teaching was that this allowed him to spend more time in the outdoors, which was his first love. In particular, Professor Earnhardt never let go of his love for fly fishing throughout the years. He spent many weekends over the years fishing at the coast or in mountain streams.

While his fly-fishing travel adventures always provide interesting stories, more background on Professor Earnhardt demonstrates his dedication to the outdoors. He has been extremely active as a volunteer in many conservation and fishing organizations, serving as Eastern Vice President of the North Carolina Conservancy and as a National Director-at-Large of Trout Unlimited for four years. Professor Earnhardt also served as Chairman of Trout Unlimited's International Committee. In 1992, he received an award from North Carolina Governor James B. Hunt as "North Carolina Conservationist of the Year." In 1994, he took a leave of absence from teaching at the North Carolina Central University School of Law and served as Executive Director of the North Carolina Wildlife Federation. Now, he is taking a permanent leave from the law school where he has served as a full time professor, and faculty and students alike will greatly miss him.

Ruffin Poole, a 1998 graduate of the North Carolina Central University School of Law, interviewed Professor Earnhardt during the 1998 spring semester. Following is Mr. Poole's summary of his interview with Professor Earnhardt:

* * * *

Professor Earnhardt described himself as a teacher of conservation and law. Webster's Dictionary defines 'conservationist' as a person who advocates or promotes conservation, especially natural resources. Tom Earnhardt is definitely a conservationist. I was surprised not to see his picture next to the definition! We talked about a number of different topics during my interview with him.

The first topic concerned the North Carolina Central University School of Law. Professor Earnhardt complimented the faculty at the Law School. He noted that the Law School has a good mix of individuals from various backgrounds and that it has been this diversity which has lead to the Law School's success. The students are provided with a vast wealth of knowledge from the faculty. Each member of the faculty brings a different type of experience to the school: corporate, government, judicial, or professional.

Professor Earnhardt talked about the students, too. He observed that the student body is as diverse as the faculty. The students have always provided a good challenge for him, exciting him about teaching. Professor Earnhardt has never been one to shy away from conversation. He is notorious for telling stories in Business Associations with his everyday lessons all outside the classroom setting. As a student, I recall Professor Earnhardt always saying, "This is the most important course you will take in law school." It did not matter if the course was Business Associations, Environmental Law or Property! If someone asked, "Why is that, Professor Earnhardt?", he responded with an answer that the area of the law he was discussing (no matter which area it was) would affect each and every one of us.

After talking about the Law School, I asked Professor Earnhardt, "Why are you really retiring?" He commented that raising children is a full time job. Professor Earnhardt has two children, Izzak, age six, and Rachel, age three. He stated that his children were the most important part of his life. He remarked, "[Having children] was a real eye opener for me!" The demands of teaching often take him away from spending time with his family. His retirement will be spent raising his family and finding time for fishing in his spare time. Additionally, he will continue to stay current in business, environmental and property law. His time will also be well spent by assisting local non-profits and conservation groups with legal issues.

We talked about the outdoors, especially fishing. Professor Earnhardt commented that he thought he was a better amateur animal biologist than legal scholar. Perhaps this comes from his upbringing. In the interview, Professor Earnhardt spoke of his father as a true naturalist. He told me stories of he and his father spending hours, days and weeks fishing together. His father always took a week off from working at the local textile mill to fish with his son for his birthday. Professor Earnhardt started fishing at an early age, at five or six years old. One of his lasting impressions is his first trip to the Florida Keys with his father. They left the day after Christmas; it was Professor Earnhardt's Christmas present and at age eleven, this was a wonderful experience. He spoke of catching bonefish on a fly rod.

Professor Earnhardt has been tying flies for decades. He maintained a vise in his college dorm rooms to tie flies in his spare time. This love for fly-fishing has turned him into one of the most renowned saltwater fly fisherman of our decade.

I asked Professor Earnhardt to tell me about his adventures to the former Soviet Union during the late 1980's. As an ambassador of good will, he traveled to the former Soviet Union fishing and teaching conservation practices. At that time, the local Communist Party controlled all the best streams for fishing. A KGB agent always escorted him. Every trip accompanied a line of questioning from the agents asking why he was really in the Soviet Union. The former Soviet government was amazed an American would come to the Soviet Union to fly fish and teach conservation methods to the local fisherman during the Cold War!

As a former student, I know I speak for others when I say that we will miss you, Professor Earnhardt. Thanks for all your years of service and we wish the best for you.

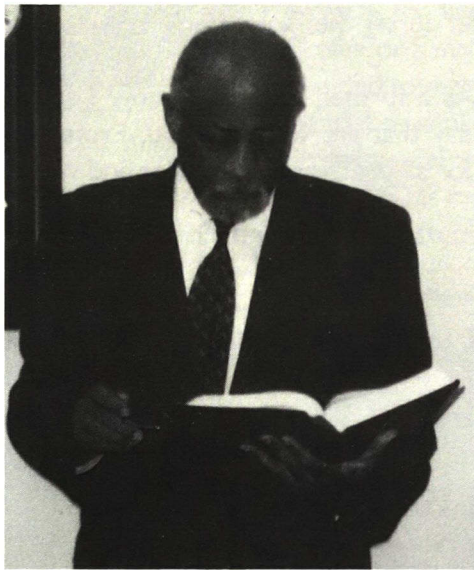
* * * *



Professor Thomas Mdodana Ringer: 1998 Professor of the Year

by Barbara B. DuRant

- **Great teacher!**
- **He's really good.**
- **I go see him a lot and he never makes me feel stupid.**
- **You'd better be prepared for every class with him!**
- **Best boss anyone could ask for. He's a very intelligent and very kind man.**



Ringer

Professor Thomas Mdodana Ringer has been a familiar face at the North Carolina Central University School of Law for nearly two decades in many capacities. He has been a professor, dean and most recently, Director of the Clinical Legal Experience Program (the Clinic).

Born and raised in eastern North Carolina, Professor Ringer knew as early as the ninth grade that he wanted to be an attorney, though he never wanted to litigate in court. His dream was to work in corporate law and civil rights. Throughout his experience at Morehouse College in Atlanta in the mid 1960s, Professor Ringer was active in peaceable civil rights protests and candlelight vigils, as well as holding the presidency of the Morehouse Chapter of the College Young Democrats in his junior year.

And how did Professor Ringer enjoy law school? "I don't know if it's something you enjoy or something you endure," the Harvard Law graduate smiled. "I do know you will come out a better person, a stronger person as a result of the experience."

As a matter of fact, Professor Ringer wasn't even sure he would be able to achieve his degree in reasonable time, as the Vietnam War threatened to interrupt his studies in his first year. During his first-year finals, Professor Ringer got the word that he would be able to join the ROTC at Harvard and defer full-time active duty (and we first-year students think WE are under stress!)

The law school memory Professor Ringer will forever carry with pride is his third-year paper. In this paper, he proposed an application of traditional corporate technology to depressed rural areas in an effort to revitalize the rural south, tying his ideas to the Rural Electrification Act of the 1930s. Not only was this paper a key factor in obtaining his first employment, it was passed years later by Congress as the Rural Development Act, with language that was almost verbatim from Professor Ringer's paper.

Professor Ringer worked for several years for a firm in Boston, whose goal it was to promote community development and revitalization of a depressed area of Boston known as Roxbury. In this position Professor Ringer worked both with corporate efforts in the community, and impoverished residents as well, who were instrumental in the development efforts. Professor Ringer later joined the venture capital fund connected with the effort and progressed to manager. By 1973, however, he decided to come home to North Carolina.

"It meant a lot to me that my paper was passed by Congress. I could also see the progress made in my job to revitalize Roxbury. It meant that I was one of the few persons who could bridge the gap between corporate America and a minority community. If I could use my skills for Roxbury, I could certainly take those skills back to North Carolina."

Professor Ringer worked for several years as a staff attorney in the Department of Administration for the North Carolina Attorney General's Office. It was in this position he had the opportunity to argue cases before the North Carolina Court of Appeals and the North Carolina Supreme Court.

Professor Ringer recalls his first argument before the North Carolina Supreme Court. Afterwards, some of the justices congratulated him, which was a rarity. He was later called into the office of Attorney General Robert Morgan. Professor Ringer recalls his panic upon hearing that Attorney General Morgan had received a letter from Justice I. Beverly Lake, and his relief to hear that Justice Lake had written high praises regarding his argument. Professor Ringer was made an Assistant Attorney General, a position he kept until late 1975 when he joined a private law firm in Durham. In this firm he gained courtroom experience, successfully defending two major death penalty cases among others.

A case Professor Ringer vividly recalls was for a special client - NCCU. Now Chancellor Julius Chambers was representing a few NCCU law students against the state bar, and the bar wanted student records from NCCU over a five-year period. Professor Ringer successfully fought to keep the information confidential. Subsequent to this case, Professor Ringer was offered a teaching position at the Law School by then Dean Harry E. Groves. In 1979, Professor Ringer signed on.

"I was only going to stay a year or two and decide what I was going to do with my career. I knew I didn't want to be a criminal attorney like the firm wanted me to be. My parents were both in the teaching profession, so I guess it's in the blood. It's been nineteen years and I have no regrets. I love the challenge of teaching and having students call back over the years. I love the mentoring, and seeing the advancements the law school has made."

The low point in Professor Ringer's NCCU career was in 1985, when he was called upon to be the acting Dean of the Law School. The bar passing rate was at an all-time low-about 33%. Shortly after accepting the post

Professor Ringer was invited by members of the UNC System Board of Governors for a dinner meeting. Little did he know beforehand that he was to be in the hot seat in an effort to review the status of the Law School. He realized this when, after dinner, the question was posed to him about the cost per graduate of the Law School who had passed the bar examination.

Professor Ringer raised the issue of the social cost of not having a law school and was promptly told, "We're not interested in the social costs." At that point, Professor Ringer says, "I knew the future of the Law School was in jeopardy. During that meeting, I did the best job I have ever done in stating the case for my client, the Law School. There was so much on the line." Ringer's efforts paid off. Not only did the Law School survive that review, but it has continued to develop.

In addition to the pride Ringer takes in the accomplishments of present and former students, he is especially proud of the "model law office" that houses the clinic and the success of the Trial Advocacy Board. In an effort to bring the "model law office" within budget, Ringer personally oversaw each aspect of the construction and decoration of the clinic, including the selection of furniture and equipment. "I knew what I wanted it to be, and if I had to negotiate the price, that's what I did."

The success of the Trial Advocacy Board is probably Ringer's biggest pride and joy. "Central has established a national reputation in trial advocacy. What the trial teams and Professor Grady Jessup have accomplished in such a short time, including participation in the Tournament of Champions and winning six Regional Championships, is amazing. I am extremely proud to have been associated with the Trial Advocacy Board and the outstanding future attorneys who have participated on the trial teams." So why leave the Clinic? "It is time to pass the baton to someone else. Professor Jessup is a highly competent leader. I have done as much as I feel I can do, and now it is time to step aside and let someone else run the show."

Professor Ringer will continue to be in demand as he roams the halls of the Law School as a professor in the upcoming year. This past year, he was recognized by the student body as the 1998 Professor of the Year. You can't be any more in demand than that!



Ringer with his Civil Litigation class, Summer 1998

Barbara B. Durant is a rising 2L at the North Carolina Central University School of Law.

JUDGE CLIFTON E. JOHNSON: ONE SOARING EAGLE

by Brenda D. Gibson '95



Johnson

On a bright day in November 1997, retired Judge Clifton E. Johnson enters the building of the North Carolina Central University Law School. For the first time in many years, he enters without the trappings of the judiciary. This time, he enters sans the black judicial robe, in a spectacular suit, with that same swagger of confidence and determination that those who know him recognize as uniquely his.

The word gets around quickly: Judge Johnson (not Elvis) is in the building. Before he can negotiate the short path to the conference room of the law school, where he is to meet me for this interview, Judge Johnson must make numerous stops to speak to all of

the folks he has come to know over the years. These stops indelibly include a stop by the Dean's Office to do two things. First, to inquire of the Dean how the law school is progressing, and second, to tell the charming and gentle lady who has been secretary to the deans of the law school for more than twenty years,



Johnson with Iris Gilchrist

Mrs. Iris Gilchrist, a joke or two. And if there is a young student who looks like he or she needs an encouraging word, Judge Johnson does not hesitate to stop and give a word of encouragement. You see, Judge Johnson knows, first hand, what it means to lose self-confidence.

When Judge Johnson came from the small Martin County town of Williamston, North Carolina to the hustle and bustle of NCCU (then North Carolina College) at Durham, he lost confidence in his abilities. Haunted by fears of failure and embarrassing his family and himself, Judge Johnson withdrew from college. He called his mother, told her that he had withdrawn from school and asked her to have someone to come and pick him up. His mother told him to take the bus home. So, he sold some of his meager belongings to other students to get the bus fare home, said good-bye to his roommate and friends, and returned to Williamston, but not for long.

Upon arriving in Williamston via bus, he called home again and asked his mother to have someone pick him up at the bus station. She told him to take a cab. Judge Johnson caught a cab, and to his surprise the cab driver even knew that he had quit school. When he arrived home he was greeted by several friends, relatives and teachers who were waiting to counsel the apprehensive Clifton Johnson. After listening to the advice and kind ministrations of those present, Judge Johnson soon decided that he would return to college. However, when he called to NCCU to seek readmission, he was told that he could return, but that he would have to secure off-campus housing. His room space in Chidley Hall, the only dormitory for male students, had been given to another student. There was no available room left in the dorm, or anywhere else on campus.

Although he was willing to return to NCCU, things looked bleak because his family did not have financial resources to pay for off-campus housing. Two of the teachers who greeted him upon his arrival home, Mr. Leroy Mizell and Mr. Richard Broadnax, were graduates of North Carolina A&T State University at Greensboro. They offered to assist Judge Johnson in getting into A&T, if he would consider going there. His mother, knowing of Clifton's desire to attend law school and that NCCU had a law school, thanked them,

but insisted that her son would return to Durham to attend college. Mrs. Johnson then called her sister who was living in Durham, and after explaining the situation to her, asked if Clifton could live with her family while attending NCCU. Mrs. Johnson's sister and husband, Mr. and Mrs. Lossie Mason, gladly welcomed their nephew into their home. Judge Johnson, accompanied by the same self-confidence that has accompanied him throughout a most stellar career, returned to NCCU within two weeks of his earlier departure.

Judge Johnson, or "Clift" as some know him, is one of North Carolina Central University's most distinguished alumni. Judge Johnson enjoyed a phenomenal career, entailing many firsts. After earning his undergraduate degree in 1965, Judge Johnson obtained his law degree in 1967. Thereafter, he went on to work as an associate, first with Durham Attorney C.C. "Buddy" Malone, Jr., and then as an associate with the Durham law firm of Pearson, Malone, Johnson and DeJarmon



Johnson, the High School Graduate

until the end of December 1968. But it was not long before, recognizing the strong spirit of a pioneer, Judge Johnson was tapped in January, 1969 to be the first African-American assistant state prosecutor for North Carolina since the 19th century (on January 1, 1969, he was hired as an assistant state prosecutor for Mecklenburg County, North Carolina). Within six months, Judge Johnson would be appointed a District Court Judge of Mecklenburg County by Governor Bob Scott. In 1974, Judge Johnson became North Carolina's first African-American Chief District Court Judge. In 1977, he would become North Carolina's first African-American Resident Superior Court Judge. Finally, in 1982, Governor Jim Hunt appointed Judge Johnson to the North Carolina Court of Appeals, where he was elected, reelected and served until his retirement as Senior Associate Judge in December of 1996. While on the appellate court, he served as the state's first

African-American Chairman of the North Carolina Judicial Standards Commission. Being one who forged a path, Judge Johnson, this quintessential man, has been ever-conscious of the need to continue to bridge the divide between the races.

