

# Bar Briefs

## *Announcements*

Ruchadina L. Waddell announces a change of address to 5145 Lamppost Circle, Wilmington 28403. Her telephone number is 392-0809.

Linda B. Sayed has returned to general and family law practice at Block, Crouch, Keeter & Huffman, LLP. The firm's address is Post Office Box 4, Wilmington 28402, and the telephone number is 763-2727.

Congratulations to Ellen and Mike Kieman on the birth of their daughter, Clare Barrett Kieman, born on April 12, 2002.

Smith Helms Mulliss & Moore, LLP, is no longer a firm as of March 1, 2002. In its place are two distinct and separate firms: Smith Moore, LLP, and Helms Mulliss & Wicker, PLLC, which has an office in Wilmington at 127 Grace Street. The telephone number is 254-3800. J. Dixon McLean and Henry L. Kitchin, Jr., are the members of the Helms Mulliss & Wicker, PLLC, Wilmington office.

H. Scott Overholt has opened the Overholt Law Firm at 5215-A Market Street, Wilmington. His mailing address is Post Office Box 1288, Wilmington 28402. The telephone number is 798-5900 and the facsimile number is 799-8496. His practice is focused on personal injury with an emphasis in Workers' Compensation.

## Doctor-Lawyer Dinner Has Record Attendance

By Layne McNeill Smith

The annual Doctor-Lawyer Dinner held on May 15 at the Louise Wells Cameron Art Museum was a big success. With 90 lawyers in attendance, the Bar Association tripled its past attendance numbers. There were about 185 doctors present.

The Louise Wells Cameron Museum of Art was a wonderful backdrop for the event, an elegant setting in which lawyers and doctors from New Hanover county mingled and networked with one another.

This year's format of a "cocktail party atmosphere," with no formal speaker, received a favorable response from attendees.

The large number of lawyers and doctors attending exceeded expectations, and the event was almost rescheduled at the last minute. But thanks to the efforts of Dr. Eugene McMurray and of Jenna Butler, Secretary of the New Hanover County Bar Association, the event was held as planned.

Next year, let's boost those lawyer attendance numbers and show the doctors that our profession is at least as sociable as theirs.

## *Mark Those Calendars*

Make plans now for these Bar Association events:

**July 9, 2002: Pro Bono Luncheon** at the Riverside Hilton, 12:30 p.m. The speaker will be First Lady Mary Easley. Free to Bar Association members who RSVP to Dianne Evans at 794-4800 by July 2.

**August 15, 2002: Fall Social** at City Stage-Level 5 Bar on Front Street. Watch for your invitation in the mail.

**September 28, 2002: Fall Picnic/Annual Meeting:** An invitation will be mailed to each member. Anyone interested in organizing a sporting event for the picnic, such as a volleyball tournament, a softball game, a Frisbee Olympics, horseshoes, etc. (sorry, no wet T-shirt contests), should contact Ellen Kieman's office at 763-2141.

**December 7, 2002: Holiday Party,** City Club.

## Announcements

Frank B. Gibson, Jr., of Murchison, Taylor & Gibson, L.L.P., has been appointed to the nominating committee of the North Carolina Bar Association. Inquiries about nominations can be directed to Mr. Gibson at 763-2426 or [fggibson@murchisontaylor.com](mailto:fggibson@murchisontaylor.com).

Alpha Christine Ward-Burns has opened a full-time mediation practice at 7000 West Creek Edge Drive, Wilmington. Her telephone number is 792-9400. She is certified to mediate Superior Court and Family Court matters, and she is admitted to practice in North Carolina, Virginia and Connecticut. Ms. Ward-Burns, a Wilmington native, has returned to the area after 25 years of practice as a trial attorney and corporate lawyer in Virginia and Connecticut.

Todd E. McCurry has opened a solo practice at 207 1/2 Princess Street, Wilmington 28401. His telephone number is 772-1254 and his facsimile number is 772-1274. He can also be reached via email at [lawyertm@bellsouth.net](mailto:lawyertm@bellsouth.net).

Congratulations to Constance R. Covington and Charles "Bubba" W. Smith, III, who were married on April 13, 2002.

Jennifer and Scott Slusser are pleased to announce the arrival of a son, Michael Scott Slusser.

Jennifer Slusser has joined the firm of Scott Slusser at 3138 Wrightsville Avenue, Wilmington 28403. Her new telephone number is 763-7474.

