

COMMENTS FROM THE PRESIDENT

Greetings:

It is February, and that means it is the time for our Annual CLE Seminar, which will be held on the afternoon of Thursday, February 16. John Morgan has lined up an impressive array of speakers for the program. You can find the details elsewhere in the Newsletter. This is a great

way to pick up 3 hours of CLE, one of which will satisfy the ethics hour requirement. The cost is right, and the location is convenient. And, I might add, the Bar Association benefits financially. This is our principal fund raiser for the year and helps us carry out many of our activities. These funds go to the Greensboro Bar Foundation, which in turn helps fund worthwhile projects. In the past these funds have been contributed to the construction of the Bar sponsored Habitat houses, Legal Aid, the Guilford County Law Library (before it was closed due to lack of funding from the County), as well as myriad other worthy projects.

While on the subject of the Bar Foundation, please consider a contribution to the Foundation and designating it to be applied to the Bar Habitat house. The Foundation has donated \$20,000.00 to this project, but we need another \$20,000.00 from our membership to make this latest house a reality. Remember, your contributions to the Foundation are tax deductible. Bill Cooke has set September 15, 2012 as the first work day and hopes to have members of the North Carolina Supreme Court there for the kickoff.

By the time you receive this Newsletter, our January meeting will have come and gone. Its location at the Joint School of Nanoscience and Nanoengineering was a departure from our routine. While I do not anticipate many such changes in the future, there is always the possibility that an alternative location might

be considered -- I have a couple in mind. Please do not hesitate to give me your comments.

Please remember that the annual 4All telethon is scheduled for Friday, March 2, 2012. Many of you have stepped up to the plate in the past, and I hope you will do likewise this year. This is a tremendous service to the people of North Carolina. Not only do many questions get answered, it highlights the ideal of attorneys to furnish legal services to many of our less fortunate citizens who might not otherwise have access to the justice system. You should have received information about participating from the North Carolina Bar Association. I hope that you have already responded. If not, please consider signing up.

Again this year, we will continue our successful Law Practice Management Colloquium series. Damon Duncan, the chairman of the committee, and his committee, together with the support of First Citizens Bank and Trust (a tip of the hat to Chuck Burns, Area Executive) have scheduled a program on February 29, 2012. The format will be like that of the successful programs last year. More details will be forthcoming. This is an excellent way to pick up helpful hints on the management of your law practice, both for the new attorney and the more experienced members of the Bar.

One final note: I am interested in your input about our Association meetings, programs and projects. Please feel to call me at 336-232-0667 or email me at rdouglas@hagandavis.com with your comments and questions. I am interested in hearing from you. I know that John Morgan, as our president-elect, likewise would like to have your comments that would help him in planning for next year.

*Robert D. Douglas, III,
President of the Greensboro Bar Association.*

LEGAL PROJECT MANAGEMENT CAN HELP IN MARKETING

By Tom Kane

One of the key issues involved with Legal Project Management (LPM) is “assigning tasks and managing the team.” An integral part of that involves pulling your team together as early in the process to explain the goals and objectives, and plan the tasks involved in an assignment. [For more on the 8 key issues in LPM visit my colleague Jim Hassett’s web site LegalBizDev.com and blog atLegalBusinessDevelopment.com].

What is the point? you may ask. One of the benefits of LPM is that it can do wonders in avoiding the “vague assignment” problem in law firms. Bill Melater, who is the resident Dis-Associate on Attorney at Work.com had an entertaining piece last month about his vague assignment experience.

He was summoned to a partner’s office and told to “breakdown” a file. Without further explanation, he really didn’t understand what he was suppose to do with this task that was thrown at him with a three-hour deadline. Worse, the partner promptly went into the “Do Not Disturb” mode by closing the door and turning off his phone. That behavior may not be a problem for the partner billing by the hour (although clients’ attitudes are rapidly changing on that subject), but I can assure you that it is a BIG problem for a firm on a fixed fee. That behavior is a money loser!