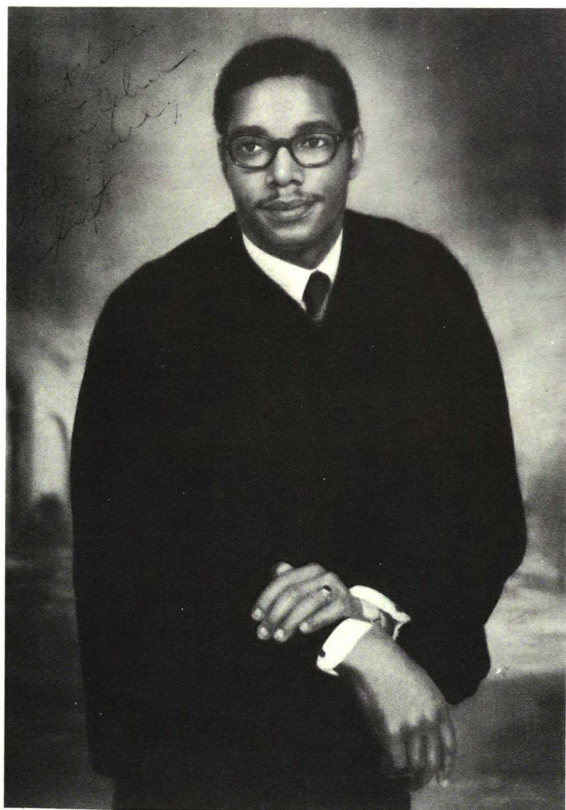
To Judge Johnson, diversity is a strength and not a weakness, an asset and not a liability. He believes diversity is a necessary tool that helps to bridge the divide between the races. With these beliefs in mind, he has always made a concerted effort to advance diversity with respect to race and gender. He is a strong advocate in the principle, philosophy and law that hold that qualification and ability should be the primary factors of consideration in hiring, and that qualification and ability should not be substituted or compromised by race or gender. However, once the issue of qualification and ability is met, and where diversity is warranted, he believes it is then lawful, proper and appropriate to consider race or gender as a secondary factor.

In 1974, when Judge Johnson became the state's first African-American Chief District Court Judge, there were no African-American court reporters within North Carolina's vast court system, nor had there ever been any. After interviewing applicants for a vacant court reporter's position, and determining that applicants met all the required qualifications and ability to do the job, Judge Johnson then determined that under the existing circumstances diversity was warranted. Without substituting or compromising qualification and ability, with race or gender, Judge Johnson, considering the need for diversity, hired the state's first African-American court reporter, Mrs. Josephine Coley. In 1982, when he was appointed to the North Carolina Court of Appeals, Judge Johnson discovered that there were no African-American Executive Assistants on either of the state's appellate courts. Again, without substituting or compromising qualification and ability with race or gender, and seeing the need for diversity, Judge Johnson hired an African-American Executive Assistant.

Judge Johnson is the type of person who leads by example. He is not in the habit of asking or encouraging others to do that which he himself would not do. Therefore, Judge Johnson, through the years, without substituting or compromising qualification and

ability with race or gender, did not hesitate to integrate his staff of clerks. He would also encourage other justices and judges to consider the benefits of such diversity (the diversity in Judge Johnson's hiring practices was very evident by the wonderful diverse group of former law clerks who returned to help honor him at a retirement-dinner roast held in March 1997).

There were two other interesting facts to Judge Johnson's hiring practices. First, at least one of his law clerks was always a graduate of NCCU's School of Law. And second, he would not hire anyone who was not a registered and participating voter. He was not concerned with, nor did he inquire as to an applicant's party affiliation. However, he would always first ask an applicant if he or she was a registered voter, and then ask if he or she was a participating voter. If the applicant answered "No" to either of the questions, the applicant was not considered further for employment. If the applicant answered "Yes" to both questions, Judge Johnson would then ask the applicant where he or she was registered. He would then inform the applicant that he would have his Executive Assistant call the Board of Elections, not to inquire about the applicant's party affiliation, but to verify that the applicant was in fact a registered and participating voter.



To this very day, Judge Johnson encourages and expects each young person of his acquaintance to be or to become a registered and participating voter. He recognizes the right to vote as a hard-fought privilege. In fact, one of the rules of his household was that each of his children, upon turning eighteen, had to become a registered and participating voter. Judge Johnson realizes that we are all a product of our past, and rejoices in his humble beginnings.

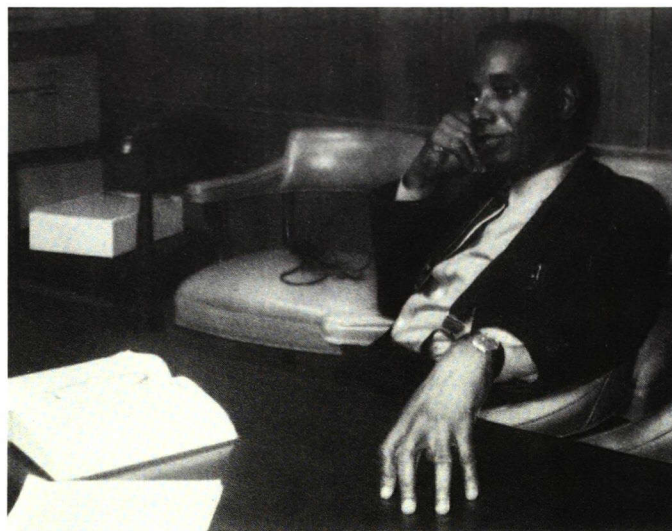
Clifton Johnson was born December 9, 1941, to Mr. Charlie Mack and Mrs. Willie Ann Johnson, in Williamston, North Carolina. He was the fourth of nine children. His mother was a domestic and factory worker and his father was a custodian at the U.S. Post Office. For a brief time, his father was also Williamston's first African-American police officer. His father quit the police force after being "called on the carpet" for having arrested a young white fellow of a prominent family. You see, Mr. Charlie Johnson quit the force because he could not countenance the hypocrisy of the job. He had previously arrested one of his own children, and felt that if he could arrest one of his own children, he could arrest anyone—regardless of race, or socioeconomic status. This incident and the death of Joe Cross, a North Carolina A&T University student, rumored to be dating a white lady, inspired an impressionable Clifton Johnson to become an attorney.

Joe Cross was killed by Martin County law enforcement officers in 1957, while en route to pick up his date, who happened to be an African-American young lady. Clifton Johnson was just fourteen when Cross was killed and would often be at Cross' home when NAACP attorneys arrived to discuss the matter with Mr. Jessie Rogers, Cross' uncle, with whom Cross was living. No one was ever convicted of Cross' murder, but some good did result in this tragedy. The young Johnson was so impressed with the NAACP attorneys, that he decided that he wanted to be an attorney. Boy, does he know how to follow through with a decision!

Judge Johnson served an adoring public for twenty-five years before returning to the bosom of his family. Judge Johnson married his high school sweetheart, Brenda Joyce Wilson, more than thirty four years ago. This union was blessed with two biological and two adopted children. Yulonda, Clifton II, Khiva and Clinton. Yulonda, Clifton II and Khiva are all graduates of NCCU. Yulonda and her husband, Jeffrey Ervin, are the proud parents of two children, Jeffrey II and Olivia. To one who loves his family so much, retirement has been a bittersweet experience. Sadly, Brenda, who suffered a stroke in 1984, has been unable to actively join Judge Johnson in his retirement. For those who are aware of the hard work, perseverance, honor, courage, and integrity of this great man, one only need look as far as the minions that he has nurtured and influenced, not just his children and grandchildren, but all of those who he has touched during his lifetime. This is all part of his legacy.

On March 15, 1997, there were few dry eyes on the evening of his Retirement Dinner Roast, what was to be an evening to celebrate and pay tribute to this monolith of the judiciary. But in typical Clifton Johnson style, he would not let an opportunity pass to honor and support his Alma Mater. On that evening, while more than 500 friends and associates gathered to honor this great man, Judge Johnson ensured that there would be an opportunity to support aspiring young lawyers at NCCU. Proceeds from the dinner would be used to create an endowed scholarship in his name.

Many who know him, know that this man is one of the most selfless human beings who has ever walked this earth. He is constantly giving, but he will tell you that in giving, he receives far more than any man can measure--the love, the respect, the unfettered adulation of all who meet him. Whether it was his great wit, wicked sense of humor, or indelible determination to make a difference, the love and affection of many were apparent on that March evening at the Sheraton, as hundreds gathered to give back to the one who had given them so much over a career of twenty-five years.



Johnson

It is not surprising that as a man of many firsts, Judge Johnson has but two goals he wishes to accomplish before he "shuffles off this mortal coil." One of these goals is to shoot a round of par golf. The other goal is to pilot an airplane. These goals somehow do not seem strange. Many who have met and know this gentleman know his love for the game of golf and his desire to excel each time he "surveys real estate." The other goal, to pilot an airplane, seems most appropriate for one who has piloted many people to success. Despite soaring as a mighty eagle, Clifton Johnson continues to remain the grounded, down-to-earth person that he is.

***Brenda D. Gibson '95
is a staff attorney
for the Office of Staff Counsel
at the
North Carolina Court of Appeals.***

READY, SET, ACTION!

CATHERINE CONSTANTINOU

by Ashley E. Propst



Constantinou as "Thekie"

"A human tooth with the number 6 etched into it. An old lover returning after an eight year absence. A dark secret that everyone is after, but no one wants to know..." Sound intriguing? The writer of this excerpt from a feature film is Catherine Constantinou. A graduate of the University of North Carolina at Greensboro and North Carolina Central University in Durham, Ms. Constantinou has a degree in film and a Juris Doctor Degree in law.

Ms. Constantinou is currently a partner in the Constantinou Law Group of Durham. Her concentration is in domestic relations, including divorce, child custody and support, alimony and separations. She also handles cases involving general civil work, estates, special proceedings and Department of Social Services hearings. While at the North Carolina Central University School of Law, she won the 1992 Fullwood Moot Court Competition. Her brother and law partner, John, is a civil and criminal federal litigator, and also earned degrees from the University of North Carolina at Greensboro and North Carolina Central University School of Law.

In her sparetime, Ms. Constantinou follows her passion - writing and directing feature films.



Constantinou with actor (and local attorney) Al Singer

Her latest debut was *Chesterfield* which premiered in Raleigh at the Rialto Theater and was screened locally at the Carolina Theater in Durham on October 31, 1997. The Halloween showing tied right into the film's murder-mystery plot.

Chesterfield is a mystery, painted in black and white, where what lies in the shadows is more dangerous than what you can see and where promises kept are more dangerous than ones broken. *Chesterfield* was inspired by its predecessor, *The Keg*, a thirty-minute adaptation of an Edgar Allan Poe story that was showcased at Raleigh's Rialto Theater in 1994. Ms. Constantinou herself represents achievement on many levels. She is an artistic intellectual who maintains a successful law firm while nurturing her passion for film. She represents part of the creative vision of *Black Mariah Productions* which began in 1986. Her partner, David Reid Iverson, represents the other one-half. A common love of film making drove the two UNC-G graduates to produce more than fifteen short films and videos during the period from 1986 until 1995, with *Chesterfield* being their first feature film effort.

When asked what motivated her, Ms. Constantinou said it was her passion for film and her love of the law. She is a remarkable woman who puts forth a dramatic and somewhat nontraditional approach to practicing law. She incorporates her creative side in the courtroom which enables her to take on the role of her client and advocate her position in a way which best suits their individual interests.

When asked how she was able to balance her success as an attorney and as a film maker, Ms. Constantinou quoted an excerpt from the Counting Crow's song *Mr. Jones*. She said, "We all want to be big stars, but we got different reasons for that." Ms. Constantinou's brilliance enables her to shift from the reality of the courtroom to the fantasy of film. When the pressure of real life begins to overwhelm her, she escapes to her editing room where her fantasies come to life.

Few people are able to successfully pursue an outside interest such as Ms. Constantinou has done. Ms. Constantinou should serve as an inspiration to persons who attempt to balance professional and personal interests.

**Ashley E. Propst is a 3L at the
North Carolina Central University
School of Law.**

A Discussion and Interview with Professor Robert Belton,

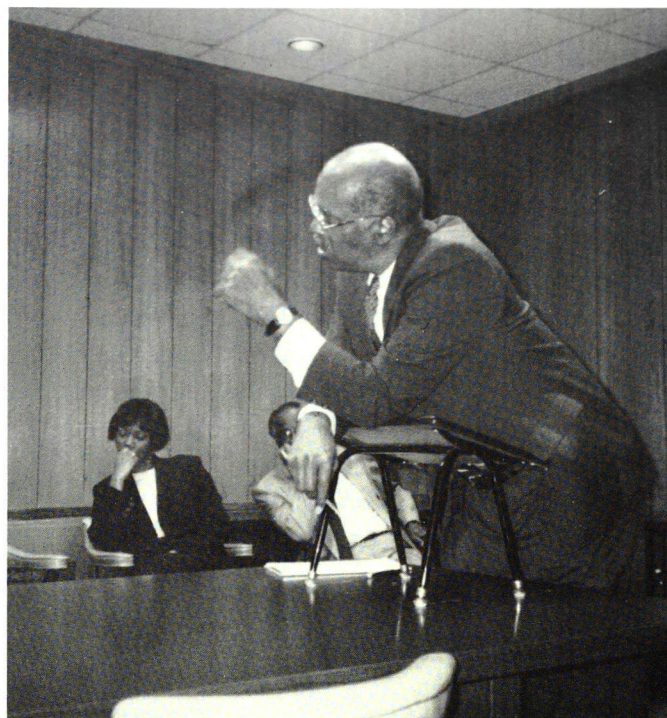
NCCU School of Law's 1997 Charles Hamilton Houston Chair

by M. Victoria Taylor '97

Professor Robert Belton is a High Point, North Carolina native. From 1970 to 1975, Professor Belton worked in the area of civil rights as a law partner in the firm Chambers, Stein and Ferguson and Lanning in Charlotte, North Carolina. Presently, Professor Belton is the first and only tenured African-American professor at Vanderbilt University School of Law in Nashville, Tennessee. Before visiting North Carolina Central University School of Law in the fall of 1997, he held visiting professorships at Harvard Law School and at the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill School of Law.

It took a while for me to get together with the man who had quickly become a myth to me. From the beginning of the fall semester, I had seen Professor Robert Belton in the hallway, in faculty meetings and at other events, yet we had not had an opportunity to talk one on one. I was anxious to get inside his head, to understand what makes him tick, but I had to wait. Thus, I began to rely on the stories about the man, the legend, Professor Robert Belton, to satisfy my thirst. It was not until one day prior to his departing did I get a chance to sit down with him. So, over muffins, a bagel, and a Diet Coke we began our one and one half hour dialogue.

I came to Professor Belton's office with a nice list of "interview questions" so that we would have a framework for our discussion. Professor Belton, however, had another agenda. Instead of me initiating the questions, he proceeded to "get inside my head." "Are you sure you want to go there?" I questioned. In response, Professor Belton eagerly pursued a discussion of my motivations, dreams, and goals. The result was words of wisdom, experience, and truth from Professor Robert Belton that I desire to share with you.



Belton

VT: There are not enough persons of color teaching in law schools. Why is this?

BB: Well, some say the pool from which law schools have to select qualified candidates of color is very shallow. Taking this as true, in order to rectify this it is up to us (as persons of color in law school education and administration) to stress from the first day of law school that a career as a law school professor is an option, and a good one. Then we have to educate interested students about the process and the paths to follow if becoming a law school professor is their ultimate goal. The process can be intimidating and overwhelming. It is important for them to learn and to understand the process.

VT: In addition to making "good grades," what should students do while in law school if they want to ultimately teach law students?

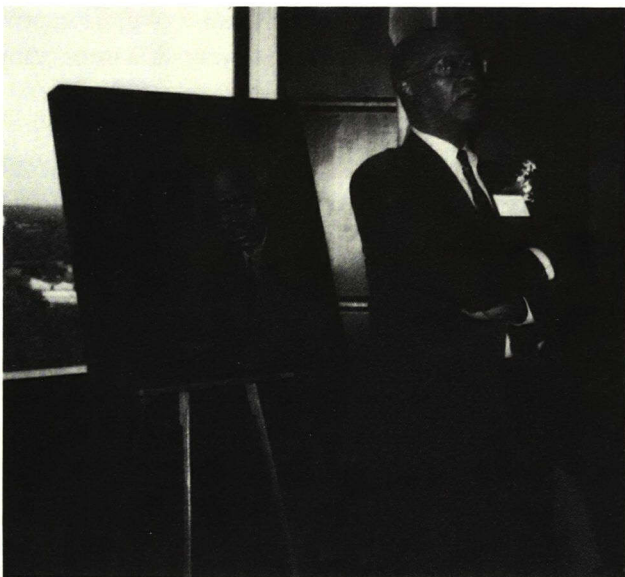
BB: The big three items law schools focus on when looking at potential new faculty members are: teaching experience, scholarship, and community service (i.e., law school community and legal community), with scholarship being the most important. Students should write, write, write (and of course, included in that mantra is to publish). Law school Deans want to see if a potential faculty member is devoted to the "life of the mind" (i.e., scholarship).

VT: What is the “process” like?

