

**Mecklenburg County Bar
26th Judicial District
2011 Annual Meeting
May 19, 2011 – 12:00 p.m.**

Minutes

I. Call to Order and Memorials *A. Todd Brown, President*

President A. Todd Brown called the 99th Annual Meeting to order. He recognized all distinguished guests, judges and elected officials. President Brown read the names of the following MCB members who passed away during the year: A. Marshall Basinger, II, Gary D. Chamblee, Charles B. Elderkin, Herbert A. Ferrari, George L. Fitzgerald, Joseph W. Grier, Jr., Jeff T. Harris, Hon. Resa L. Harris, Eugene C. Hicks, III, Randall W. Lee, Solomon Levine, Ernest W. Machen, Jr., D. Lane Matthews, Neil M. Miller, Donald M. Seltzer, William W. Sturges, William K Van Allen. Following the reading, President Brown asked for a moment of silence.

President Brown stated that it has been a privilege and honor to serve as Bar President. He recounted his pledge when he took office one year ago. He pledged to focus on: Bar programs to ensure value and quality; governance; being transparent; implementation of the Strategic Plan; being good stewards of the Bar's resources; exploring ways to help attorneys in a difficult economy; advancing the diversity initiative; advocating a strong rule of law and independent judiciary and provide equality and access to justice. President Brown thanked the MCB Board of Directors, Executive Director Nancy M. Roberson and Bar Staff for making great strides in the accomplishing these goals.

II. 2010 Annual Meeting Minutes Approval *Tricia Morvan Derr, Secretary*

Secretary Derr presented the minutes from the 2010 Annual Meeting. The draft minutes are posted on the Bar's website and copies are available at the registration tables. Secretary Derr asked for a motion to approve the minutes as presented. Following a motion and a second, the minutes were unanimously approved.

III. Treasurer's Report *Robert E. Harrington, Treasurer*

Robert E. Harrington reported on the current year's financial performance. Copies of the YTD financials and the draft FY 2012 budget are available at the registration tables. All Bar members are invited to attend the open Finance Committee meeting on Wednesday, June 8, 2011 at the Bar Center to comment on the 2012 draft budget.

IV. Presentation of Pro Bono Awards *Suzanne Williams and Nancy M. Roberson*

Ms. Nancy M. Roberson and President Brown presented the Pro Bono Awards on behalf of VLP Co-chair Suzanne Williams. Ms. Roberson asked those accepting awards to make their way towards the podium. The following 2011 Pro Bono Awards were presented: Hunton & Williams, LLP received the Outstanding Large Firm Award for its ongoing commitment to pro bono in Mecklenburg County. In 2010, the Charlotte office contributed over 2400 hours to pro bono. Robert J. Hahn

accepted the award for Hunton & Williams, LLP. The Hatcher Law Group was presented with the Outstanding Small Firm Award for their commitment to assisting victims of domestic violence in Mecklenburg County. Paul A. Dejesse, Jr. accepted the award for the Hatcher Law Group.

The award for Outstanding Individual Attorney was given to William L. Esser, IV for his decade-long affiliation with Legal Aid of North Carolina and Legal Services of Southern Piedmont.

On Behalf of Legal Aid of North Carolina, Corey Rose of Dechert, LLP received the MCB Volunteer Lawyer Program Pro Bono Award for his 325 hours dedicated in 2010 to the landlord/tenant project. Robert J. Hahn of Hunton & Williams, LLP was also awarded the MCB Volunteer Lawyer Program Pro Bono Award on behalf of Legal Services of Southern Piedmont for dedicating more than 275 pro bono service hours in 2010. The third recipient of the MCB Volunteer Lawyer Program Pro Bono Award is Melissa D. Wright. Ms. Wright received the VLP Pro Bono Award on Behalf of the Council for Children's Rights for her commitment to serve two children ensnared in a very difficult custody case. The Jane V. Harper Pro Bono Award was given to Jennifer Turner of Hedrick, Gardner, Kincheloe & Garofalo for dedicating 30 hours of service from March 2010 through March 2011 – the most of any attorney in that time period.