First of all, Melater wasted time trying to figure out what to do and most likely didn’t get it right through no fault of his own. Time wasted is a guaranteed profit killer, especially with fixed fee work. But, even with hourly billing the invoice may need to be reduced (written down) or a portion written off due to the client’s refusal to pay for the excessive time spent on a file review – which BTW is the client’s way of imposing their own version of an alternative fee.

Project management is not only real in the world of industry and thus to many clients, but in the law world’s “new normal” it can and will drive law firms to be more efficient eventually. If your firm is not ready for legal project management, partners at least ought to understand the need to reduce write-downs and write-offs by being more thorough, and efficiently assigning work to younger lawyers. With clients demanding more efficiency, the more efficient a law firm becomes, the more successful they will be at getting more business.



Tom Kane, a member of the Greensboro Bar Association and former NC Assistant Attorney General, has spent the past 25 years as an in-house legal marketer and consultant to law firms throughout the U.S.

He is author of LegalMarketingBlog.com and Letters for Lawyers: Essential Communications for Clients, Prospects and Others, 2nd Edition published by the ABA.

He can be reached at (336) 833-5450.

SMITH MOORE LEATHERWOOD ANNOUNCES NEW PARTNER



Smith Moore Leatherwood announced that **Allyson Jones Labban** has been extended a partnership invitation in the Greensboro office effective Jan. 1, 2012. Ms. Labban is a member of the Greensboro Bar Association.

She is a member of the firm’s health care practice group. Allyson advises and litigates concerning certificate of need, facility licensure and certification surveys and penalty appeals, and other health care regulatory matters. Her practice includes representation of health care providers in certificate of need disputes, medical staff matters, malpractice actions, reimbursement appeals, and fraud and abuse investigations. Allyson also counsels hospitals, long term care facilities, home health agencies, hospices, and other members of the health care industry on matters such as corporate compliance, HIPAA compliance, professional licensing, facility licensure, and risk management.

Ms. Labban has written and spoken on a variety of topics, including medical records privacy law and regulatory compliance. She also oversees Smith Moore Leatherwood’s Health Care Law Note publication and public seminars, available at www.healthcarelawnote.com.

She graduated summa cum laude from Wofford College in 2001. She graduated cum laude from Duke University School of Law in 2004.

STATE BAR RECOGNIZES EDGAR FISHER



Brooks Pierce partner **Edgar Fisher** was recently recognized by the North Carolina State Bar on the occasion of his 50th anniversary of practicing law. Mr. Fisher is a member of the Greensboro Bar Association. He was honored at the State Bar’s Annual Meeting during the 50 Year Lawyers Luncheon.

Mr. Fisher has worked extensively with developers of shopping centers, office buildings, and residential developments, including land acquisition, formation of the legal entity, and closing of the mortgage loan. He also works in the area of estate planning and administration.

He has been actively involved with Greensboro College, West Market Street United Methodist Church, Childrens Home of Winston-Salem, and Greensboro Duke Alumni Association.

NEW RATES FOR NOTICE TO CREDITORS

The Greensboro News & Record has revised its advertising rates for the publication of Notice to Creditors, effective December 1, 2011. Here is the new policy:

The News and Record:

- Publishes your notice to creditors once each week for four consecutive weeks, as required by law.
- Offers you accurate and timely affidavits.
- Offers you seven-day publishing, which allows you to place your ad any day and move through the process faster.
- Allows you to place your ads only two working days before your first publication.

Rate: \$100 per notice, paid in advance, which includes one affidavit mailed to you with proof of payment. This rate applies up to 23 lines; notices over 23 lines are billed at the normal rate of \$3.38 per line for all lines.

Contact the News & Record to provide information from the testamentary letter that you receive from the Clerk of Court, including the name of the deceased and the name, address, and phone number of the executor or administrator.

You may email your notice to creditors to legalads@news-record.com, fax it to 336-373-7043 or call Lea Anne Lamb at 336-373-7053.

