

Volunteer Spotlight
Chara M. O’Neale

Chara M. O’Neale of Parker Poe Adams & Bernstein LLP just completed a three-year term on the MCB Communications Committee, where she served as chair her final year. She currently participates on the MCB Diversity & Inclusion Committee and the MCB Community Services Committee.

MCB: Current Employer / number of years with current employer?

CMO: Parker Poe Adams & Bernstein LLP / 6 years

MCB: Area of Practice / Expertise?

CMO: Healthcare

MCB: Law School / Law School Graduation Year?

CMO: William & Mary School of Law / 2007

MCB: Please describe your MCB Committee experience.

CMO: My experience as a member, Vice Chair and ultimately the Chair of the Communications Committee has been an amazing and very rewarding experience. The meetings with the Communications Committee were always a highlight of my month, mainly because I loved our team. Being a part of the Communications Committee also allowed me to stay on top of the activities going on in the Bar. Having the opportunity to read the *Mecklenburg Bar News* every month was just a bonus!

MCB: Why do you feel it is important to be involved with the MCB?

CMO: I have met individuals through my activities with the Bar which I may not have met outside of my involvement. Being involved with the MCB not only allows you to meet and build relationships with other members of the Bar, but you are able to learn so much about our Bar and yourself as you begin to embrace the opportunities available to take on leadership roles within the MCB. At the end of the day, it just feels great to know that you are actively involved in our Bar and helping to make a difference in our overall community.

MCB: What advice would you give to attorneys who are looking to get involved with the MCB?

CMO: Just do it! You will get more of out the experience than you ever expected. Take time to look through the “Get Involved” tab on www.MeckBar.org to find out what committees and programs make up our Bar. I am confident that you will find a committee that you did not know existed that peaks your interest.

MCB: What is the best advice you’ve received during your legal career?

CMO: The best advice I have received thus far in my legal career is to immerse yourself in the community that you choose to practice. I have learned so much by staying involved in different aspects of the Mecklenburg community and the MCB. I generally feel a lot more fulfilled as a lawyer and a person when I’m busy in the office, the Bar and the community!

MCB: What advice would you give others?

CMO: There are so many ways to get involved with the Bar. Find something that sparks excitement for you. If you like the committee you are on and the team you are working with, it makes attending the meeting and after work events seem more like fun!

MCB: What is the most challenging part of your career?

CMO: The most challenging part of my career is trying to find enough time in the day to balance my practice, all of the MCB committees, and firm committees I have joined. I love to be involved so whenever I say, "I am only going to be on one committee this year," it is very likely that I will find another committee (or two) to join.

MCB: What is your favorite part of your current job?

CMO: My favorite part of my job is that every day is different! No deal or research request is exactly the same which creates challenges and room for constant growth. I also work with an awesome team who makes coming into the office fun.