Ms. Roberson congratulated the pro bono award recipients and thanked all those who have offered their time this year.

- V. Nominating Committee Report** *Patrick E. Kelly, Past-President*
Patrick E. Kelly thanked those who served on the 2011 Nominating Committee for their service. He then announced that President-Elect Robert C. Dortch, Jr., (Sellers, Hinshaw, Ayers, Dortch & Lyons, P.A.) will be sworn in as President today and presented the following slate of officers and board members for the Bar's approval: **Robert E. Harrington** (Robinson, Bradshaw & Hinson, P.A.), President-Elect; **Tricia Morvan Derr**, (Lincoln Derr PLLC), Vice-President; **Lina E. James** (City Attorney's Office), Secretary; and **John C. Nipp** (Summa, Additon & Ashe, P.A.), Treasurer. Nominees for board members to serve a three-year term were: **Brian S. Cromwell** (Parker Poe Adams Y Bernstein, LLP); **Leslie K. Cooley** (Mecklenburg County District Attorney's Office); **Tracy H. Hewett** (Mecklenburg County Public Defender's Office); **Caroline A. Mansfield** (Charlotte School of Law); **Sean F. Perrin** (Womble Carlyle Sandridge & Rice, PLLC); **Clark C. Walton** (North Carolina Department of Justice); and nominated as YLD Chair to serve a one-year term **Amanda S. Smiley** (Cranfill, Sumner & Hartzog, LLP.)

- VI. Election of Board and Officers** *A. Todd Brown, President*
President Brown asked for additional nominations from the floor. With none offered, President Brown closed the nominations. Mr. Brown asked for a motion to approve the nominated officers. The motion was made, seconded and unanimously approved.

He then asked for a motion to approve the Board nominees. The motion was made, seconded and unanimously approved.

VII. Oath of Office

Hon. Marvin Gray

The Honorable Marvin Gray read the oath of office for President of the Mecklenburg County Bar to President-Elect Robert C. Dortch, Jr. Mr. Dortch took the oath and was sworn into office. His wife Barbara Helms Dortch participated in the ceremony.

VIII. Presentation of President's Plaque

Robert C. Dortch, Jr. Incoming President

On behalf of the Mecklenburg County Bar, Mr. Dortch presented a plaque to A. Todd Brown, the outgoing 2010-2011 Bar President. Mr. Dortch recognized all past presidents of the MCB and MBF and thanked Mr. Brown for his service to the Bar.

IX. Remarks

Robert C. Dortch, Jr. Incoming President

Mr. Dortch thanked Judge Gray and addressed the guests and members of the Bar. He thanked Todd Brown for his insightful and steady leadership, and expressed gratitude to his family, friends and co-workers who have supported and influenced his legal career.

This year, the Bar will celebrate its 100th anniversary. The Bar has a challenging year ahead with Strategic Planning implementation and finding a future Bar Center. Mr. Dortch stated the Bar will focus on continuing efforts in improving the relationship with the public interest attorneys. The Bar is also committed to promoting diversity throughout the legal community. Mr. Dortch encouraged more opportunity for pro bono work and support for the underfunded judiciary. Mr. Dortch concluded by expressing that he is honored and humbled to serve the Bar.

X. Drawing

Robert C. Dortch, Jr./A. Todd Brown

Mr. Dortch thanked MCB's year-round sponsors Lawyers Mutual Liability Insurance Company of North Carolina, SunTrust Bank, RBC Bank, Executive Document Services, Lawyers Insurance and Gilsbar.

Drawings took place for door prizes from The Cheesecake Factory, Daniel Stowe Botanical Garden, Firebirds Wood Fired Grill, Ruth's Chris Steak House, Talbots, and YMCA of Greater Charlotte.

XI. Adjournment

A. Todd Brown, President

Mr. Brown thanked DeWitt F. (Mac) McCarley, President for the Mecklenburg Bar Foundation for his service and recognized the MCB staff for their hard work in 2011. With no further business conducted the meeting was adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,

Tricia Morvan Derr
Secretary