JUDGE TURNER ANNOUNCES RETIREMENT IN DECEMBER 2012

Resident Superior Court Judge Joseph E. Turner asked that the below letter be included in the Greensboro Bar Association Newsletter:

Dear Colleagues:

It is with regret that I plan to retire at the end of my term of office, next December. This will soon be reported in the public media. I will not be running for reelection.

When it became apparent that moving my precinct into my district would not work, Paula and I evaluated the prospects of moving our residence. Given the fact that I am much nearer the end of my judicial career than its beginning, and considering the economics of the housing market, I simply could not justify moving.

I will be 62 in June and will have proudly served as a Judge for 24 years in December. It is an appropriate time to retire and do something else.

Paula and I hope to travel some. I hope to be appointed as an Emergency Judge and plan to obtain my certification as a mediator in District and Superior Courts.

In the meantime, I look forward to working in Winston-Salem through June and then returning to Guilford County for my last six months.

With best wishes to all of you, Sincerely, *Joe*

BILL EAGLES OPENS SOLO LAW PRACTICE

Bill Eagles has opened his solo law practice focusing on mediation and including some litigation counseling. Mediations may be scheduled on line at ncmediators.org or directly at the following link:
<http://www.ncmediators.org/profile.php?id=655904336>

Bill's office is at 301 North Elm Street, suite 302-B, and he may be contacted at William A. Eagles, PLLC, at (336) 433-9980 or billeagles@billeagles.com

GOV. PERDUE APPOINTS SMITH TO JUDICIAL NOMINATING COMMISSION



Greensboro Bar Association member **D. Clark Smith, Jr.** was among the persons Gov. Bev Perdue appointed to serve on the Judicial Nominating Commission.

Gov. Perdue established the Commission in Executive Order 86 to assist in filling judicial vacancies.

The 18-member commission will review applications when vacancies occur on the Supreme Court, the Court of Appeals or Superior Court. Members will select three nominees to fill the vacancy and the governor will appoint one of those nominees.

Mr. Smith of Greensboro is a member of the Smith Moore Leatherswood law firm. He has held numerous positions of leadership in the North Carolina Bar Association and is an immediate past President. He also served as President of the North Carolina Association of Defense Attorneys. He has been named a Fellow both of the National Conference of Bar Presidents and of the American College of Trial Lawyers.

Mr. Smith is a member in the firm's litigation practice. He graduated cum laude from Wake Forest University in 1972 and cum laude from Wake Forest University School of Law in 1975.

GBA OFFERS SEMINAR TITLED DEMYSTIFYING THE CLOUD

The Law Practice Management Colloquium of the Greensboro Bar Association is pleased to offer a seminar titled "Demystifying the Cloud" on February 29, 2012 at 11:30 a.m. at the Carolina Theatre. The speakers will be Stephanie Kimbro and Javier Gomez. Lunch will be served and it is sponsored by First Citizens Bank. Please RSVP to greensborobar@bellsouth.com.

OFFICE SPACE

**Offices/suites available.
Convenient to Courthouse
and downtown area.
Reasonable rent with utilities included.
Information/appointment. (379-9416)**

ELON LAW SEEKS JUDGES FOR MOOT COURT COMPETITION

The second annual Billings, Exum & Frye National Moot Court Competition will be held at Elon University School of Law on March 29-31, 2012.

The law school has issued a call for judges in connection with the event. Due to tremendous interest, this year's field has been expanded to 34 teams representing 21 law schools.

The Greensboro Bar's support of the inaugural competition was crucial to its success, and Elon Law hopes that many GBA members will volunteer again this year to serve as judges for oral arguments.

If you are available to judge, please contact Prof. Alan Woodlief, Director of the Moot Court Program, at awoodlief@elon.edu.

ELON MONTHLY RECEPTION SET FOR FEBRUARY 9

On February 9 at 5 to 6 p.m., Elon University School of Law invites preceptors and other guests from the legal community to socialize with Elon Law students, faculty, and administrators. The event will be held in the Cemala Commons on the second floor of the law school.