BB: Well, initially, persons interested in teaching should attend an American Association of Law Schools (AALS) Annual meeting just to get a feel for the law school academia environment, and to make contacts. Additionally, the AALS Faculty Recruitment Conference, held each year, is a good job hunting event. Once a school is interested in a candidate, he or she comes to the school for a series of interviews which culminate with an interview with the Dean. A “job talk” may also be a part of the interview process. This is a presentation the candidate makes to the interested law school’s faculty on a topic of interest to the candidate. The faculty in turn, questions the candidate about his or her theories/ideas and engage the candidate in dialogue. This can be a very intimidating experience.

VT: The “process” sounds intimidating. I’m nervous just hearing about it. Is a prospective faculty member made more appealing by adding a LLM degree to his or her list of educational achievements? In other words Professor Belton, what are your feelings on a LLM degree, is it necessary?

BB: It is a definite advantage, especially for students who graduated from law schools which are not nationally known. Law students have two options upon graduating. One route is upon graduation, go to work for a firm and then go into teaching. The second route is to graduate at the top of the class with Moot Court and Law Journal experience (published articles a plus), obtain the LLM degree, and then teach.



Belton speaking at a reception in his honor in October, 1997

VT: Professor Belton, currently you are at Vanderbilt University School of Law in Nashville, Tennessee, and you are the only African-American professor. Tell me how this makes you feel.

BB: [Pause] My colleagues view me as a token, that I am primarily at Vanderbilt because of my race, but that’s OK with me. I see my position as an opportunity to educate my white colleagues and the white Vanderbilt students. I guess I am sort of a 1997 pioneer.

VT: Are you always asked to speak during “Black History” month at various Vanderbilt student/faculty functions?

BB: No, not really. I discouraged this conduct very early in my career at Vanderbilt. What I do encourage is a continuing dialogue about race. I’ve gotten a hit and miss response to this suggestion. It is a difficult task to accomplish. People are very uncomfortable talking about race.

VT: Currently [fall semester 1997] you are teaching a class at North Carolina Central University School of Law titled “Race and the Law.” What do you hope your students will take away from this class?

BB: I kept class enrollment small so the students would become comfortable with each other and would talk openly about the issue of race in our society and the associated legal consequences. The students in the class are wonderful.

VT: What do you think of NCCU’s law school?

BB: I think that it is a jewel in the rough.

VT: Professor Belton, talk about your research in the area of “critical race jurisprudence.”

BB: This is an exciting approach to issues of race. It is a race centered jurisprudence. Writers/researchers are attempting to reshape the debate about how legal scholars, through application of policies, view issues of race in our society. Part of the critical school takes the position that the current rules are in determinant. For example, critical race raises important questions about race and sex, about society’s multi-consciousness and the fact that the law doesn’t recognize this multi-consciousness. By not changing the laws, which are viewed through the eyes of white males, the continuation of dominant/submissive roles is maintained.



Belton with Susie R. Powell, who with husband Franklin R. Anderson, funded the Charles Hamilton Houston Chair

Further, this area of research examines the impact, if any, of "critical race jurisprudence" on judicial decisions. Different schools of thought, such as law and economics, influence judicial decisions. The question then becomes, are judges reading literature (i.e., law review articles on "critical race jurisprudence") that later affects final decisions made? To illustrate, take for example hate speech. Hate speech as viewed by African-Americans is not hate speech as viewed by whites. If the reasonable person standard is used in a judicial proceeding dealing with hate speech, from whose perspective is this "reasonable person"? [Pause] The big question then becomes, should the court now consider critical race jurisprudence?

VT: In closing, is there a story that you will share with me that describes who you are and what you are about?

BB: [Pause and a smile] Well, I am a man who cares very deeply about social issues. I felt this way even before law school. My story is one of the social activist. Calling me a social activist is a good thing.

VT: O.K., one more question. If you had one wish for the world, in terms of race relations, what would that one wish be?

BB: I am trying to accomplish through my research and my training the vision of society I think we ought to have. A society of respect and understanding.

VT: Thank you so much for sharing your time, your thoughts, and your great humor with me. The entire law school community has been greatly enriched by your presence.

**M. Victoria Taylor '97 is the
Director of Recruitment at the
North Carolina Central University
School of Law.**

LOOKING BACK

North Carolina College
AT DURHAM

The School Of Law

BULLETIN OF INFORMATION



Announcements for the Session 1947-48

DURHAM, NORTH CAROLINA

Fees and Expenses

BOARDING STUDENTS

	First Semester	Second Semester
*Tuition	\$ 50.00	\$ 50.00
Registration Fee	10.00	
Athletic Fee	5.00	
Library and Concert Fee	7.50	
Medical Fee	3.50	
Electric Fee	1.50	1.50
Postoffice Box Rent	.75	
Room and Board—4½ months	99.00	99.00
Total	\$177.25	\$150.50
Total amount due at entrance	\$100.25	

NON-BOARDING STUDENTS

	First Semester	Second Semester
*Tuition	\$ 50.00	\$ 50.00
Registration Fee	10.00	
Athletic Fee	5.00	
Library and Concert Fee	7.50	
Medical Fee	3.50	
Total	\$ 76.00	\$ 50.00
Total amount due at entrance	\$ 76.00	

*Tuition for Out of State Students: \$82.50 per semester.

Students' casebooks, bought new, will cost about \$30 a year. A considerable saving can be effected by purchasing second-hand books.

Assuring Access to Justice and Other Necessities: Stanley B. Sprague

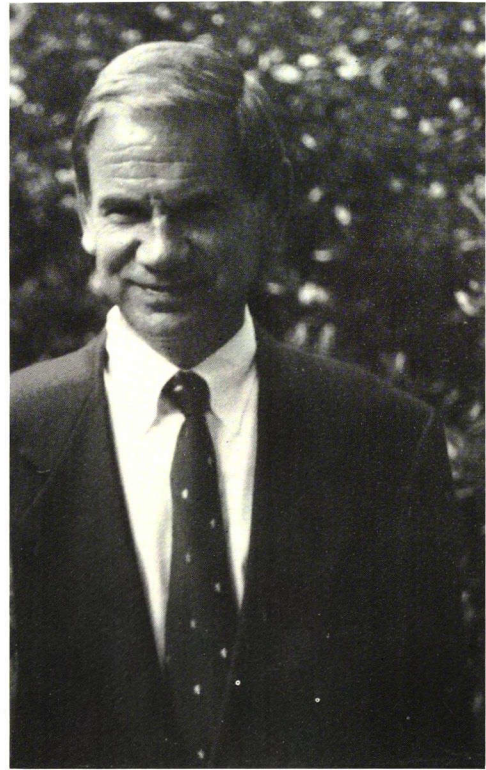
by Adrienne Lea Meddock '91

When thinking of sources of inspiration to pursue a career in the law, rarely do food stamps come to mind. But it was working as an administrative assistant in the United States Department of Agriculture's food stamp and other antipoverty programs at the USDA's Washington, D.C. central office in the late 1960's that first spurred Stanley B. Sprague's interest in legal solutions for the problems of the poor.

The Greensboro attorney earned his law degree at North Carolina Central University in 1974 and has dedicated his career to low-income legal services. In a field where attorneys often quickly become burned-out by the seemingly insurmountable challenges facing their clients, or use the position with legal services as a stepping stone to a lucrative private practice, Sprague has been applauded for his long and distinguished career in working toward legal solutions for providing basic necessities for poor and low-income people.

Sprague's fight for his clients has shown that justice is one of those necessities. This commitment earned Stanley Sprague recognition as the 1997 Outstanding Legal Services Attorney by the North Carolina Bar Association's Pro Bono Access to Justice Awards Committee. In fact, Mr. Sprague's career has never wavered from his commitment to make life better for our poorest citizens.

That career started on a quick trip to visit then Dean DeJarmon at the NCCU School of Law. Sprague was late in submitting his law school application but drove down from D.C., where he was working for the USDA, on the Dean's invitation. The interview was so successful, Dean DeJarmon admitted Sprague on the spot. Sprague returned to D.C. after graduating and worked in private practice with the first legal clinic in D.C. to represent a high-volume of low income clients in civil cases for reduced fees.



Sprague

For the past seventeen years, he has practiced with Central Carolina Legal Services in Greensboro, where he is now also the Executive Director.

Sprague says despite the challenge of the high volume of clients, the rewards of a career in legal services are many. "We are really the only lawyers regularly helping low income people. It is rewarding to be one of the few attorneys helping good people who find they need help." The practice also allows him to pursue the types of cases it is simply impracticable to bring in private practice. "We have some leeway about handling our cases. We have taken \$50.00 violations up on appeal for our clients and that victory may make life better for hundreds of people with the same \$50.00 claim. That freedom to pursue small but important claims is great."

And it is at the appellate level that Stanley Sprague has so often made an impact for the low income people of North Carolina. Among his “20 or 30” reported decisions is *McBride v. McBride*, 431 S.E.2d 14 (N.C. 1993), a Supreme Court case, in which Sprague argued successfully that judges were required to appoint counsel for indigent parties in civil contempt proceedings. Under prior interpretations, local judges often denied counsel at their discretion. In *Thomas v. NC Department of Human Resources*, 478 S.E.2d 816 (N.C. Ct. App. 1996), he argued at the trial level and Court of Appeals level and worked with the private attorney handling the appeal to the North Carolina Supreme Court, 485 S.E.2d 295 (N.C. 1997). In that case, he took on his old bosses at the Department of Agriculture, who supported the North Carolina agency and its interpretation of regulations. While a prior suit had shown both government agencies to be unconstitutionally depriving individuals of food stamp benefits by impermissibly delaying the start of suspension periods, the agencies were not changing their application of the rule except to that one plaintiff. Sprague brought a class action and the Court of Appeals reversed and remanded in favor of his clients, with Sprague’s interpretation being adopted. The Supreme Court affirmed *per curiam*. Thus, some of the lowest income citizens would no longer have to seek their remedy in court to get their rights to food stamps reinstated in a timely manner.

It is these battles for the rights of low income people that Sprague relishes and which form the basis for his recommendation to law students to consider a career in legal services. While even the \$50.00 victories are important to Sprague, he has also occasionally seen some high dollar cases. He recalled with amazement what was “almost a standing ovation at a local bar meeting. I had settled a \$3,000,000 class action suit. That was not what I considered my most important case, but rather cases like *McBride* and *Thomas* where the law was changed. Those are the cases of real importance to me and to my clients.”

While he notes that “some people get into law for the wrong reason,” he doesn’t totally discount private practice. “I was in private practice in DC for five years.” He just urges that “people should consider both.”

Sprague is also an active volunteer with Court Watch, a North Carolina nonprofit in Greensboro which helps parents collect child support. Sprague stressed, “They are the only group in the last decade to survey all trial court judges in North Carolina. College professors evaluate local district and superior court judges and publish the results based on fifteen to twenty questions asked of each judge. This helps the public know how their elected judges are doing. Every other year they report on judges’ campaign financing, publishing which judges are spending how much. This information is given to the General Assembly, and is hoped to help them in making decisions about how judicial elections should be run.”

Whether it is inside the court room, at the appellate level, or in his volunteer work with Court Watch, Stanley Sprague is living the Law School’s mission by fighting for those under-served and under-represented by the legal profession, fighting to make our system serve the less fortunate as well as the wealthy. He adds a final pitch for young attorneys: “I urge students to consider a career in legal aid. You won’t get all the money, but you will sleep well at night, knowing you are doing the right thing.”

**Adrienne Lea Meddock ‘91 is the
Assistant Dean for the Evening Division at the
North Carolina Central University School of Law.**

Walter Boyd: A Patent on Success or A Funny Thing Happened on the Way to Med School...

by Adrienne Lea Meddock '91 and Michael Bush



Boyd

When the last *Of Counsel* alumni magazine arrived at his office, one item particularly caught the attention of Walter Y. Boyd, Jr. When he read that his alma mater had attended the Saul Lefkowitz Memorial Moot Court Competition in Trademark Law, two important phases of his life came into focus. It was his days in Law School at North Carolina Central University that lead him to a career that would bring him under Saul Lefkowitz's personal tutelage.

Walter Boyd was born and raised in the town of Elon College. He earned his undergraduate degree at Elon College, double majoring in Biology and Chemistry, and went on to earn a Master's degree in Biology from the University of North Carolina at Greensboro in December 1980. He originally intended to train as a doctor, but was late in applying to medical schools. Serendipity led him to the college's graduate and professional information fair and to the law school recruiters.

Boyd wasn't really interested in law school, but "had some time to kill" and began to look over the law school information. His interest piqued, he took the LSAT at the last minute, and applied just to see what would happen. While he was still pondering going to medical school, Boyd thought it wouldn't hurt to learn a little law in the meantime. He figured he'd spend a year in law school, and then be off to medical school.

But a funny thing happened. His first year grades came in. He did very well. He looked at the expense of medical school. He thought about law school again. He liked the people and the professors, and decided to finish his law degree. Boyd reflects that "that turned out to be the best decision for me. I don't think I would be a very good doctor." That decision made, as a third year law student at NCCU, Boyd was still unsure where his law degree would lead him. A conversation with Professor Charles Smith changed that and helped lead him into his successful legal career. Smith learned that Boyd had a scientific background and urged him to take his Patent Law class that fall. The indecision that Boyd had felt before vanished. He had found his niche.

With Smith's encouragement and recommendation, Boyd applied to and was accepted by George Washington University Law School in Washington, D.C., earning an LLM in Patent and Trade Regulation Law in May 1985.

He returned to North Carolina to take the 1986 February bar exam and worked for a short time in Chapel Hill. But his real calling was in the nation's capitol at the center of patent law practice.

Boyd clerked for Judges Edward S. Smith and Marion T. Bennett at the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Federal Circuit, the circuit which hears the lion's share of patent and trademark appeals. The creation of the court in 1982 resulted in a boom in Intellectual Property practice in general, and specifically in patent law. Boyd considered coming back to North Carolina after his clerkship, but on the Judges' advice that he could always go from a big firm to a smaller one, he decided to stay in Washington.

During his clerkship, Boyd had contact with several members of Finnegan, Henderson, Farabow, Garrett, & Dunner, L.L.P., a prestigious D.C. law firm, and admired their work. The firm had a very good reputation, and when talking with the Judges, this firm always came out near the top of the list.

Boyd, who always wanted to learn from the best, started working at Finnegan, Henderson in 1986, and became a partner in 1992. Among the people responsible for the firm's reputation was Saul Lefkowitz, a legend in trademark law practice and for whom the annual Saul Lefkowitz Memorial Moot Court Competition is named. Of Lefkowitz, Boyd said, "[He] was a very good friend of mine, and one of the nicest people I have ever met in my life. I was fortunate to have been trained in trademark law by him."

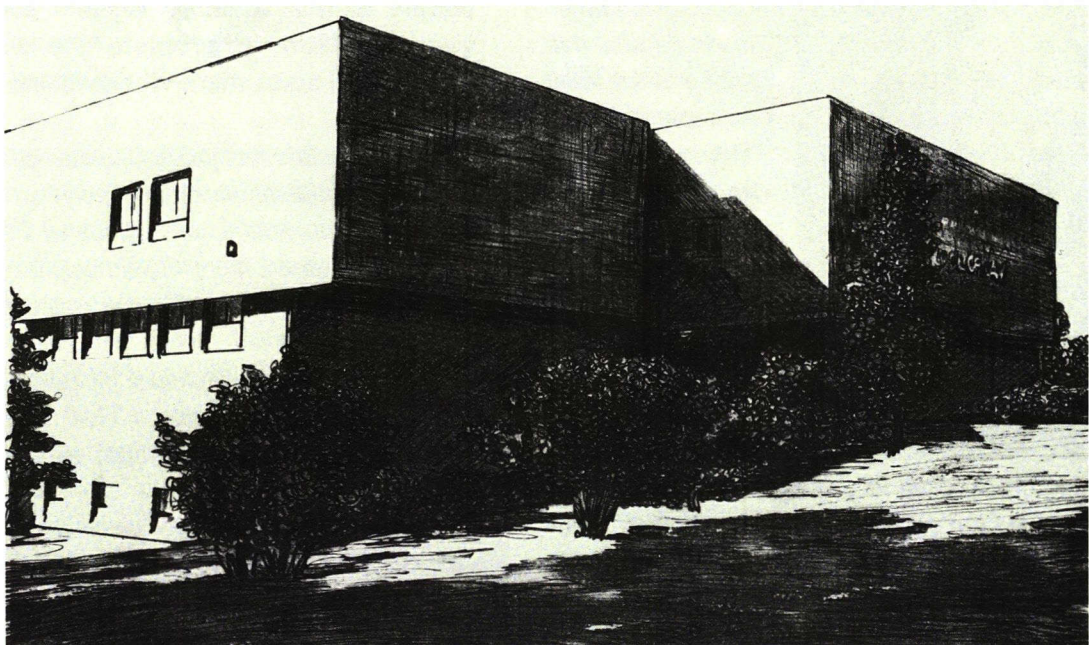
Today Boyd is primarily engaged in the practice of chemical/pharmaceutical litigation, which he prefers to the "prosecution" end, the process of applying for patent registration. Patent litigation involves high tech trial tools in order to explain the intricate science that underlies the disputed patents and the trials tend to be massive in their presentation and preparation - on the scale of antitrust litigation. However, most of the firm's patent cases end up settling.