Congratulations to Maria C. Warren, Assistant District Attorney, for winning the YWCA Cape Fear Women of Achievement Public Service award. This award recognizes area women for their outstanding achievements and contributions to our community.

Sandra Ray Criner has opened a new office at 206 Princess Street, Wilmington, with a mailing address of Post Office Box 503, Wilmington 28402. Her telephone number is 815-1040 and she may be reached via e-mail at [votecrinerda@hotmail.com](mailto:votecrinerda@hotmail.com) or her website [www.sandraraycriner.com](http://www.sandraraycriner.com).

Cameron C. Bush has recently joined the law firm of Ryals Robinson and Saffo, PC. Bush is a former partner

with the Henderson, North Carolina, firm of Perry, Kittrell, Blackburn, Blackburn & Bush. Bush will continue in the general practice of law with an emphasis in estate planning, taxation, real estate and business law. The firm's address is 701 Market Street Wilmington 28401 and the telephone number is 763-3374. Bush recently married Wilmington native Barbara Johnston Winston.

Layne McNeill Smith and her husband, Jesse, are pleased to announce the arrival of their baby girl, Lillian Pate Smith, born January 30, 2002.

Michael A. Green has opened a new practice, Michael A. Green, P.C., effective March 1, 2002. He will continue to concentrate his practice exclusively in the areas of business and corporation law, limited to commercial litigation, local government law and strategic planning. His office is at 1908 Eastwood Road, Suite 217, Wilmington 28403. His telephone number is 509-9966 and facsimile is 509-0707. He may also be reached at [www.mgreenlaw.com](http://www.mgreenlaw.com).

Geoff and Sofie Hosford proudly announce the arrival of their daughter, Hope Caroline, on October 23, 2001.

Mark F. Carter has recently joined the firm of Stevens, McGhee, Morgan, Lennon & Toll, LLP, at 602 Market Street, Wilmington 28401. His telephone number is 763-3666 and his facsimile number is 251-9562.

Congratulations to Al and Marti Clyburn on the birth of their son, James Albert Clyburn, Jr., born January 9, 2002.

Kelly and Andrew Hanley announce the birth of their daughter, Rachel Danielle Hanley, born in March 2002.

## News, News, News (Send It In)

Bar Briefs needs news. So let us know about opening new offices, changing firms, birthing babies, getting married, receiving honors, helping the community or finally getting that eagerly anticipated appointment to a seat on the Court of Appeals.

Fax the news to John Burns at 343-8832 or e-mail it to him at [Barbriefs@aol.com](mailto:Barbriefs@aol.com).

# New Hanover Courthouse Expansion Takes Shape

By David Michael

District 5 Trial Court Administrator

The fourth building in the New Hanover County Judicial Complex is nearing completion.

The Annex will be dedicated to the memory of the former District Attorney William Allen Cobb. The dedication is planned for September.

Completion of Phase 1 of this project is currently 68 days behind schedule. This puts the move-in date some time in late September or October.

There will be significant changes in location for the Clerk of Court, the Law Library, the District Attorney, the Trial Court Administrator and the snack bar.

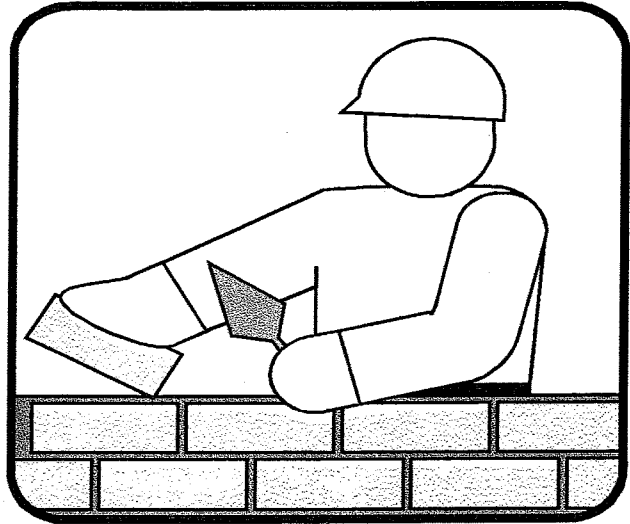
A new "traffic" pattern will emerge with the new facility, allowing the public to move through the complex without going outside. We hope to avoid the "you can't get there from here" syndrome, common with multiple-building complexes.