During the academic year, Elon Law holds monthly meetings with practicing attorneys and judges, creating an opportunity for students to interact with practicing lawyers in a casual setting.

The law school invites a selected Judge of the Month for special recognition at each reception to share his or her insights with law students. The Judge of the Month for the February reception will be Judge David Keesler, US Magistrate Judge for the Western District of North Carolina.

YOUNG LAWYERS SECTION PLANS KICKOFF PARTY

The Greensboro Bar Association's Young Lawyers Section will host the Annual Kickoff Party in **The Loft at Natty Greene's at 7:30 p.m. on Friday, February 3, 2012.** Natty Greene's is located at 345 South Elm Street, Downtown Greensboro. Spouses and Significant Others are Welcome!

JUDGE ALBRIGHT THANKS GBA FOR DISTINGUISHED SERVICE AWARD

The Greensboro Bar Association bestowed its highest honor, the Distinguished Service Award, on former Senior Resident Superior Court **Judge W. Douglas Albright** in October 2011. Judge Albright recently sent a handwritten note of thanks to GBA President Bob Douglas. The text is below:

Dear Bob,

I want you and the members of the Greensboro Bar Association to know how deeply I was touched to be the recipient of the Distinguished Service Award in October. It is incredibly humbling to be mentioned in the same breath as the legal giants who have received this great award over the years. I am profoundly moved that the Bar found sufficient merit in my body of work during nearly 38 years of service, first as the District Solicitor of Superior Court and then as a Judge of the Superior Court, to be worthy of such an honor. It means more to an old, retired Judge than I can describe. The approval of one's peers is to be valued more highly than silver or gold.

I thank the Bar for their kind recognition. I will treasure it always and will carry with me to my last breath fond recollections of our time together on that memorable night when I was so honored by my Bar in the presence of family and colleagues. I am much obliged to every member who had a hand and played a role in bringing that special moment for me about. Please do me the favor of spreading my gratitude upon the minutes of the next Board Meeting and convey to each my lasting appreciation for their public affirmation. My esteem for each of you endures.

HIGH POINT BAR ASSOCIATION PLANS CLE

The High Point Bar Association will present a CLE on "Recent Changes Affecting the Legal Practice" from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. on February 3, 2012.

The seven hours of CLE credit includes one hour of ethics and substance abuse.

The event will be at the High Point Country Club, 800 Country Club Drive, High Point, NC, 27262. The cost is \$175.00.

For more information, contact Georgia Nixon at 336-885-5959, Nixon Law Offices, PA, 210 East Lexington Avenue, High Point, NC, 27262, gnixon@northstate.net.

Please remember to bring a non-perishable food item to be donated to the Westend Ministry.

Lunch in part is sponsored by your friends at First Citizens Bank.

GBA ANNUAL CLE SEMINAR

The Greensboro Bar Association's annual seminar will be held on Thursday, February 16, 2012, at Starmount Country Club. Sign-in begins at 1:30 pm and presentations will begin at 2:00 p.m. and will include:

- 2:00 pm** Keith Wood from Carruthers & Roth discussing tax tips for non-tax lawyers
- 3:10 pm** Justice Paul Newby from the NC Supreme Court discussing the ethical issues arising from the NC Bill of Rights saga he talked to us about in November
- 4:20 pm** Professor Bernie Burk of the UNC Law School will discuss the future of law firms of all sizes in the current economy

CLE credit has been approved for all 3 hours of the program (including 1 hour of Ethics for Justice Newby's talk). Please follow the instructions on the attached registration form. Checks should be made payable to the G.B.A. Foundation.



GREENSBORO BAR ASSOCIATION, INC. 2011 – 2012 MEETING DATES

MEMBER MEETINGS:

- In 2012: February 16 5:30 p.m. dinner at Starmount Forest C. C. (following Annual CLE Seminar)
- March 22 12:30 p.m. lunch at Empire Room
- April 19 5:30 p.m. dinner at Starmount Forest C. C. – Annual Meeting

BOARD MEETINGS:

- In 2012: Tuesday, February 14
- Tuesday, March 13
- Tuesday, April 10
- Tuesday, May 8

GREENSBORO BAR ASSOCIATION, INC.

