

New Hanover County Bar Association

Bar Briefs

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September 2004

Seafood Feast Set for Annual Meeting Of New Hanover County Bar Association

The New Hanover Bar Association will conduct this year's annual gathering over a delicious seafood dinner at Hugh MacRae Park.

The event will start at 4:30 p.m. on Saturday, October 16, at Shelter no. 6 in the park.

Spouses, families and significant others will be welcome

On the Annual Meeting agenda are the election of officers for 2004-05 and the election of three new members to the Board of Directors.

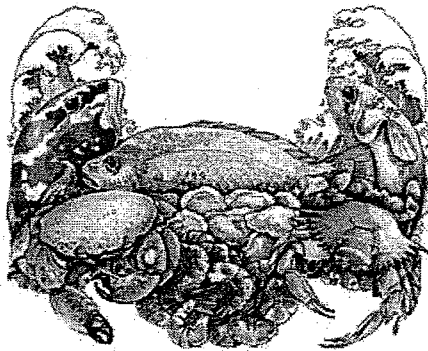
Nominees for officers are John Smith for president, John Collins for vice president and Kelly Hanley for secretary-treasurer. Nominees for three seats on the Board

of Directors are Alex Dale, Jeff Noecker and Cynthia Locklear.

And there will be an abundance of good food prepared and served by Cobb Melton Catering.

Mr. Cobb Melton is a New Hanover County native and a renowned outdoorsman and fisherman who also excels at cooking seafood and fresh vegetables.

His menu for the Annual Meeting will include grouper salad appetizer, fried grouper fingers, fried shrimp, boiled shrimp, steamed clams, steamed corn, cole slaw, a butterbean-country ham- okra combo or baked beans, and hushpuppies.



New Hanover Bar Association News, Announcements

BarCARES

Free mental health counseling services have been made available to New Hanover and Pender County lawyers by the Fifth District Bar through BarCARES.

The BarCARES program will provide up to three free visits a year to Fifth District lawyers.

BarCARES of North Carolina, Inc. (a subsidiary of the North Carolina Bar Association) and local bar groups have contracted with a private referral agency, Human Resource Consultants (HRC), to administer the program.

A Fifth District lawyer who would like a confidential referral to a mental health or substance abuse counselor may telephone HRC at (877) 394-2271. This agency has access to a broad range of psychiatric, psychological, social work and career counseling services.

The call is confidential. The N.C. Bar Association and local bar groups fund the program and monitor its operation, but they have no access to the name of any lawyer who makes use of the program.

If the lawyer chooses to continue in counseling after the three free visits, HRC will help the lawyer find a counselor who is also an approved provider under the lawyer's health insurance.

Office News

Mary Elizabeth Smerko has moved her practice to her home, 105 Quail Ridge Road, Wilmington 28409. Telephone 612-5741; fax 397-8751.

Meredith P. Ezzell, formerly of Shipman & Associates, has opened The Bankruptcy Center, a solo practice focusing on bankruptcy and debtor-creditor law. The office is at 314 Walnut Street, Suite C, Wilmington 28401. Telephone, 343-8080; fax, 762-6558; and e-mail, me@ncbankruptcy-center.com.

Alden B. Cole will continue work as a sole practitioner after the dissolution of Wells & Cole. His office is at 201 North Front Street.

Baby News

Jana and David B. Collins, Jr., are the proud parents of Sarah Morgan Collins, who was born on April 4.

Ashley C. Council and Scott Council are the parents of a baby girl, Isabelle Louise, who was born on March 11, weighing 7 lbs., 1 oz.

Engagement

Chris Behm of Block, Crouch & Keeter has announced his engagement to Kristin Freccia. The couple will marry in late November.

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

President
 Jenna Butler

Vice President *Secretary-Treasurer*
 John Smith John Collins

Board of Directors

<i>Terms ending 2004</i>	<i>Terms ending 2005</i>
Lloyd Elkins	John Burns
Grady Richardson	R. Russell Davis
Miriam M. Thompson	Dolores Williams

Terms ending 2006
 Robert Jones
 Bruce Mason
 Ruchadina Waddell

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 Net: Barbriefs@aol.com

Lawyers to Be Honored for Pro Bono Service

New Hanover County lawyers who have worked without fees for the economically disadvantaged will be honored this month at the Pro Bono Awards Luncheon.

The event, which will be co-sponsored by the Wilmington Office of Legal Aid of North Carolina, Inc., and the New Hanover County Bar Association, will start at 12:30 p.m. on Tuesday, September 28, in the Coastline Convention Center.

Honored guests will be those lawyers who Legal Aid's pro bono program.

There also will be two distinguished guest speakers, Gray Wilson, president of the North Carolina Bar Association, and Debbie Segal, chairperson of the American Bar Association Standing Committee on Pro Bono and Public Service.

Ms. Segal is Pro Bono Partner in the Atlanta office of Kilpatrick Stockton, LLP, and leads the firm's attorneys in providing pro bono legal services to low-income clients, community groups and nonprofit organizations. Ms. Segal joined Kilpatrick Stockton from the Atlanta Volunteer Lawyers Foundation.

In 2002, Ms. Segal was appointed to chair the ABA's Standing Committee on Pro Bono and Public Service. Ms. Segal has received numerous awards in recognition of her

community service work. She is a graduate of the Emory University School of Law.

Mr. Wilson is a partner in Wilson & Iseman, L.L.P., of Winston-Salem. He is listed in "Best Lawyers in America" and is the author of the widely used treatise, "North Carolina Civil Procedure."

His practice areas are professional malpractice, and insurance, commercial and tax litigation. He is a graduate of the Duke University School of Law and a Fellow of the American College of Trial Lawyers.

The luncheon is free to New Hanover County Bar Association members. RSVP by calling Dianne Evans at 794-4800.

Office Changes Announced

Miriam Mason Thompson has moved her practice to 315 North Fifth Avenue, Wilmington 28409. Telephone 342-0760; fax 343-0776; and e-mail mmtlaw@bellsouth.net. Jeff Noecker shares space in the building.

Cranfill, Sumner & Hartzog, L.L.P., has moved to the Culbreth Center, 1209 Culbreth Drive, Suite 200, Wilmington 28405. Telephone and fax numbers will be unchanged.