Making his career in patent law allowed Boyd to combine his science background with his legal background. He finds intellectual property to be an interesting field because it allows one to see the progress of technology. He explains, "We see things the public won't see for years. There's always a need for patent lawyers, in good times and bad in our technology driven society."

Boyd has been present to watch and share in the growth and expansion of the intellectual property practice area, as it tracks the "mega-trend" of the country turning from a manufacturing base to a technology base. Another trend is the expansion of practice internationally. Many developing countries believe that the only way to compete in the global market is to have strong intellectual property laws at home, and to have U.S. patent protection for their exports to the U.S. The firm has followed this growth with offices in Brussels and Tokyo, an office in Palo Alto, California for Pacific Rim clients, and a new office in Atlanta. Boyd urges students to consider a career in Intellectual Property practice. Many students think international law is for world travel and do not realize that patent law is another perhaps better vehicle. Science and technology are critical bases for patent practice, but people skills are also important. According to Boyd, Most inventors don't like lawyers - but they warm up after they find out you have a technical background.

And so the would be doctor's late med school application fifteen years ago became the basis for a successful career as a patent attorney. Boyd states with affirmation, "I will always be in Professor Smith's debt. NCCU does a fine job of preparing its graduates for a career in Intellectual Property law."

Adrienne Lea Meddock '91 is the Assistant Dean for the Evening Division at the North Carolina Central University School of Law and Michael Bush is a 2LE at the Law School.



Jan Harris of Durham penned this ink drawing for the Law School

Remembering...

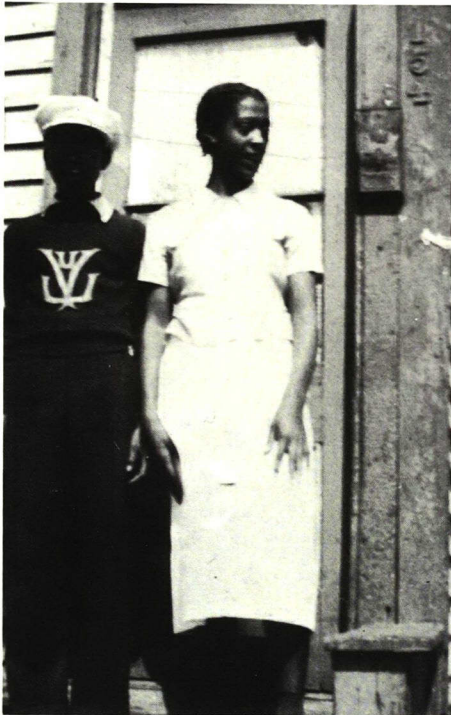
Herman Taylor

by Sharon Bey Christopher

*...There are people whose brilliance continues
to light the world though they are no
longer among the living.
These lights are particularly bright
when the night is dark.
They light the way of mankind.*

Hannah Senesh

The late Attorney Herman L. Taylor is one of those brilliant "lights" who illuminated the road paved for African-American civil rights in North Carolina. The spark was ignited in the late 1940's. Years before Rosa Parks and Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. initiated the social manifestations of the Civil Rights movement in America, Taylor and other civil rights lawyers battled in the Southern legal trenches.



Taylor as a 16 year old college student

segregation in this country. Taylor's contributions to such efforts in North Carolina are legendary.

These soldiers fought on the frontlines of the war against racism and injustice before the social consciousness of black people was raised to the level of open protest. These lawyers flooded Southern courtrooms with petitions seeking to tear down laws that perpetuated and promoted racial discrimination and systemic

The Light Glimmers Early

Taylor's journey to the practice of law is equally fascinating. Born in Richmond Virginia on July 27, 1918, his early life equipped him well for the significant tasks ahead. He was raised in a large family in poor conditions. However, his relatives and teachers noticed his keen intelligence and avid thirst for education, and encouraged him to achieve his great potential. While his peers worked in the fields between school sessions, Taylor attended school year round and graduated from high school at age fourteen. He earned a Bachelor's degree from Virginia Union University at age eighteen, and a Masters in Business from Columbia University.

After receiving his Master's, he taught at Virginia Union for a time, then returned to Columbia to pursue his law degree. At Columbia, Taylor overcame insurmountable odds to attend law school. To prepare for classes, he memorized cases at the library because he couldn't afford to buy the expensive course books. In order to pay tuition, he worked several jobs while supporting a family and juggling a full-time course load. Yet, he achieved academic excellence and made the Columbia Law Review. His "light" continued to pierce the darkness of his challenging circumstances.

In one of his jobs, he served as a clerk at the NAACP in New York for then chief counsel Thurgood Marshall (the late U.S. Supreme Court Justice). Marshall introduced Taylor to the practice of civil rights law, and its critical importance to improving the condition of black people in this country. Taylor's stint at the NAACP impressed him to promote the advancement of his people, and assist them whenever he could.

U.S. District Judge Constance Baker Motley, who sits on the federal bench in New York, met Taylor as she entered Columbia Law School in February, 1944. As Taylor graduated from Columbia, he recommended her appointment as Marshall's clerk at the NAACP.

The appointment fueled Judge Motley's distinguished legal career. This is just one example of Taylor's personal commitment to assist his brothers and sisters.

The Legal Legend Shines

Upon graduation from Columbia Law School, Taylor was offered a teaching position at the School of Law at North Carolina College (now known as NCCU). Dr. James E. Shepard learned about Taylor through the dean of Columbia's law school, and was impressed with Taylor's credentials. By invitation to apply for the position, Taylor took his first ride on an airplane to visit the North Carolina campus and consider the offer. He accepted the job, relocated to North Carolina, and gained admission to the North Carolina Bar in 1946. Known as a confident, capable and accomplished professor, Taylor taught law classes, published various law review articles and prepared students for the Bar examinations. Over the years, he generously mentored countless black lawyers, presenting many of them to the Court to take the attorney's oath as they entered the profession.

While teaching at the law school, Taylor noticed the frequency and intensity of racial incidents affecting black North Carolinians. To his dismay, the people were unable to effectively challenge the segregationist system, and those promulgating this system "simply ran amuck." Taylor knew that something had to be done. One day, he was contacted at the law school by a group of black Durham teachers who had been unjustly fired from their jobs when they complained about the lack of quality education materials available to their students. Taylor immediately took up their cause and proceeded to pressure the school board to correct the injustice. The board predictably resisted any challenge to its actions. Eventually, the heat became so intense that Taylor decided to resign his position at the law school and enter full-time civil rights practice in Raleigh.

When he began his practice more than fifty years ago, Taylor saw that the condition of his black brothers and sisters in North Carolina was horrendous. There were no blacks serving on juries, no black judges nor district attorneys in any North Carolina courts. He recalled that black lawyers were "tolerated but not respected," and that schools were "separate but not equal." He and his law partner, the late Samuel Mitchell, filed one lawsuit after another in state and federal courts, challenging many unconstitutional injustices, including the exclusion of blacks from juries; the grossly inadequate and unequal school facilities provided to black children; and the denial of blacks from admission to the state's law and medical schools. Mitchell and Taylor became known as two of the most outstanding civil rights lawyers in the

South, often engaged by the NAACP to carry the torch in North Carolina and invited to speak at civil rights meetings and conventions all over the country.

In the Heat of Battle

Taylor has shared that in the beginning of the civil rights work, many suits were filed against the State of North Carolina, "with great expectancy", in the state courts. But to "get the job done", it soon became necessary to pull the cases after protracted battle in state court for two or three years, and bring them in federal court. Soon, it was apparent that he may have to go to the United States Supreme Court with the cases. So, he sought admission to the United States Supreme Court Bar and, in 1950 was the first black lawyer in North Carolina admitted to practice before the Supreme Court. Taylor was presented for admission by Thurgood Marshall.

One of the more memorable cases for Taylor was a school equalization suit brought in Lumberton, North Carolina against the Robeson County Board of Education. White students attended school in a new, well-equipped facility, while black students went to school in a dilapidated wood-frame building without supplies. Taylor obtained the Court's permission to inspect the school to build his equalization case; having been denied access by school officials. Accompanied by a federal marshal, Taylor made his inspection, only to find that the school personnel attempted to hide microscopes and other school equipment from his discovery. In response to Taylor's argument that black students deserved to have "equal" facilities, the County claimed that there was no money to build a new school. However, the federal court ordered the Robeson County Board of Education to build two new schools for blacks; those schools were built on the Fairmont Highway in Lumberton.

School equalization was also achieved in Hertford, North Carolina, in the "Old Fort." In the early 1950's, black students were not allowed to attend school in the Old Fort school district, and were bused twenty miles from home to attend school in Asheville. The people searched extensively for a lawyer with the temerity to challenge the situation and finally met Taylor and Mitchell, who willingly brought suit to address the inequity.

Similarly, the case of *Holt v. Raleigh City Board of Education*, 265 F.2d 95 (4th Cir. 1959) marked the beginning of the end of school segregation in Raleigh, in

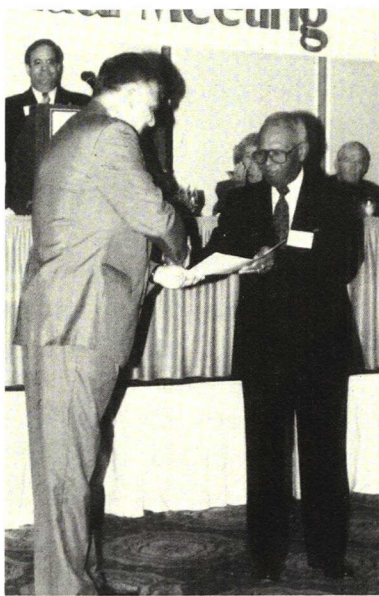
which Taylor and Mitchell challenged exclusion of blacks from Broughton High School. The case of *Brown v. Board of Education*, 347 U.S. 483 (1954) outlawed segregation in public schools. In 1956, the Joseph H. Holt family of Raleigh was one of the first black families to attempt desegregation by formally applying to send their son, Joseph, Jr. to Broughton. However, the Raleigh school board denied him admission. Taylor and Mitchell filed suit in federal court, and waged a four year battle to integrate the Raleigh schools in the face of repeated threats, intimidation and harassment. That seminal case began a process leading to eventual desegregation in the Raleigh school district, putting officials on notice that the people would no longer tolerate the status quo and were prepared to courageously battle for change.

Passing the Torch

Those black lawyers who dared to challenge the status quo were ridiculed and attacked on many fronts. In those days, blacks were not permitted to be members of the mainstream bar association. Recognizing the need for a support system among the "brethren," Taylor initiated the organization of black lawyers in North Carolina into a bar association – the North Carolina Lawyers' Association. He was its president for the first three years. (this organization was the precursor to the North Carolina Association of Black Lawyers, which exists today). When news spread of this new Association in North Carolina, black lawyers in South Carolina asked to become members as well. They were readily welcomed, and the name of the organization was changed from the North Carolina Lawyers' Association to the Southeastern Lawyers Association. Black lawyers in Virginia also participated in the association.

In 1981, the North Carolina Association of Black Lawyers honored Taylor with a Pioneer Award for thirty years of service by presenting a certificate, which stated:

"You taught us the meaning of struggle. You taught us how to fight with our legal skills. We honor you for your inspired vision, your leadership, your years of



Taylor receiving NCBA award in 1997

unselfish service to Black people in the State of North Carolina. We honor you for your courage in defending the rights of your people in unpopular causes, for little or no pay, and for your devotion to upholding your profession and the Constitution of the United States for more than thirty (30) years."

Taylor practiced civil rights law in Raleigh until the mid-1960s. Younger lawyers came along with the enthusiasm and tenacity to pick up the mantle and continue the legal fight for civil rights in North Carolina. Taylor continued to serve the community and, in all, practiced law for more than fifty years, until his death in September 1997. Taylor, Mitchell and other civil rights lawyers faced intense legal confrontations with seemingly unceasing faith, with limited resources and for little, if any, compensation.

Taylor vividly recalled attacks on his personal safety, threats against his family, crosses burned on his lawn, punctures in his automobile tires, and rocks thrown through windows of the places he stayed as he continued civil rights work. But despite all such obstacles, he trusted that his direction was charted by God and intently focused on his mission. This brief article cannot possibly purport to give a complete account of the rich legal legacy of which Taylor was a part.

Herman once said that if he ever wrote a book about his fascinating experiences as a civil rights lawyer, he would title it, "To God Be The Glory." Unfortunately, he cannot write that book now, but the story can still be told. And, it must be...because through Herman's life as a dedicated civil rights lawyer, we can all learn to "...live not merely a long life, but a full one; for living a long life requires only good fortune, but living a full life requires character..." (Seneca). It took character for Herman and his colleagues to withstand the attacks of the insidious racism demons, and it took integrity for them to undauntedly press toward the mark of complete enfranchisement for black people in America. They pressed on--unaffected by whether they won or lost in court, because each battle was already won in the attempt. Thank God that Herman Taylor gave himself fully to his cause for that season, and pray that the "light" of his accomplishments will never be extinguished.

Sharon Bey Christopher is in private practice in Raleigh and practiced with Herman Taylor.

Nichelle Jones Perry Speaks Out About . . .

The Performance Based Admission Program at the NCCU School of Law



Perry

Founded in 1939 as a law school for African American students denied admission to other law schools, North Carolina Central University provided a legal education to those who were generally not admitted to a law school. The Law School continues today to provide a legal education not only for African

Americans and persons from socioeconomically disadvantaged backgrounds, but also for persons, who for whatever reasons, do not fit the profile of an ideal student "on paper" because of undergraduate grades, LSAT scores, or other circumstances.

An integral part of continuing to fulfill this mission is the Performance Based Admission Program (PBAP). PBAP was started in 1985 in order to allow applicants whose credentials did not qualify them for unconditional admission, but whose records nonetheless showed the promise of success, an opportunity to be admitted to Law School. Applicants selected for this program have an opportunity to gain admission for the fall semester through their performance in a two week (originally one week) noncredit summer program. PBAP participants spend the two weeks in a classroom setting where they are given instruction in a substantive law course by faculty members. Additionally, students learn basic skills, such as how to prepare for class, how to organize and outline

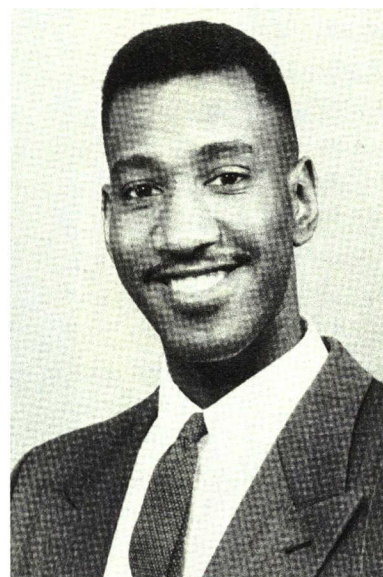
course material, and how to answer legal questions.

While in Law School at NCCU, I was vaguely aware of PBAP and knew quite a few students admitted via the program. However, it was not until I began working as the Law School's Academic Development Specialist that I realized the impact PBAP has had on many peoples lives. Without PBAP, the legal community as a whole would be devoid of many excellent attorneys who were admitted to the Law School via PBAP, graduated, passed a bar examination and went on to have successful legal careers.

One example of the type of attorney PBAP produces is Dale Deese '89. Deese, featured in the Spring 1995 *Of Counsel*, was a member of the first class of PBAP students to graduate from the Law School. In a 1989 *Durham Morning Herald* article about PBAP, Deese was quoted as saying, "I lacked the maturity in undergraduate school. They [NCCU] gave me an opportunity to show myself. Otherwise, I didn't have the grades to get into another law school. This program gave me that chance." Deese is currently the Executive Director of Lumbee River Legal Services, Inc.

The spotlight has also shone on another PBAP graduate, Robert Lambright '93, who was the subject of a feature article in the 1996-1997 academic year *Of Counsel* which highlighted his volunteer work with a statewide MENTOR program sponsored by the New Jersey State Bar. Lambright was also the 1997 recipient of The Floyd B. McKissick Award. This award is given to an alumni who has made a significant contribution to the community in which he or she lives, working with city, county, state or national projects designed for the betterment of society.