FEBRUARY 16, 2012 CLE PROGRAM

Starmount Forest Country Club

Times: Sign-in at 1:30 pm

Presentations 2:00 pm - 5:20 pm

Cost: Members \$75 (\$90 after 2/13/12);

Non-members \$90 (\$105 after 2/13/12)

CLE credit: 3.0 hours,
including 1.0 hour of Ethics

Topics:

1. Tax Tips For Non-Tax Lawyers (Keith Wood)
2. Ethical Considerations in the NC Bill of Rights saga (Justice Paul Newby)
3. Future of Law Firms in the Current Economy (Professor Bernie Burk, UNC Law School)

Please detach and return the registration form with your check by Monday, February 13, 2012 to Greensboro Bar Association, P. O. Box 1825, Greensboro, NC 27402. Checks should be made payable to the G.B.A. Foundation.

February 16 REGISTRATION

Name _____

State Bar. No. _____

Firm Name: _____

Telephone No. _____

Address: _____

E-Mail: _____

If you have questions, please contact
John Morgan, CLE coordinator,
at 333-7907 or
jmorgan@connorslegal.com

PLEASE NOTE DATE CHANGE FOR MARCH MEETING

The regular meeting will be held on **Thursday, March 22** (not on the 15th as previously published) for lunch at the Empire Room from 12:30 until 1:45 PM. Details will be published in the March Newsletter.

HERB FALK SOCIETY

REPORT YOUR PRO BONO HOURS

GBA members who completed as many as 75 hours of pro bono service last year qualify for induction into the 2011 Herb Falk Society. Their names will be announced and they will be honored at a dinner this Spring sponsored by the GBA. If you have completed the requisite service, we urge you to report your hours on the Herb Falk Society reporting form included in this Newsletter. A separate form should be completed for each pro bono client. The completed forms should be mailed **by February 28** to Chris Gumbiner at P.O. Box 1825, Greensboro, NC 27402.

The services that are recognized by the HFS are defined in Rule 6.1 of the Rules of Professional Conduct and include not only representation of low-income clients, but also legal services that you perform for charitable and civic organizations and for the advancement of legal rights and justice.

The Herb Falk Society is a major initiative of the GBA that put us in the forefront among the bar associations in this State in promoting pro bono service and equal justice. **We depend on you to report your hours to make this initiative work.** Your participation not only allows us to recognize your service but helps to set the pace for others. Please complete the enclosed form and mail to Chris by the February 28 deadline.

HFS Committee

2011 REPORTING FORM HERB FALK SOCIETY

CLIENT NO. _____

General Description of Client (omit name or other distinguishing information):

General Description of Services:

Hours Worked (2011 hours only):

Date	Hours (to nearest 1/10 hour)
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Total Hours for Client: _____

Attorney Name: _____

Firm: _____

Address: _____

Attorney Signature: _____

Date: _____

2011 REPORTING INSTRUCTIONS

To report your hours of pro bono service for the Herb Falk Society, please complete the accompanying form and mail to Chris Gumbiner at The Greensboro Bar Association. A separate form should be completed for each pro bono client. Report only hours performed in 2011. If the representation continues into 2012, the 2012 hours should be reported on a separate form for that year. Though the deadline for reporting 2011 hours is February 28, 2012, you are encouraged to submit this form upon completion of the representation.

Please assign a number to each client at the place indicated on the form. If the representation of that client continues past 2011, the same number should be used on future forms. You are asked to give only a general description of the client and services performed to avoid disclosing any distinguishing information or detail that would breach the obligation of confidentiality. Dates of service and the hours performed each day should be itemized and the total hours indicated. Use an attachment if needed to report all hours. The form should be signed at the bottom certifying that the information is correct.