In addition to much-needed office space, the annex includes two new District Court courtrooms and one new Superior Court courtroom, which will have seating for more than 100. The architect included features from the other three buildings to make the fourth building a complement to previous architectural styles.

For example, in addition to the mixture of red brick and concrete block, many exterior features will be maintained as interior walls where the new building

meets the old. The architect and builders are doing a great job.

In the second phase of this project, the fifth floor of the courthouse will be remodeled to make way for



custody mediation, small claims and additional District Attorney offices.

The criminal clerks will move back to the basement, civil clerks will move to where criminal was, to allow for remodeling of the current civil offices, and then move back again.

## *Register of Deeds Office to Return to Former Location*

The Register of Deeds Office, now temporarily in the County Training Center on North 2<sup>nd</sup> Street, will move back to the Courthouse when the new building is finished.

The Register of Deeds will occupy the same first floor offices

that it vacated because of health concerns several months ago, plus additional space across the hall formerly occupied by the small claims court.

The recording area will be located where the small claims court was,

and the books, records and stations for research will be across the hall.

The renovations to the small claims area are to start in July and be completed in time for the Register of Deeds to move back into the Courthouse in early 2003.

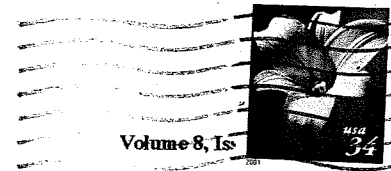
## Bar Association Dues Decreased, But Just This Once

New Hanover County Bar Association dues for the first and second quarter of this year went down by \$20, from \$60 to \$40. The decrease was due to surplus revenue and increased membership.

This one-time decrease will bring a closer balance between expected expenditures and anticipated revenues for 2002.

Dues for the third and fourth quarters of 2002 will return to the regular amount of \$60. Notices for these dues will be sent out in the fall.

Timely payment of dues is important. Any member who is unsure if dues have been paid, or who needs to update mailing information, should contact Jenna Butler's assistant Diane Evans at 794-4800.



**New Hanover County Bar Association**  
**Post Office Drawer 2180**  
**Wilmington, North Carolina 28402-2180**

*President*  
 Ellen Kiernan

*Vice President*  
 Bill Raney

*Secretary-Treasurer*  
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*Terms ending 2003*

David Barefoot  
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Lloyd Elkins  
 John Smith  
 Miriam M. Thompson

*Newsletter culpability:* John Burns  
 Phone: 343-8776/Fax: 343-8832  
 Net: Barbriefs@aol.com

BURNS, JOHN K.  
 208 Princess Street  
 Wilmington, NC 28401

## Bar Association News Round-up

### Young Lawyers Planning 'Bridge the Gap' Program

The New Hanover County Young Lawyers division is planning to host its first "Bridge the Gap" program.

The purpose of the event is to give young lawyers an opportunity to meet local government officials with whom they will be working on a daily basis.

The YLD hopes to have in attendance District and Superior Court judges as well as representatives of the New Hanover County Sheriff's Department, the Clerk of Court for New Hanover County, the Clerk of Court for the Eastern District of North Carolina, the Register of Deeds, the New Hanover County Law Library, the Trial Court Administrator's office and the District Attorney's office.

The event will be open not only to young lawyers who are new to the area but also to those who are not so new but who would like to get reacquainted with local officials.

Any judge, lawyer, clerk, deputy, etc., interested in helping new lawyers, or lawyers new to the area, "learn the ropes," please contact Peter Bynum, the Young

Lawyer's Division representative for the New Hanover County Bar Association, at 763-2426 or via e-mail at [pbynum@murchisontaylor.com](mailto:pbynum@murchisontaylor.com).

In other news from the Young Lawyers Division, a social in May was attended by some 15 lawyers. Another social is planned for the fall. Details are to appear in the next Bar Briefs or in a flyer to be distributed to folders in the Clerk's office.

### Women Attorneys Sponsor Scholarship

The Women Attorneys of New Hanover County served as an event sponsor for the YWCA Cape Fear Women of Achievement banquet.

As an event sponsor, the Women Attorneys contributed \$1,500 for a scholarship presented to an area female high school student. Kathleen Shannon Glancy served as the scholarship presenter at the Women of Achievement banquet.

The Women attorneys would like to thank all the attorneys who contributed to the scholarship and give special thanks to Nancy Guyton for her assistance in collecting the scholarship money.