As of May 1997, approximately 90 PBAP students had graduated from the Law School. Their presence in legal communities throughout the



Lambright

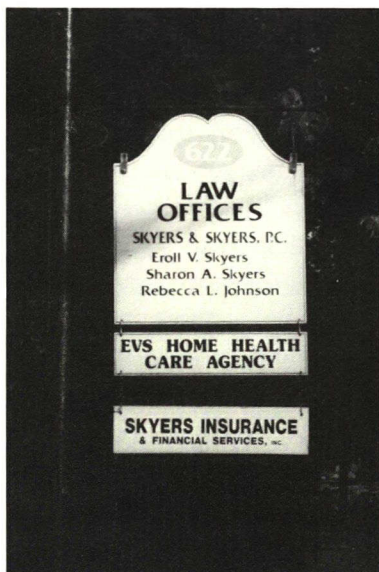
country is evident by the two success stories I just shared with you. Other PBAP alumni are assistant public defenders and prosecutors, private practitioners, and counsel in many other areas of the legal field.

In May 1998, I had the pleasure of seeing my "first" group of PBAP students graduate. I saw their anxious, yet scared, faces when they came for the two week summer program in July of 1995 and I have watched them become excellent students, advocates and representatives of the Law School. I am anxious to see these graduates enter a field which, for some, they would not have not been able to enter if not for PBAP. I am also excited that we have been able to continue to allow students the opportunity to participate in a program of this magnitude.

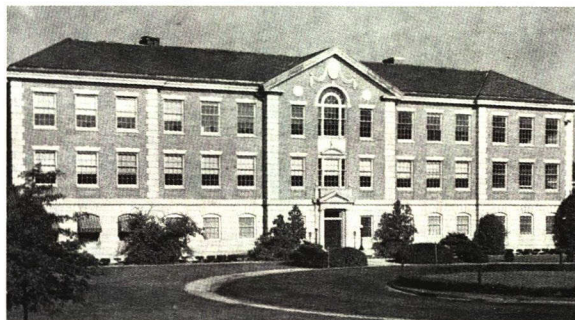
Funding from a Title III grant has made it possible for the school to continue PBAP at little or no cost to the participants. Many students would not be able to afford the high fees which many other Law Schools charge for comparable summer admission programs. Students who participate in PBAP always are amazed that they are able to participate in a program such as this one for little or no financial obligation. The Title III grant also funds the support programs, originally established to assist students admitted through PBAP students with law school, but which now help all students with their academic needs.

Errol Skyers '92, a 1989 PBAP participant, now in private practice in Bridgeport, Connecticut, had this to say about the program via a telephone interview. "Some people don't look good on paper, but this doesn't mean that they do not have the ability to succeed in law school. PBAP gives the people who do not look good on paper a chance."

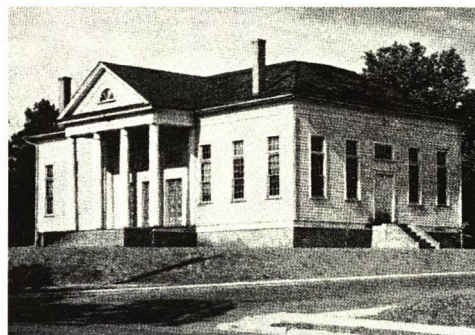
The Performance Based Admission Program is just another reason to be proud of the North Carolina Central University School of Law.



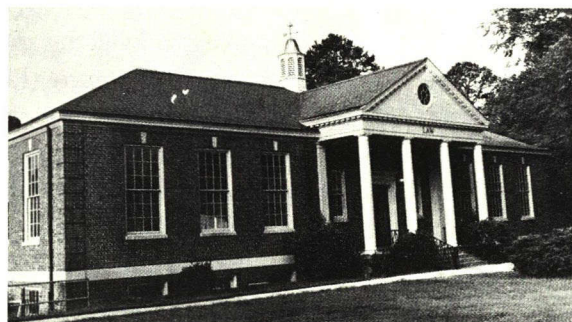
LOOKING BACK



The Law School occupied the left floor of Administration Building from 1941-1949



Avery Auditorium was used by the Law School from 1950-1951



The Law School was located in what is now the William Jones Building from 1951-1980

PRO BONO POTPOURRI

By Lydia E. Lavelle, Pro Bono Coordinator

"Pro Bono Potpourri" is the name given to the weekly pro bono/public interest news which is disseminated to all of the law students at the North Carolina Central University School of Law. The Pro Bono Program at the NCCU School of Law officially was started in the winter of 1997, although pro bono work has been performed by NCCU students for years. For example, we have had a clinical program for some time through an arrangement with the North Central Legal Assistance Program. Our clinical program consists of a civil litigation clinic, a criminal litigation clinic and a family law clinic. Other examples include our FACES (Future Attorneys Challenging Elementary Students) program, tutoring elementary students, which is arranged by a student organization; the Land Loss Prevention Project which is housed in the School of Law and utilizes student support; and the IOLTA Public Interest Internship Program.



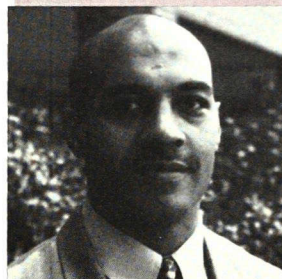
"The Pro Bono Program provided me with a valuable learning experience. I learned that pro bono service can be an avenue for using the legal system to effectuate change, regardless of whether the impact is felt by individuals, as learned by my work as a guardian ad litem volunteer, or by all citizens, as

learned when I assisted with appellate research."

Shelley Coelho '98

As to the official Pro Bono Program, however, in December of 1996, the school's first Pro Bono Coordinator was hired. The goals of the program for the winter of 1997 were as follows: (1) to identify and meet with various agencies and organizations which might be interested in having NCCU law students work on projects; (2) to identify methods of actually receiving pro bono projects from various agencies and organizations; (3) to identify methods of recruitment of students for pro bono projects; (4) to serve as a clearinghouse for pro

bono projects identified by the law school; and (5) to set up a one hour Pro Bono/Public Interest Legal Writing course with external pro bono/public interest agencies, with supervision by the supervising attorney at the agency and by the Pro Bono Coordinator.



"I gained my first practical legal experience working through pro bono. My assignment at the Office of the Appellate Defender was a perfect fit for me. On my first day, my supervisor welcomed me with a research assignment for a felony criminal appeal. That was over two years ago, and the case is still pending.

The workload was challenging, but the results have been rewarding."

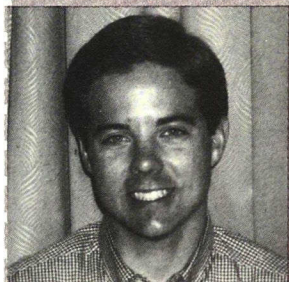
Louie Wilson III '98

Each of these goals has been accomplished in various ways. In order to identify and meet with various agencies and organizations which might be interested in having NCCU's law students work on projects, we identified every public interest group and pro bono group in the area of which we were aware. We made a decision to limit pro bono opportunities to strictly law-related projects (volunteer projects which are not law-related are referred to student organizations). Over the course of the past year, we made an effort to meet or talk with people from each agency which we identified. Cindy Adcock, the Pro Bono Coordinator at Duke University and the only "seasoned" N.C. law school pro bono coordinator in place at the time, was very helpful with information as we first set up our program.

A process had to be put in place to identify methods of actually receiving pro bono projects from various agencies and organizations. A mass mailing was done to all of the groups we identified; we asked these groups to specify their project and mail or fax it back to us by a certain date. A project request form was designed with information we felt was necessary in order to specifically tell students what that particular project entailed. We started publicizing the program by placing public service announcements in publications which we thought would reach our audience (i.e., Newsbeat; N.C. Lawyer's Weekly; the Durham Docket; etc.)

Once projects were identified, we started recruiting students for these projects and we began publicizing these opportunities to our students in various ways. A Pro Bono/Public Interest bulletin board was

installed outside of the Pro Bono office, and is kept up to date on a weekly basis. The "Pro Bono Potpourri" column was started and runs in the Law School's weekly newsletter. The Pro Bono Office has been accessible during Law School hours so that students can feel free to stop by and talk about projects in detail. In this manner, we have been able to match many students with our projects. We decided to make pro bono projects available to only second and third year law students in the fall semester and to all students in the spring semester.



"My pro bono opportunity with the North Carolina Coalition Against Domestic Violence was an eye-opening experience. I learned valuable information about the domestic violence laws in North Carolina. I was exposed to and assisted in handling actual problems with shelters across North Carolina. My pro bono experience made me realize how important it is for attorneys or law students to assist others."

Ruffin Poole '98

Each semester we had at least twenty-five students working on specific projects. We point out to agencies that the heavy recruitment time to get students to take projects is early in the semester, but we do not mind advertising projects at any time because there might be an immediate "fit" with one of our students.

We evaluate the projects at the end of each semester and recruit similar projects for the next semester. Students are encouraged to rotate off projects so that experiences can be shared by other students. Students are also encouraged to come to us with ideas of possible projects.

We also serve as a clearinghouse for pro bono projects identified by the law school. One good example is Teen Court which is run at the Durham County Courthouse every Thursday night. We recruited students who were interested in working with Teen Court. Another example is the Durham Law Camp, a camp for middle and high school students which is cosponsored by the Durham Parks and Recreation Department and held at the law school each summer. Students were recruited to help with this camp. We have set up a one hour Pro Bono/Public Interest Legal Writing course with various public interest agencies. This course offering adds an air of formality to the pro bono experience.



"I was one of fourteen children in my family, and I've always been interested in helping people." Lynne Howard, a 3L, was a special education teacher for eleven years before deciding to attend law school. As a student, she has performed pro bono work at various agencies, including Carolina Legal

Assistance (a Mental Disability Law Project).

We are making a concerted effort to have current volunteer service records for all of the students, so we encourage them to come in and talk to us about pro bono work which they are performing which was not arranged through our office.

Our Pro Bono Program is still evolving. We plan to offer occasional forums on pro bono/public interest topics, such as a "First Monday" presentation which we did on immigration law in October, 1997. We plan to work with students and student groups on ideas for future pro bono projects, such as expanding on our Volunteer Income Tax Assistance (VITA) program. We also want to better publicize our program to the private sector so that if private firms or sole practitioners want help on a pro bono case, they will contact our pro bono office to get the help of an NCCU law student.

We welcome any input from the pro bono/public interest community and urge you to contact our office with suggestions on how to improve and enhance our program.

Agencies or firms where NCCU law students have worked pro bono:

ACLU, Raleigh, NC
 Attorney General's Office, Raleigh, NC
 Center for Child and Family Health, Durham, NC
 Center for Death Penalty Litigation, Durham, NC
 Child Advocacy Commission of Durham, Durham, NC
 Foy & Lavelle Law Firm, Chapel Hill, NC
 Guardian Ad Litem Program, Durham, NC
 Law Office of Beverly A. Scarlett, Hillsborough, NC
 NC Justice & Community Development Center, Raleigh, NC
 NC Prisoner Legal Services, Raleigh, NC
 NCCU School of Law (with Dean Luney), Durham, NC
 North Central Legal Assistance Program, Durham, NC
 North State Legal Services, Hillsborough, NC
 Office of District Attorney, Durham, NC
 Office of Public Defender, Durham, NC
 Office of the County Attorney, Durham, NC
 Student Court, Durham, NC
 Teen Court, Durham, NC

A Report from the Office of Career Services

By Lisa Morgan,
Career Services Director

Each year, letters of invitation are mailed to approximately seven hundred employers, inviting them to visit our campus to conduct interviews with our students for summer and permanent employment. The past two years have seen a marked increase in the number of employers who have either visited our campus or requested that I forward them resumes from interested students. More importantly, these employers are recognizing the skill and talent possessed by our students and making offers in increased numbers. This past year, offers were extended by seventy-five percent of the employers who either conducted on-campus interviews or participated in our resume referral program. Public interest employers and small firms have long known the value of the North Carolina Central law student or lawyer and that same awareness is slowly filtering out to the larger firms in North Carolina.

This summer will see our first student clerking with the law firm of Hunton & Williams as well as our first taking an associate position with Teague Campbell Dennis & Gorham in Raleigh through our on-campus interview program. Victoria Thomas, Legal Recruiter for Hunton & Williams, is looking forward to a great summer with Danielle Tuohey, a second year student and editor of the *North Carolina Central Law Journal*, who will be their clerk. We have had students clerk for Kilpatrick Stockton (formerly Petree Stockton) and Womble, Carlyle, Sandridge & Rice in previous summers as we will again this summer. Stacey Stone '95, currently an associate at Womble Carlyle's Winston-Salem office, visited our campus during the spring semester to conduct interviews on behalf of the firm and was quite pleased with the first year students she met. She and Johnny Loper, a member with the firm, recommended that the firm extend offers of employment to two students who accepted and are clerking with them this summer. Ms. Stone is aware of how difficult it can be to land an opportunity

with a large firm and we are appreciative of her efforts to assist our students.

Interestingly, our students have just as much success in acquiring employment with out of state firms as they have with North Carolina firms. This year we have students going to Baker Donelson Bearman & Caldwell's Tennessee office as well as to the Florida offices of Gary, Williams, Parenti, Finney Lewis, McManus Watson & Sperando. Willie Gary '74 has served his alma mater well in extending this dream experience to four NCCU law students. And, for the third time in four years, an NCCU alum (*Toni Hale '98*) will be joining the New York office of the Wall Street firm of Skadden, Arps, Slate, Meagher & Flom as an associate.

Even though opportunities in the job market are definitely looking better for our students, there is still some room to grow. This summer, Deans Luney and Douglas and I will visit a few of the larger firms that have not yet begun to recruit our students. While our alumni have proven to be among the most capable practitioners in the state, they still are not considered for employment by North Carolina's large and medium law firms in the same numbers as graduates from the state's other law schools. Our students and alumni deserve the same opportunity as other North Carolina law students. We applaud those firms that have recognized the wealth of young talent that is trained at our Law School and urge those that have not to take notice. You don't want to get caught without a Legal Eagle in your corner!



Lisa Morgan and Stacey Stone from Womble, Carlyle, Sandridge & Rice discuss law school recruitment techniques

Strivin' and Survivin'

by Pam Tingley

North Carolina Central University School of Law Professor Cheryl Amana, who was a teenage mother herself, is helping adolescent mothers look to college in their future.

From the moment a teenager discovers she is pregnant, she is often told she will never finish high school and that she has ruined her life. Her family, friends, teachers, neighbors and even strangers expect that she will now depend on welfare to support herself and her child. In 1996, 22,095 adolescents ages 10-19 learned they were pregnant and experienced this feeling of being judged, this feeling of questioning of their character, values and ethics.

In 1994, Professor Amana solicited individual donations from faculty members in order to offer scholarships to adolescent parents attending NCCU's undergraduate program. Professor Amana was able to offer two students scholarships with these donations. To establish Strivin' and Survivin', the Z. Smith Reynolds Foundation awarded \$50,000 in 1995, \$40,000 in 1996 and \$30,000 in 1997. During the 1996-1997 academic year, both the Durham Merchants Association and Glaxo-Wellcome awarded Strivin' and Survivin' \$5,000 for scholarships. The Annie E. Casey Foundation awarded \$10,000 in April 1998. Scholarship awards partially cover the cost of tuition, child care, textbooks and other school related expenses.



Amana

Monies for the program cover the cost of a full-time social worker who works with the program. Law Professor Renee Hill also assists with the administration of Strivin' and Survivin'. The Strivin' and Survivin' office is housed in the Law School at NCCU.

Strivin' and Survivin' provides more than financial assistance. The program offers bimonthly support group meetings for scholarship recipients. Various topics, such as child development and discipline, interview skills, time management, and study skills are discussed. Students have the opportunity to grow as parents and as individuals. Not only do the participants work hard at their own goals, they are active in inspiring other teens to reach their goals. Throughout the academic years, Strivin' and Survivin' recipients have been guest speakers at local high schools, encouraging teen parents to remain in school and to seek an education beyond a high school diploma. They also discourage behavior that will lead to early parenting. Strivin' and Survivin' students have been featured in local newspapers and television. In May 1997, Strivin' and Survivin' had two graduates, Felicia

Powell and Melissa Martin. Ms. Powell earned her degree in Psychology with a concentration in Early Childhood Education. Ms. Martin received her degree in Sociology with a concentration in Individual Family Studies.