If LANC monitors your work on a case, LANC may request that you complete a separate Case Closing Form at the conclusion of the case to report your results and to request reimbursement of your expenses. Even if you are completing the Case Closing Form, we still request that you complete this form for the Herb Falk Society since your representation in a matter may span more than one calendar year, and the HFS needs a breakdown of hours for each year. Both forms are short and can be completed quickly.

The HFS will recognize pro bono service that does not involve the representation of a particular client (see proposed Rule 6.1 of the N.C. Rules of Professional Conduct). Please adapt this form to describe the nature of the services and specify the dates and hours the services were performed.

Mail the completed form to:

Ms. Chris Gumbiner
GREENSBORO BAR ASSOCIATION
Post Office Box 1825
Greensboro, NC 27402

RICHARD J. TUGGLE - JULY 24, 1930 - JANUARY 23, 2012



Tuggle Duggins & Meschan, P.A., issued the following announcement:

We are sad to announce the death of **Richard J. (Dick) Tuggle**, a senior partner and founder of Tuggle Duggins & Meschan, P.A., on January 23, 2012. Dick Tuggle spent his last months of life as he had lived the last fifty-five years, putting the needs of his clients before his own as he fought a losing battle against pancreatic cancer.

To his colleagues he was both a leader and a mentor, providing by example an extraordinary work ethic. To his clients he was a counselor in the truest sense of the word, valued and trusted for his guidance in business decisions, representation in business and tax matters, and support in formulating estate and succession plans. He will be greatly missed by all who had the privilege of working with him during his career.

HOW TO EFFECTIVELY DELEGATE AND SUPERVISE SUPPORT STAFF

By Camille Stell

In August 1984 I started my career as a paralegal. I walked into my office on the first day and there was a file sitting on my desk with a note in green ink inviting me to draft responses to interrogatories. I briefly thought about leaving. I wasn't sure I was competent to work on real files that involved real clients. Looking back, I'm very glad I stayed.

The green ink was my first introduction to Walter Brock, the attorney who provided that first assignment and who would go on to become a great teacher and mentor. If you have paralegals or other legal staff who work for you, I'm going to share some tips on how to effectively supervise your staff.

Hiring – How do you hire a good paralegal? Many firms have set standards for paralegals – hiring paralegals who have graduated from a paralegal program or who have completed a certification exam. There are more than 20 paralegal programs in the state, the majority of those programs are offered in community colleges located across the state. It would seem that it is not unreasonable to set hiring standards that would require paralegal education. North Carolina also has a certification exam. There are more than 4000 NC certified paralegals. Visit the NC State Bar website to learn more.

If you hire someone without paralegal education, you should invest in an ethics class or CLE program for them. Paralegal CLE classes are widely available. Multiple state-wide and local paralegal associations offer classes. Paralegals who work for Lawyers Mutual insureds can take our CLE classes for free. There are many online resources; again some of those are free. Many legal vendors also offer free or inexpensive CLE.

Don't forget to do a background search and reference check. Many paralegals or support staff are involved in accounting functions, especially with the trust account. Make sure that the person who handles this responsibility has passed the smell test.

Supervise – The NC Rules of Professional Conduct require that you supervise your employees but what does that mean? A key component of supervision is proper training. All attorneys want to hire someone who can “hit the ground running”. Providing proper training on the front end saves you time and money. Talk to your new hire about your practice, your clients and your ethics. Let them shadow you as you talk to clients on the phone or have them sit in on client meetings. Share forms, documents and letters that will be helpful as they begin drafting documents.

Careful supervision of a new employee means that you spend a lot of time talking with them about their assignments and the desired outcome. It means that you carefully proof everything that they do. Careful supervision means that you read the documents that you sign. After you are comfortable with your paralegal's skill level, you can begin to trust more. It may be fine to sign a stack of letters or routine motions while you are on the phone. You know if your paralegal has questions, she will pull those documents aside. Careful supervision does not mean that you blindly sign every piece of paper that your staff puts in front of you. Remember, it's your law license (and insurance deductible) at risk.

