

**Mecklenburg County Bar  
26<sup>th</sup> Judicial District  
2012 Annual Meeting  
May 10, 2012  
12:00 p.m.**

**Minutes**

**Call to Order and Memorials**

*Robert C. Dortch, Jr., President*

President Robert C. Dortch, Jr. called the 100<sup>th</sup> Annual Meeting to order. He recognized all distinguished guests, judges and elected officials. President Dortch read the names of the following Mecklenburg County Bar (MCB) members who passed away during the year: Allen Winfield Boyer, Robert Wallace Bradshaw Jr., Hon. Daphene L. Cantrell, Robert Gordon Chambers, George L. Fitzgerald, Harry Johnston Grim, Hon. Resa La Verne Harris, John Marshall Haywood, John Darwin Hicks, James Robert Lovett, John R. Lynch Jr., Connie J. Miller, David Thomas Simpson Jr., and Parker Whedon. Following the reading, President Dortch asked for a moment of silence.

President Dortch stated that many exciting things have happened during this 100<sup>th</sup> year of the MCB: the Centennial Gala; the Bar History Exhibit at the Levine Museum of the New South; the Volunteer Month of April; and the Bar History book. Mr. Dortch thanked the Bar History Committee chaired by Mark Bernstein and Ray Farris, and the Centennial Committee chaired by Shirley Fulton and Mark Merritt for their hard work in making this a memorable year. The Volunteer Month of April was a special part of the Bar's Centennial Celebration. More than 40 different firms and 500 individuals donated more than 1000 hours of community service. Mr. Dortch announced that typically pro bono volunteer recognition is hurriedly presented at that Bar's Annual Meeting. This year however, these special volunteers will be recognized more appropriately at a separate event for that purpose. Legal Aid of North Carolina (LANC), Legal Services of the Southern Piedmont (LSSP) and the Council for Children's Rights (CFCR) will host a volunteer recognition event this fall where they will present pro bono awards. On behalf of the Pro Bono Collaborative Committee, President Dortch recognized: Family Dollar; Hatcher Law Group; Bob Mendenhall of Mayer Brown, Mitchell and Culp; and Robinson Bradshaw & Hinson for exceptional pro bono work.

President Dortch stated that it has been a privilege and honor to serve as Bar President this year. Mr. Dortch also recounted his pledge when he took office one year ago. He pledged to focus on: strategic planning implementation; finding a future Bar Center; continuing efforts in improving the relationship with the public interest attorneys; promoting diversity throughout the legal community; and promoting pro bono work and support for the underfunded judiciary. He thanked the MCB Board of Directors, Executive Director Nancy M. Roberson and Bar Staff for making great strides towards the accomplishment of these goals.

### **2011 Annual Meeting Minutes Approval**

*Lina E. James, Secretary*

Secretary James presented the minutes from the 2011 Annual Meeting. She stated that the draft minutes are posted on the Bar's website and copies are available at the registration tables. Secretary James asked for a motion to approve the minutes as presented. **Following a motion and a second, the minutes were unanimously approved.**

### **Bylaw Amendments**

Secretary James presented the proposed MCB bylaw amendments for approval. She stated that the draft bylaw amendments have been and are posted on the Bar's website and copies are available at the registration tables. **Following a motion and a second, the bylaw amendments were unanimously approved.**

### **Treasurer's Report**

*John C. Nipp, Treasurer*

Treasurer John C. Nipp reported on the current year's financial performance. He stated that copies of the YTD financials and the draft FY 2013 budget are available at the registration tables. All Bar members are invited to attend the Finance Committee meeting on Friday, June 1, 2012 at the Bar Center to provide input on the 2013 draft budget.

### **Nominating Committee Report**

*Robert C. Dortch, Jr., President*

President Dortch provided the Nominating Committee Report on behalf of Past-President A. Todd Brown. Mr. Dortch thanked those who served on the 2012 Nominating Committee for their service. He then announced that President-Elect Robert E. Harrington (Robinson, Bradshaw & Hinson, P.A.) will be sworn in as President today and presented the 2012-13 slate of officers and Board members for the Bar's approval: **Tricia Morvan Derr**, (Lincoln Derr PLLC), President- Elect; **Carla N. Archie**, (Wells Fargo Legal Department), 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 are: **M. Cabell Clay** (Moore & Van Allen, PLLC), **Heather W. Culp** (Mitchell & Culp, PLLC), **Landon S. Eustache** (Hunton & Williams), **Erik A. Lindahl** (Mecklenburg County District Attorney's Office), **Hon. Rickye McKoy-Mitchell** (District Court Judges Office) and **Amanda S. Smiley** (Cranfill Sumner & Hartzog, PLLC); YLD Chair **Lauren V. Lewis** (Horack Talley, PA) to serve a one-year term; and ABA Delegate **Edward T. Hinson, Jr.** (James McElroy and Diehl) to serve a two-year term.

### **Election of Board and Officers**

*Robert C. Dortch, Jr., President*

President Dortch asked for additional nominations from the floor. Receiving none, he then closed the nominations and 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.**

### **Oath of Office**

*Hon. Rickye McKoy-Mitchell*

The Honorable Rickye McKoy-Mitchell read the "Oath of Office for the President of the Mecklenburg County Bar" to President-Elect Robert E. Harrington. Mr. Harrington took the oath and was sworn into office as the 101<sup>st</sup> MCB Bar President. His wife Sharron Harrington participated in the ceremony.

**Presentation of President's Plaque**

*Robert E. Harrington, Incoming President*

On behalf of the Mecklenburg County Bar, Mr. Harrington presented a plaque to Robert C. Dortch, Jr., the outgoing 2011-2012 Bar President. Mr. Harrington recognized all past presidents of the MCB and MBF and thanked Mr. Dortch for his service to the Bar.

**Remarks**

*Robert E. Harrington, Incoming President*

Mr. Harrington thanked Hon. Rickye McKoy-Mitchell and addressed the guests and members of the Bar. He thanked Robert Dortch for his insightful and steady leadership, and expressed gratitude to his family, friends and co-workers who have supported and influenced his legal career.

Mr. Harrington continued by asking the question, "What will we do in our 101<sup>st</sup> year and in the many years to follow?" During his year as MCB President, Mr. Harrington hopes that the Bar will: continue to interview and recommend new members of the Bar; protect the public by participating in the review of grievances; secure a location and build a state-of-the art Bar center; continue to assist lawyers whose practices have been affected by the economic upheaval of the past five years; assure that the opportunities and benefits of law practice are available to all Mecklenburg County lawyers, regardless of race, gender, orientation or background; and improve the delivery of legal services to disadvantaged Mecklenburg County residents by working closely with our collaborative organizations. Mr. Harrington concluded by expressing that he is honored and humbled to serve the Bar.

**Drawing**

*Robert C. Dortch, Jr./Robert E. Harrington*

Mr. Dortch thanked MCB's year-round sponsor Lawyers Mutual Liability Insurance Company of North Carolina. Drawings took place for door prizes from: Brooks Brothers, Daniel Stowe Botanical Garden, Providence Café, Village Tavern, and YMCA of Greater Charlotte.

**Adjournment**

*Robert C. Dortch Jr., President*

Mr. Dortch thanked Richard Thigpen, President for the Mecklenburg Bar Foundation for his service and recognized the MCB staff for their hard work in 2012. With no further business conducted the meeting was adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,

Lina James  
Secretary

*Shiloh R. Myers  
Receptionist/Office Services Assistant*