Pam Tingley with "Strivin and Survivin" participants

For most students in the Strivin' and Survivin' program, the birth of their child served as a catalyst for furthering their education. Even though each individual story varies, all of the students have encountered at least

one or more people in their lives who have tried to discourage them from pursuing their goals because of their children. However, these young women who possess great strength, motivation, and endurance have finished high school and have matriculated to NCCU as full time students, parents and active participants in the Strivin' and Survivin' program.

cont. page 42

Office of the Dean

A Visit to Ghana

Dean Percy R. Luney, Jr. visited Ghana from February 27 - March 10, 1998 with the support of the American Bar Association African Law Initiative. Dean Luney scheduled the trip to coincide with Ghana School of Law's Law Week and the celebration of the 40th anniversary of the establishment of the school. While there, Dean Luney gave lectures on the American Legal Profession and International Law. He also discussed with Acting Director Kwaka Ansa-Asare details of future faculty and student exchanges between the NCCU School of Law and the Ghana School of Law.



above: Luney with Mr. Nelson, President of the Student Bar Association, Ghana School of Law

below: Luney with Justice Aikins, Supreme Court; Mashu Amidu, Deputy Attorney General; Justice D. F. Annon, Speaker of Parliament and former Judge on the Court of Appeals; Professor G.E.A. Mills, Vice President of Ghana and former Law School Professor at the Ghana School of Law; T.K. Aban, Chief Justice of the Supreme Court; Sam Okudseto, President of the Ghana Bar Association; Ibn Chembas, Deputy Minister of Education; Dr. S.K.B. Asante; Professor Kwaku Ansa-Asare, Acting Director of the Ghana School of Law; Justice Aayfrom Benjamin of the Supreme Court; and other students and alumni from the Ghana School of Law

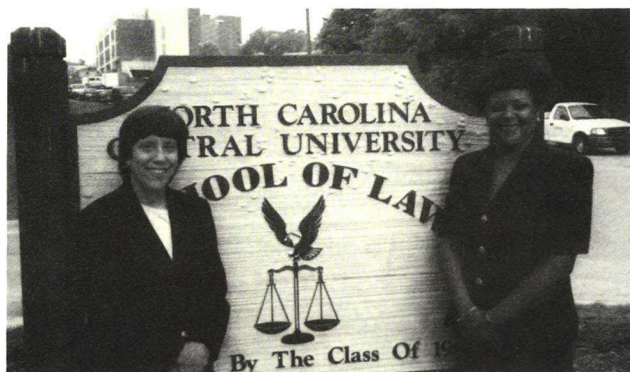


above: Luney with Ibn Chembas, a graduate of the Ghana School of Law & Deputy Minister of Education



A Report from the Office of Alumni Relations

By Lydia E. Lavelle '93



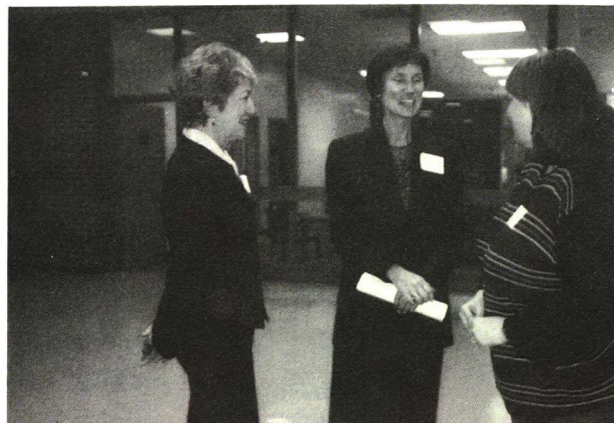
l to r: Lavelle '93 and Alston of the Office of Alumni Relations

The Office of Alumni Relations has been busy this past year. Our new alumni database is allowing us to better track our alumni and we are working hard to update our database and finding missing alumni.



l to r: Adams '84, Toney '83, Hall '95, Luney, Carlin '90, Miller '95, MacRae '88, Adams 84, Lavelle '93 at the Fayetteville reception Spring 1998

We held alumni receptions or luncheons in Raleigh, Durham, Fayetteville, Greensboro, Lumberton and Wilmington. We met with alumni at a breakfast at the North Carolina Academy of Trial Lawyers Annual Meeting, and attended a reception at the North Carolina Bar Association Annual Meeting. Any groups of alumni that wish to schedule luncheons with the Dean should contact our office and this can be arranged. The Dean welcomes these requests.

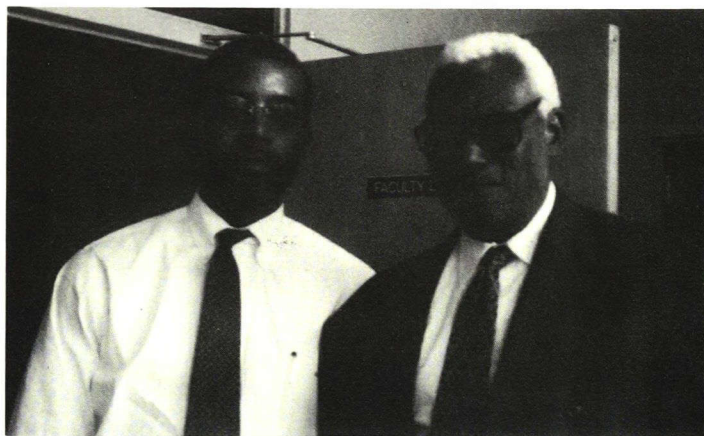


l to r: Jenzano '96, Wasiolek '89 and Meddock '91 at the Durham / Chapel Hill reception Spring 1998

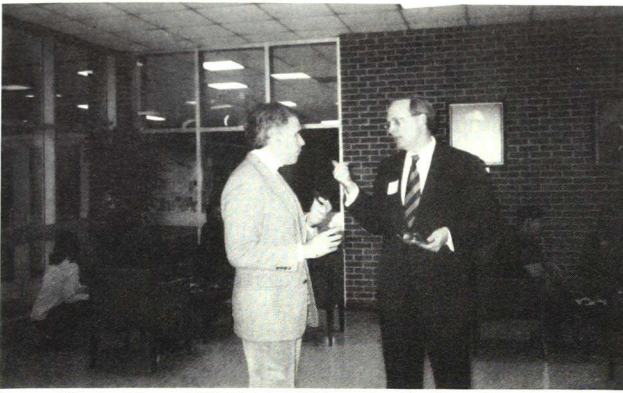


l to r: Miller '97, Williams '75 and Sprague '74 at the Greensboro reception Spring 1998

We also are in the midst of planning the Law Schools first Reunion for the weekend of August 28-29, 1998. We identified class agents who are serving as class contacts as we plan for this event.



l to r: Jessup '86 and Michael O'Kyere, Registrar and Professor at the Ghana School of Law

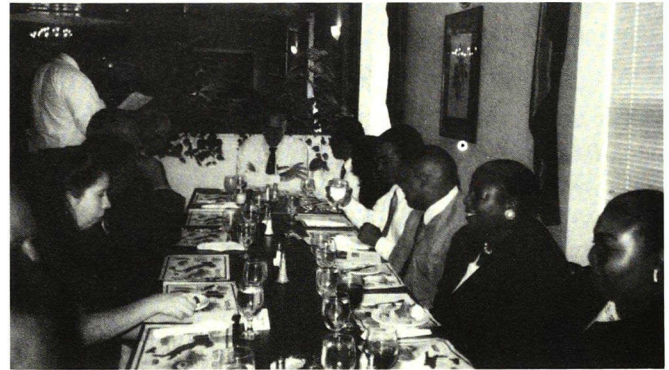


I to r: Beckwith and Webbinick '94 at the Durham / Chapel Hill reception Spring 1998



I to r: Duncan '92, Shyllon '76, Simms '86 and Eluwa '89 at Raleigh reception Spring 1998

Of Counsel is our second publication of 1998. Each year, we publish the *New Horizons* newsletter as well as *Of Counsel*. We are always looking for ideas for stories and articles for *Of Counsel*. If you have an idea for a story or article, please contact our office so that we can discuss it. We look for feature-style or human interest stories for *Of Counsel* which relate to our alumni or our school.



Lumberton Legal Eagles with Luney at luncheon Spring 1998



I to r: Morgan '79, Eaddy '93 and Perry '93 at the Raleigh reception Spring 1998



Luney with Pitts '69 at the Greensboro reception Spring 1998



I to r: Williams '75 and Nieman '92 at the Greensboro reception Spring 1998



NC Attorney General Michael F. Easley '76 with Luney at the Raleigh reception Spring 1998

If you are in Durham, please drop by the Law School and visit us. We want to know how you are doing!

NCCA

Class Notes

Senator Frank W. Ballance, Jr. '65 was awarded the Frank Porter Graham Award at the 29th Annual Frank Porter Graham Awards Banquet in January, 1998. The banquet was the American Civil Liberties Union of North Carolina's annual banquet.

Retired Judge Clifton E. Johnson '67 was honored with the Martin Luther King Award by the General Baptist State Convention of North Carolina in January, 1997. The award recognizes "efforts to promote the life, legacy and ideals espoused" by Dr. King. Judge Johnson also was honored at a luncheon by the North Carolina Association of Black Lawyers in January, 1997.

Judge Leon A. Stanback, Jr. '68 was honored in February, 1998 by Omega Psi Phi fraternity as part of its National Achievement Week. Judge Stanback was named Omega Man of the Year. Bill Evans, an event organizer, said, "Judge Stanback has been on rather noteworthy cases over the years and is highly respected in the legal community."

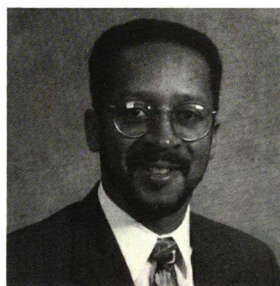
The Honorable Roland H. Hayes '71 was appointed as Chief District Court Judge for the 21st Judicial District (Forsyth County) by Chief Justice Burley Mitchell. He has served as a district court judge since 1984.

Judge Carolyn D. Johnson '73 stepped down from the District Court bench in Durham in December, 1997. Judge Johnson was the first black woman elected to the Durham City Council (in 1983) and she remained on the council until she was first elected as a judge in 1986. Judge Johnson plans to spend more time with her grandchild and devote selected leisure time to civic activities. Judge Johnson was recognized in 1997 for her role in initiating a "Student Court" program in Durham's middle and high schools.

Judge Carolyn D. Johnson '73 and attorney Nathan T. Garrett '86 were among several state and national leaders inducted into the African American Cultural Hall of Fame. They were honored for their contributions advancing the African American community in ceremonies at the organization's Sunnybrook Road headquarters in Raleigh.

Willie E. Gary '74 and national radio personality Tom Joyner presented honors to the nation's six black Chief Justices of State Supreme Courts at Turner Broadcasting System's Sixth Annual Trumpet Awards in Atlanta, Georgia in early 1998 (the justices were from Michigan, South Carolina, Georgia, Maryland, and the District of Columbia). Mr. Gary and his family were featured in the April 1998 issue of *Ebony* magazine.

Judge Paul L. Jones '74 was selected as the Staff Judge Advocate of the 108th Division (Institutional Training) in Charlotte, N.C. Following confirmation by the United States Senate, he was promoted to the rank of colonel. In civilian life this officer is a district court judge for Wayne, Lenoir and Greene counties.



Boone

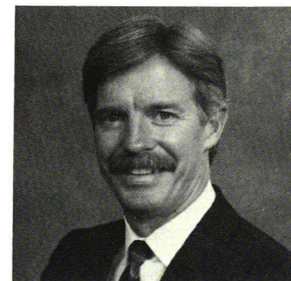
Victor J. Boone '75 was featured in the Winter, 1998 edition of *Trial Briefs*, published by the North Carolina Academy of Trial Lawyers, Inc. He was in an article featuring interviews with public service lawyers.

Judge James E. Martin '75, (known as James Hoover while at the NCCU School of Law), is running for the North Carolina Supreme Court in the November, 1998 election.

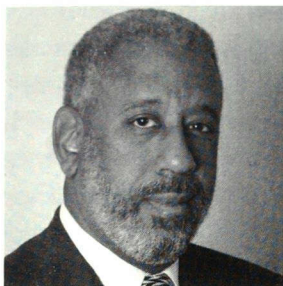
Leonard T. Jernigan '76 of Raleigh was elected chair of the Workers' Compensation and Workplace Injury Section of the Association of Trial Lawyers of America at its annual meeting in San Diego in 1997.

Superior Court Judge William C. Gore '77 of Whiteville, North Carolina was recently appointed to the Attorney General's ad hoc committee on uniform bail bond policies.

Guy W. Crabtree '78 was elected as Vice-President in charge of CLE for the North Carolina Academy of Trial Lawyers in the summer of 1997. Crabtree is a partner in the firm of King, Walker, Lambe & Crabtree, PLLC, in Durham.



Crabtree



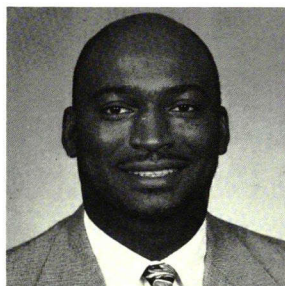
Sloan

Maceo K. Sloan '79 presented a Lyceum Series lecture in April, 1997 at North Carolina Central University. Sloan, a financial and entrepreneur, is a frequent panelist on the PBS television program, "Wall Street Week in Review with Louis Rukeyser"

and is the chairman, president and chief executive officer of Sloan Financial Group, Inc.; chairman, president and chief executive officer of NCM Capital Management Group, Inc.; chairman of New Africa Advisor, Inc.; and the chairman of Sloan Communications, Inc. and CONXUS Communications, both minority-controlled telecommunications corporations operating in the southeastern United States. The Lyceum Series is a program of performances and lectures offered by NCCU as a cultural service to NCCU students and the Durham community.

K. Michelle Allison-Davis '81 is the Dean of Admissions and Minority Affairs at Loyola University in New Orleans, Louisiana.

Eugene W. Ellison '83 was recognized in his efforts to save the YMI (Young Men's Institute) Cultural Center from destruction. YMI was constructed in 1893 by George W. Vanderbilt to serve the area's African-American



Ellison

community and black construction workers from the Vanderbilt estate. Today, YMI offers African-American based programs in art, education, and economic development. Ellison was central in the successful negotiation to save the structure and its community outreach.

Richard N. "Gus" Gusler '84 of Raleigh has as one of his major clients the rising band Hootie & the Blowfish. According to the Raleigh News & Observer, in the fall of 1996, Gusler devoted about 75% of his time to the band. When first approached by the band, Gusler was mainly practicing in District Court, but had a little experience promoting bands. The rest is history!

An article by James C. Lamb '85 appeared in the Washington Times in January of 1997 entitled "Beware junk science", warning others about claims being

made by junk scientists about a commonly used pest control, Dursban. Lamb is a toxicologist at the environmental consulting firm of Jellinek, Schwartz & Connolly, Inc. in Arlington, VA. He is a past president of the American Board of Toxicology.

Blan V. Minton '86 recently retired as a Social Work Administrator in the Department of Social Work at the University of North Carolina Hospitals after thirty years of service. He and his wife will spend the next year in England where he will engage in genealogical research at his ancestral village of Minton in Shropshire and will be involved in Celtic studies including the influence of Celtic thought on the development of common law. While there he will also volunteer service at the Iona Community in Scotland for three months. When he and his wife return to the states in 1999, they plan to relocate to Asheville where he plans to practice elder, family and health law.

Ada F. Most '86 is in private practice in Durham, doing medical malpractice work.

Miriam Ross Oglesbee '86 is an attorney for UNC Hospitals and handles contract matters.

District Court Judge James C. Cole '87 of Hertford County has a creative way of dealing with juvenile offenders. During sentencing, Judge Cole many times requires the offenders to write essays about famous African-Americans, such as Thurgood Marshall. Coles stated that this makes the juveniles "have to sit down and think."

Evia Jordan '87 was featured in the Raleigh News & Observer in summer, 1997 under the "Look" section which features people "with distinctive personal" styles. Jordan's style was noted as conservative, but "with flavor. Likes classic lines, solid colors and tends to wear darker colors. Accessories with funky earrings or colorful scarves." Jordan practices in Raleigh.

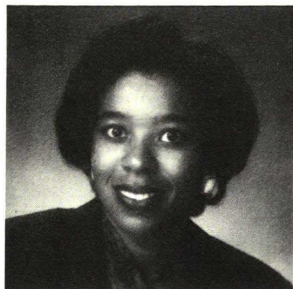
Rosa M. Allen '88 is a senior intellectual property attorney for Eastman Chemical Company in Kingsport, TN. Before working with Eastman, she worked as a senior patent attorney for Duracell, Inc. in Needham, MA.

Glenn C. Veit '88 is in private practice in Hillsborough, North Carolina.