Is your office set-up conducive to hearing your paralegal on the phone or as she interacts with clients or other co-workers? My

office was right across the hall from Walter's office. He could hear my phone calls, I could hear him as he talked with clients. This was helpful as I was learning how the legal process worked and what our clients' common questions might be.

Teach – Do you remember being in elementary school and asking your teacher how to spell a word? I do. Her response was to look it up in the dictionary. I remember thinking to myself, “how can I look it up if I can't spell it?” Walter taught me not to walk in his office and ask an open ended “how do I do this” question. If I had a service question, I walked in his office, rulebook in hand, and said, “I've read Rule 4 but I'm not sure what step to take next”. He was very willing to walk through an explanation of how to apply the rule, but not as keen to do my homework for me. This was perhaps the most valuable lesson he taught me.

You should also provide your paralegals with learning opportunities. Help them to expand their skill set. Never use your paralegal for legal research? If she's been to paralegal school, in all likelihood, she's taken legal research classes. Talk with your paralegal about how to expand her skills to more effectively deliver legal services to your client.

Provide feedback following an assignment. Initially, this takes a lot of time. But after a while, your paralegal begins to understand what you need whether it's a particular writing style or a way of organizing trial notebooks. This is another place where spending time on the front end pays off in more efficiencies later.

Ownership – Teach your paralegal to own the work product. It's not about completing a portion of the task as quickly as possible then adding it to the stack on your desk so that you can do more work. It's about taking the assignment and producing a finished product. If there are questions along the way, a good paralegal takes the responsibility for getting the necessary information to keep the project moving towards completion. Your commitment to the project means being available when she has questions so she can keep the project moving.

Safeguards – If your paralegal has responsibility for the trust account or financial records, make sure checks and balances are in place. Do not have a signature stamp. Be involved in the process. Make sure that if the bank has a problem, that they notify you. Remember, you are not just practicing law, you are running a business and these are steps most diligent employers would take.

Having a paralegal in your office can help you more effectively deliver legal services to your clients. Careful supervision of your paralegal protects your law license.

Camille Stell is the Director of Client Services for Lawyers Mutual. With over 20 years of experience in the legal field, Camille has worked for law firms as a paralegal, legal recruiter and business developer. Contact Camille at 800.662.8843 or Camille@lawyersmutualinc.com.



VOLUNTEER FOR ASK-A-LAWYER DAY ON FEBRUARY 4

The Young Lawyers Division of the North Carolina Bar Association will hold its annual Ask a Lawyer Day on February 4, 2012.

The purpose of Ask-A-Lawyer Day is to provide legal services and information to the community, especially to those who may not have access to legal assistance otherwise. Lawyers participating in the event will meet with members of our community one-on-one to provide legal assistance and guidance. This rewarding opportunity not only benefits our community, but it also benefits us as we gain practical experience in counseling others.

The most important element of this event is your willingness to volunteer your time. The event is Saturday, February 4, from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. at the Greensboro Public Library, Central Branch, located at 219 N. Church St.

If you are available to help, please contact Elizabeth Brantley at ebrantley@nexsenpruet.com or

336-387-5136. Please specify whether you can help in the morning (10 a.m. - 12 p.m.), afternoon (12 p.m. - 2 p.m.) or all day (10 a.m. - 2 p.m.). Please also state whether you speak Spanish!

Organizers particularly need Spanish speakers. The statewide Ask-A-Lawyer organizers are trying to implement a Spanish-speaking element to the program this year, and they have chosen Greensboro as an additional test site for this aspect of the program.

Please know that you do not have to be trained formally to participate in this program. Organizers will provide each volunteer with a copy of a handbook containing answers to frequently asked questions about family law, landlord-tenant issues, employment law, debt collection, etc. Organizers also will provide a list of local referral resources that may be better equipped to handle certain issues. In many instances, folks are looking just for someone to listen.

The Greensboro Bar Association, Inc.
Post Office Box 1825
Greensboro, North Carolina 27402