Suzanne J. Wasiolek '89, the assistant vice president of student affairs at Duke University, was

quoted in an article in the *Durham Herald-Sun* in May, 1998 regarding credit card solicitation on college campuses.

District Judge Ola Lewis Bray '90 was the speaker at the graduation exercises of the Brunswick Learning Center's class of '97.



Bray

Curtis T. Brown '90 was quoted in an article in *The Virginian-Pilot* in March, 1998. The subject of the article was the fact that Virginia Beach, the largest city in the state, only has white judges on the General District and Circuit Courts, the two courts that handle adult cases. Brown had nothing but praise for the way the current judges handle the cases in which he is an attorney, but in a city where 35% of the defendants who appear before the judges are black, and where 15 percent of the population is black. "The absence of a black judge in adult court is beginning to look indefensible," said Sandra Smith-Jones, president of Virginia Beach's NAACP chapter.

Wendy G. Phillips-Evans '90 has been appointed as an Administrative Law Judge with the Adjudication Division of the New York City Department of Finance. She resides in Long Island, New York.

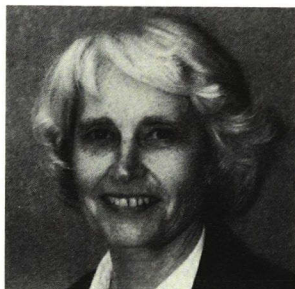


O'Neal

Durham District Court Judge Elaine M. O'Neal '91 appeared on the Montel Williams show near the end of summer, 1997. She mediated a custody spat on the television show, sitting in a chair separating the feuding couple.

Judge O'Neal's debut must have been successful: she has plans to make another guest appearance on the "Montel" show!

Eleanor G. Kinnaird '92 was featured in the Winter, 1998 edition of *Trial Briefs*, published by the North Carolina Academy of Trial Lawyers, Inc. She was in an article featuring interviews with public service lawyers.



Kinnaird

Colleen A. Foley '93 works at R.T. Miller and Associates in Bloomington, Indiana, a general practice firm.

David L. Lambert '93 is practicing with Nelson Mullins Riley & Scarborough, L.L.P. in Charlotte, N.C.

Florence McCloskey Pons '93 is in private practice in Greensboro doing primarily domestic work. She won the primary election and now is running for Clerk of Court in Guilford County in the November 1998 general election.

Beverly A. Scarlett '93 was hired as an Assistant District Attorney in Orange County, North Carolina in April, 1998. Before being hired for this position, she was in private practice in Hillsborough. In a recent article in the *Durham Herald-Sun*, Chief District Judge Joe Buckner said this about her: "She's got all the skills of a good lawyer. She's to the point. She's prepared. She's stern when she needs to be, but she's compassionate, too. And she writes well. I have high hopes for her."

Randy G. Schneider '93 is the Vice President of Phelps Dodge International, the largest copper mining corporation in the United States. He lives in Coral Gables, Florida.

Jodi S. Barlow '94 was hired as a new assistant district attorney in Guilford County based in High Point, North Carolina.

Karen Renee Cowick '94, of Apex, was selected for the 22nd class of fellows of the Institute of Political Leadership, now in its tenth year of operation, according to *N.C. Lawyer's Weekly*.

Kevin C. Foy '94 was elected to Chapel Hill Town Council in November, 1997. The *Raleigh News & Observer* named him one of "10 to Watch in [the] Triangle" in 1998.

Margaret E. (Betsy) Glennon '94 is now in Stillwater, Minnesota.



Foy

Brian Paxton '94 was quoted in the *Durham Herald-Sun* in January, 1998 in an article about juvenile court in Wilson County.

Mark H. Webbink '94 was a member of a committee that selected the Men's Basketball All-Time Team from Duke University for the ACC Athlete magazine (March, 1998). Webbink has served on the basketball stats crew at Duke for seventeen years (FYI, the first team consisted of Grant Hill, Art Heyman, Christian Laettner, Johnny Dawkins and Dick Groat). Webbink works at Moore & Van Allen, PLLC in Durham, with Central grads Scott W. Reid '95, Arlene D. Hanks '96 and Michael G. Johnston '92 in the area of intellectual property.

Brenda D. Gibson '95 was hired as a staff attorney for the Office of Staff Counsel at the North Carolina Court of Appeals in April, 1998.

Gregory W. Stafford '95 is in private practice in Pittsboro, NC.

Erika L. Matthews '96 was hired in December of 1996 as an Assistant Solicitor to prosecute criminal domestic violence cases in the 7th judicial circuit of South Carolina. This circuit includes Spartanburg and Cherokee counties.

Dawn P. Conger '96 has joined the firm of Duffus & Associates.

Joseph E. Seagle '96 was acknowledged in N.C. Lawyer's Weekly as lecturing to sixty western North Carolina libraries and library directors in Salisbury last spring on problems of Internet obscenity. While a student at the NCCU School of Law, Seagle developed the law school's web site. Seagle is a member of the North Carolina Volunteer Lawyers for the Arts.

Holly J. Fairbairn '97 is working as an attorney at Pisgah Legal Services in Asheville, North Carolina.

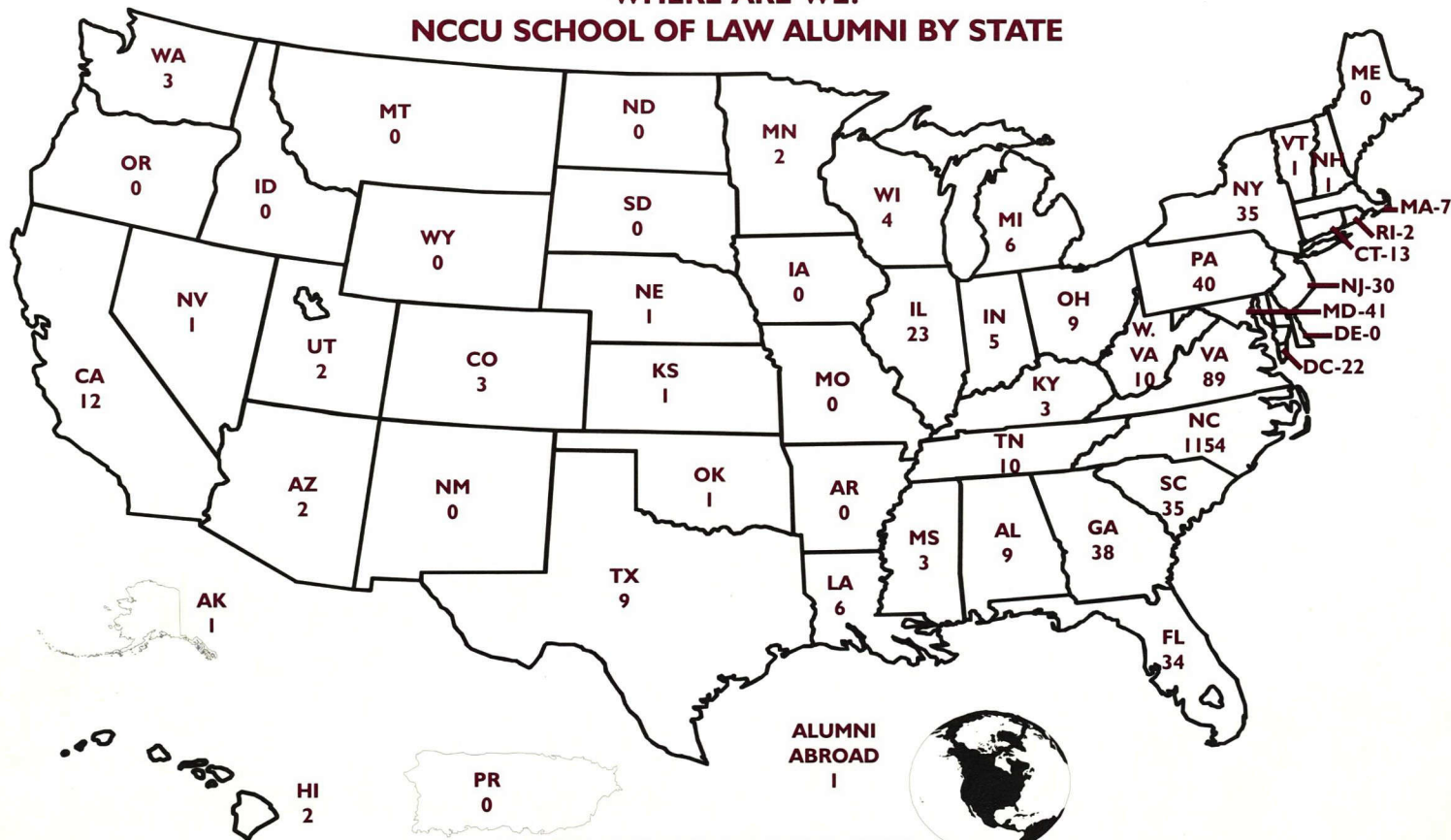
Charm M. Nichol '97 has opened a law office in Oxford, North Carolina.

N. King Prather '97 is the Director of Business Administration at Alphanumeric Systems, Inc. in Raleigh, North Carolina.

Jamal Summey '97 has been hired as an assistant district attorney in Wilson County.

IN MEMORIAM Angela Dolby '92

WHERE ARE WE? NCCU SCHOOL OF LAW ALUMNI BY STATE



*DATE COMPILED MAY 1998

NCCU

Amicus Briefs

The unveiling and presentation of "THE ADVOCATE", an original painting by Ernie Barnes, was made during the 9th Annual James E. Shepard Society Banquet on May 7, 1998 at the Radisson Governors Inn in Research Triangle Park, North Carolina. The painting was donated to the North Carolina School of Law by Mrs. Donna Arnold, the president of Tetragram Ltd., a television and motion picture production company. She and her late husband, Danny Arnold, believed that true philanthropic support requires active service and the many charitable causes and organizations Mrs. Arnold supports are examples of this. "THE ADVOCATE" is a powerful painting of a male African American lawyer in a law office standing upright, turning the pages of a law book as he zealously pursues the law. NCCU is attempting to negotiate a deal with Mr. Barnes to reproduce and sell prints of the painting. Mr. Barnes, a Durham native, is known for his colorful murals which were showing on the television series "Good Times". He was also the official artist of the 1984 Summer Olympic Games.



l to r: Ernie Barnes; Bernie Barnes; Donna Arnold, Donor; Ben Ruffin, VP Board of Governors; Dean Luney and William G. Smith, Chair of NCCU Board of Trustees

The Women's Caucus at the School of Law held its First Annual Spring Forum on January 28, 1998 at the Law School. The subject of discussion was "Women Lawyers: Balancing Personal and Professional Lives." Panelists included *Tracey Cline '89*, an associate attorney with the Law Offices of James E. Rogers in Durham, *Janice Pillmon-Daye '94*, a partner with Pillmon-Daye & Barley in Durham, *Robin Morris '90*, a partner at Poyner & Spruill, L.L.P. in Raleigh, 14th Judicial District Court Judge *Elaine O'Neal '91*, and Eileen Pruette, the general counsel for Ericsson, Inc. Professor Renee Hill of the NCCU School of Law and Professor Marilyn Yarborough of UNC-CH moderated the discussion which had an audience of not only NCCU law students but students from other area law schools.

* * *

The First Annual Student-Faculty Cocktail Party was held Wednesday, March 18, 1998 at the Regal University Hotel. The party was sponsored by the class of 1998, the Black Law Students Association, Phi Delta Phi and the Office of the Dean. This event was very well received and attended by most of the faculty and students.

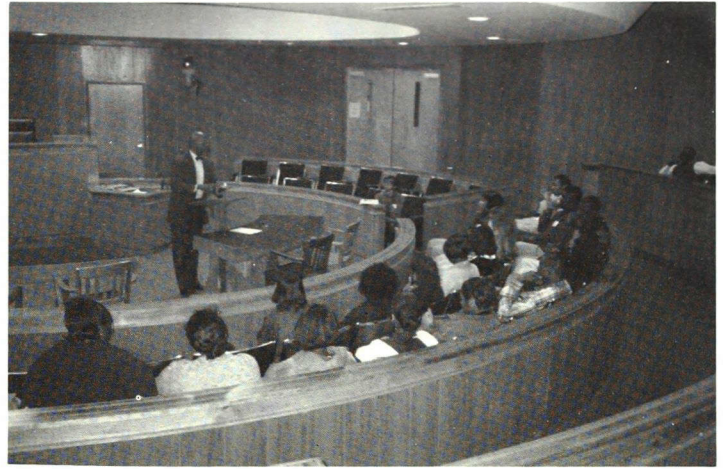
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During Law Week on April 3, 1998, the School of Law sponsored a three-hour CLE program on Professional Responsibility. Speakers at this CLE were Camille Stell (Lawyer's Mutual Insurance Company), and Wanda Bryant '82 (Senior Deputy Attorney General for the State of North Carolina), and Assistant Dean Ronald S. Douglas '82 and Professor Frances P. Solari '82 of the NCCU School of Law.

* * *

The Annual North Carolina Central University School of Law Board of Visitors Meeting was held

November 11, 1997 at the Law School. The agenda for the meeting included an introduction of new administrators, faculty and visiting faculty; the Law School's self-study in preparation for reaccreditation in 1998; a report on the 1997 bar examination results; a report on the students admitted for the fall class; a report on the highlights of faculty, staff and students since the Spring Board of Visitor's Meeting; a report on Alumni Relations; continuing renovations at the Law School and an update on Title III; and a student report by the 3L Class President, Crystal Creech.



Douglas addresses group of Hillside High School students



Dean Percy R. Luney, Jr. and 3L Class President Crystal Creech with a few Board of Visitor members:

left to right: Luney, Hildegard Ryals, Kaye Webb, Justice Willis Whichard, Justice Henry Frye, Creech, and William Hancock.

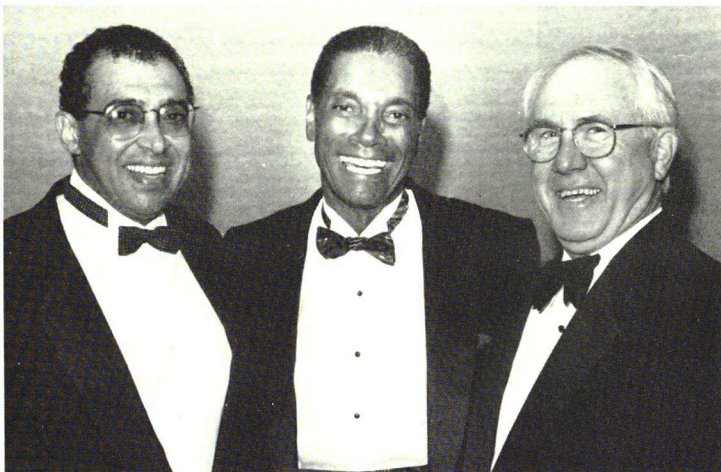
The North Carolina School of Law received a grant of \$1,000 from the Law School Admission Council for National Minority Law Student Recruitment Month. An event in conjunction with this was held at the Law School for twenty-five visiting area high school students. The grant proposal was written by *Victoria Taylor '97*, Director of Recruitment at the Law School.

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A forum entitled "Redistricting - A Conspiracy to Minimize Political Participation by the Black community" was held at the North Carolina Central University School of Law on April 8, 1998. The event was sponsored by the Law School's Concerned Students Forum. Law Professor Irving Joyner coordinated the event, whose speakers included U.S. Representative Mel Watt, State Senator Jeanne Lucas, and N.C. State Representative *Mickey Michaux '64*. According to the *Durham Herald-Sun*, the forum was held the week after "a three-judge federal appeals panel invalidated North Carolina's congressional district plan because it found that the 12th District, which Watt represents, was drawn with the racial makeup of voters as a predominant concern. The plan, which has only one black-majority district, was adopted last year in response to a lawsuit against an earlier plan that had two black-majority districts. That plan was also invalidated by the federal courts."

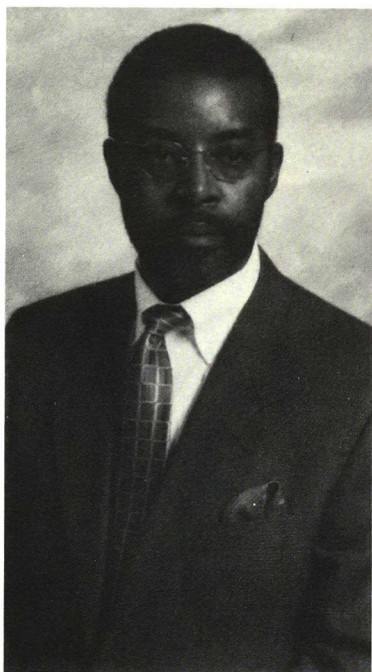


l to r: Luney with then Chief Judge Gerald S. Arnold and guest of honor retired Judge Clifton E. Johnson at dinner roast in March 1998

NCCU

Faculty & Staff Notes

David H. Harris, Jr. was selected as associate general counsel for civil rights at the U.S. Department of Agriculture in January, 1998. The announcement was made by Agriculture Secretary Dan Glickman. Harris is a native of Chatham County, North Carolina. He received a bachelor of arts degree in political science from North Carolina Central University and a law degree for the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill. At the time of the announcement, Harris was serving as Director of the Land Loss Prevention Project, which is housed at the North Carolina Central University School of Law. Harris also taught a yearly course in Land Loss at the Law School and arranged clinical experiences for students at the Law School to become involved with legal issues involving land loss.



Professor Grady Jessup '86 has been named as the new Director of the Clinical Program at the NCCU School of Law. He succeeds Professor Thomas Mmodana Ringer who is featured in an article in this *Of Counsel*.

Jessup

Dean Percy R. Luney, Jr. was appointed by the President of the North Carolina Bar Association and the Chairpersons of the Centennial Committee to the Renaissance Weekend Symposium Committee to plan and coordinate a symposium to celebrate the 100th birthday of the North Carolina Bar Association. Dean Luney also was appointed to the ABA Law Student Division's Negotiation Subcommittee which plans and implements the ABA's National law School Negotiation Competition. In March, 1998, Dean Luney gave a lecture on the Japanese Legal System at Washington and Lee University, and was a panelist on a program regarding law school deans at the National Association for Law Placement (NALP) Annual Conference in San Francisco, California. Dean Luney is scheduled to be a panelist on a Presidential Showcase program at the 1998 American Bar Association Annual Meeting in August, 1998 in Toronto, Canada.

* * *

Professor Charles Smith, associate dean and a professor at the North Carolina Central University School of Law, was featured in an article in the *Durham Herald-Sun* on February 18, 1998 as "North Carolina's first black patent attorney." Smith, who holds a degree in engineering technology from California Polytechnic State University, attended Georgetown University's law school at night. He also earned an L.L.M. from Duke University. After earning his law degree before entering academia, Smith worked at Xerox Corp. in Rochester, New York and at Bechtel Corp. in San Francisco. Smith also is in private practice at Olive & Olive, a Durham firm specializing in intellectual property.

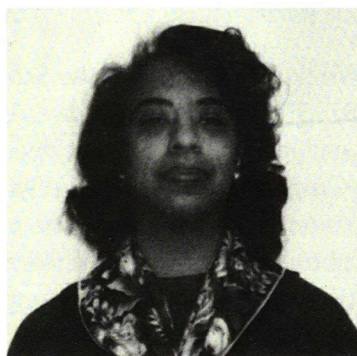
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Law Professor and former Dean Mary Wright is the driving force behind a new private elementary school in Durham. The school will be the first in the city to feature an Afro-centric curriculum aimed at educating black students. The school is being built by the nonprofit group "Omuteko Gwamaziima" of which

Wright is a member. This is also the name of the school. This Tanzanian name translated means "a place of higher learning and spiritual development where youth are grounded in truth." The school was constructed out of a ranch-style single level house and the land and construction costs were raised mostly through private donation. Professor Wright helped to negotiate the purchase of the home and the contracts with private construction companies and has spent a great deal of time seeing this dream come to fruition. The school will be tuition-based and will have students ranging from ages 3-9. Plans are for the school to start operating in fall of 1998.

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NEW FACE IN THE LIBRARY



Mills

Grace M. Mills was hired as the Associate Law Librarian for Public Services at the NCCU School of Law in September, 1997. Ms. Mills graduated from Wellesley College with a B.A. in 1980 and earned her J.D.

from Columbia University in 1983. She then worked at Prentice Hall and West Publishing Company as a Legal Editor until 1988 when she returned to graduate school and received her M.L.S. from Queens College in 1990. As an Assistant Law Library Professor and Reference Librarian she worked for nearly four years at CUNY Law School in New York. Leaving New York for California in 1993 she was employed as a Senior Reference Librarian at the University of California, Berkeley School of Law, Boalt Hall until coming to North Carolina. While here at the School of Law she has participated in many activities, including Moot Court and Law Week.

* * *

SERVICE WITH A SMILE!

A much-needed position was filled in December, 1997 with the hiring of Ms. Rosalyn Liles. Ms. Liles serves as the Office Assistant to the Career Services, Pro Bono and Alumni Relations Offices. Ms. Liles is originally from Brooklyn, New York and moved to Durham



Liles

in July, 1996. If you are visiting the Law School, stop by and introduce yourself to Ms. Liles!

* * *

IN MEMORIAM



Johnnie M. Brown, former Administrative Assistant at the School of Law from 1970 to 1993, died May 30, 1998. Mrs. Brown was a native of Durham, North Carolina, attended Hillside High School, and graduated with honors in 1948. In the

fall of 1948, she enrolled at North Carolina College (now North Carolina Central University) to pursue a degree in Business Education. In 1952, she received her Bachelor of Science degree, cum laude. She worked as a teller/accountant at Mutual Savings & Loan Association before traveling around the United States with her husband, who was in the U.S. Air Force. Upon returning to Durham, she started working at North Carolina Central University, first in the Alphonso Elder Student Union and then in the School of Law. During the time Mrs. Brown worked at the Law School, six persons served as Dean and approximately 1300 students attended the Law School.

Student Notes

The Forty Ninth Annual North Carolina Central University Honors Convocation was held April 1, 1998. Several awards were announced in the areas of outstanding scholarship, public service, leadership, and achievement. The recipients of these awards were also honored at the Law School's Annual Law Week Banquet, held on April 4, 1998.

The *H.M. Michaux Award for Public Service* is awarded to the student who has distinguished himself or herself by his or her outstanding contribution to the community while enrolled as a student at the NCCU School of Law. This was presented to Louie Wilson III.

The *Daniel G. Sampson Award for Scholarship-Day and Evening Programs* is awarded to the student who has attained the highest academic average after three years in law school. This was presented to Ester Blair (day program) and Lewis Rowell (evening program).

The *Floyd B. McKissick Award For Leadership and Scholarship* is awarded to the student who has distinguished himself/herself because of his/her academic performance and outstanding service to the Law School community. This was presented to Danielle Tuohey.

The *Justice Robert Glass Award for Outstanding Service to the Law Journal* is awarded to the student who has made an outstanding contribution to the Law School by his/her service to the Law Journal. This was presented to Toni Hale.

The *Clifton E. Johnson Award for Outstanding Service to the Moot Court Board* is awarded to the student who has demonstrated outstanding service to the Law School as an advocate for the Moot Court Board. This was presented to Elsa Marte.

The *Marian Wright Edelman Award for Public Service* is awarded to a single custodial parent who has made or is making a significant contribution to the

community while enrolled as an NCCU law student. This was presented to Rebecca R. Chappell-Myers.

The *Anne Duncan Award for Academic Achievement in the face of Significant Obstacles* is awarded to the student who has demonstrated outstanding academic achievement in the face of significant obstacles. This was presented to Mildred Akachukwu and Jason Disbrow.



Luney with Judge Timmons-Goodson at Law Week Banquet

The Annual Law Week Celebration at the School of Law was held March 29, 1998 through Saturday, April 4, 1998. Events this year included a Law School cleanup day, the annual Fullwood Competition, the Mary Wright First Year Closing competition, a basketball tournament between the classes, a quiz bowl, a step show, a children's picnic involving FACES (Future Attorneys Challenging Elementary Students) students, a softball game including students, faculty and alumni, a talent show, the annual alumni golf tournament, and the Annual Law Week Awards Banquet. The speaker at the Law Week Awards Banquet was Judge Patricia Timmons-Goodson of the North Carolina Court of Appeals.



Picnic held during Law Week Celebration



l to r: Glean, Morgan, Hall, Alston at Law Week golf tournament

Dean Percy R. Luney, Jr. was proud to present Juris Doctorate Degrees to ninety-two candidates from this year's Law School class. The Hillside High School Auditorium was the site as faculty, family, and friends, gathered May 9, 1998 to congratulate these students on their hard work and accomplishments. Esther Blair and Lewis S. Rowell lead their classmates as valedictorians. Justice Henry Frye of the North Carolina Supreme Court was this year's distinguished speaker.

* * *

Willia Rapunzel Phair '98 and Louie Wilson, III '98 were awarded \$500 scholarships from the Susie M. Sharp Inn of Court for the academic year 1997-98. Phair, of Spring Lake, North Carolina, received her undergraduate degree from the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill. While in law school, she worked at the law office of James E. Rogers '87. Wilson, from Newport News, Virginia, received his undergraduate degree from Hampton University. While in law school, he worked for the Durham County Public Defender's Office, and also did legal work for Browne, Flebotte, Wilson & Horne in Durham, NC and Plummer, Belo, & Russell in Concord, NC.

The purpose of the Susie M. Sharp Inn of Court is to promote and enhance professionalism in all disciplines within the Bar by creating a diverse, collegial, and congenial association of skilled lawyers dedicated to sharing their philosophies, knowledge, and experiences, and willing to contribute to members' continuing education through tutorials on timely subjects.

* * *

Toni D. Hale '98, of Cary, North Carolina, received the Wake County Bar Association's Memorial Scholarship for the school year 1997-98. Hale was the editor-in-chief of the NCCU Law Review. She is a past president of the Black Law Students Association at NCCU and was a member of the Moot Court Board. Ms. Hale was chosen from a group

of students at law schools around the state who applied for the scholarship. She received a plaque and a \$2,000.00 scholarship. Money for the scholarship comes from interest on the Wake County Bar Association endowment fund. The scholarship is awarded annually to a deserving current law student or person about the enter law school who has Wake County ties.

* * *

Frank Pita '98, an evening law student, won a cash prize in a national writing competition on Technology and the Law sponsored by the Santa Clara University School of Law. His article will be published in the Santa Clara Computer and High Technology Law Journal.

* * *

Mr. Michael Williams, a third year law student, coauthored a case note entitled, "Board of the County Commissioners of Bryan County, Oklahoma v. Brown: virtual Reality in Single-Incident Municipal Liability Cases?" In a recent issue of *The Urban Lawyer* (Vol. 29, No. 4).

* * *

The Capital City Lawyers Association selected two outstanding NCCU law students for the 1998 Herman L. Taylor - Ralph L. Stephens Scholarship Awards, LaShawn Strange and Louie Wilson. The awards were presented by Judge Michael R. Morgan '79 and Scholarship Chair Geoff Simmons. Also attending the presentation were NCCU School of Law Dean Percy R. Luney, Jr. and Director of Recruitment Victoria Taylor '97, the daughter of pioneer and legendary attorney Herman L. Taylor. The scholarship was named for these two legal giants who passed away in 1997 and were members of the Capital City Lawyers Association. Each of the students received \$500.00 scholarships.



l to r: Taylor, Wilson, Strange, Luney, Morgan and Simmons at the Capital City Lawyers Presentation

The ABA/LSD Fourth Circuit held its Spring Conference from February 20-22, 199 in Waynesboro, Virginia. Three students from the NCCU School of Law represented the law School at the conference: Regina Armster, a second year student and fourth Circuit Lt. Governor; Michael Williams, a first year student, and Omar McCallop, a first year student. Ms. Armster is a candidate for the office of Fourth Circuit Governor 1998-99. Mr. McCallop will serve as NCCU School of Law's voting delegate.

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During the 1997-98 academic year, the Trial Advocacy Board of North Carolina Central University has entered trial teams in four competitions. In October a team from Central finished in the top three in the nation in the Tournament of Champions Competition held in Los Angeles, California. In November, a team from NCCU represented the state of North Carolina in the Southeastern Trial Advocacy Competition held in Atlanta and finished second out of ten teams from law schools in North Carolina, Florida, Tennessee, Georgia. At the beginning of March, a second Central team won the Regional Competition of the National Trial Competition, advanced to San Antonio, Texas to the National Championship and earned a top eight ranking in the country. And, a Central team won an ATLA Regional Competition and advanced to the ATLA National Championship held March 26-29th in Washington, DC.

The Central trial teams are coached by Professors Grady Jessup '86 and Thomas M. Ringer, Jr. and are assisted by Professor Pam Glean '80 and Attorneys Lisa Dukelow '95 and Ralph Frasier '94.

Strivin' and Survivin'

cont. from page 28

While at NCCU, these participants have the responsibility of achieving and maintaining high academic standards and of being good mothers to their children. In some critics eyes, this may appear to be an impossible task. However, these women are striving towards their goals with determination. Nine of the program participants were recognized at the 1998 Spring Honors Convocation. It is without question that Strivin' and Survivin has been a part of their success.

Participant Monique Perry commented, "Strivin' and Survivin' has been a great asset to me. It provides me with emotional and financial support. Most scholarship programs give you money and that's it. In this program we have group meetings and we interact with each other on a regular basis. I know that I will always have someone to talk to who has encountered similar experiences."

Strivin' and Survivin' scholarship recipients are nominated each semester by the Scholarship Selection Committee. To be eligible an applicant must be a single parent, under the age of 24, and enrolled or applying to the undergraduate program at NCCU. The applicant should demonstrate academic merit and financial need and register for a minimum of 12 hours each semester. Scholarships are awarded for both the fall and spring semester, contingent on funding. If interested in a scholarship application or in making a donation to the scholarship fund, please contact the Strivin' and Survivin' office located in the Law School at North Carolina Central University at (919) 560-5252.

***Pam Tingley is a graduate of
North Carolina State University
and works as the full-time
social worker for Strivin' and Survivin'.***

OF COUNSEL

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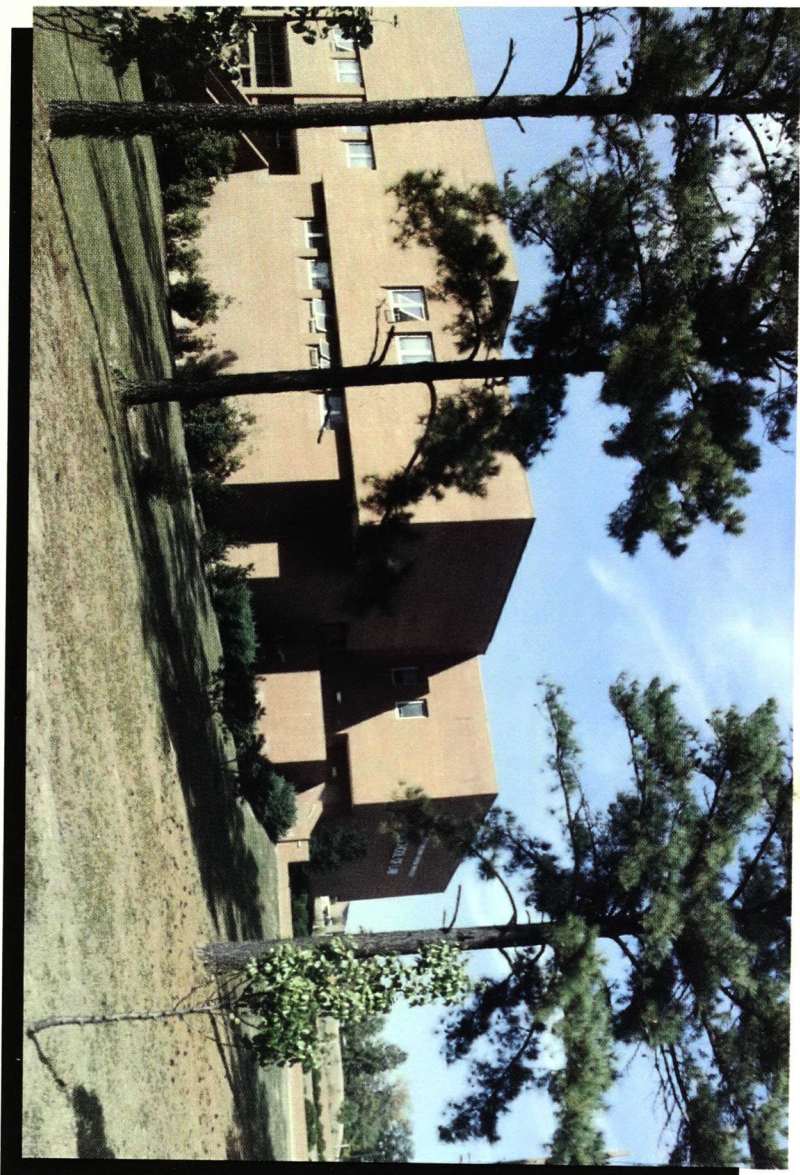
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