

President's Comments

David N. Allen, *Parker Poe Adams & Bernstein LLP*

Where does the time go? That is something that I am sure all of us say far too often. Sometimes it's brought on by a landmark in our children's lives, such as entry into kindergarten or high school graduation. Perhaps it is, as one of my friends recounted, sharing a beer with your lawyer son now that he has finally come of age. Perhaps it is watching your favorite old show, which has now become an exile on TV Land and finding that no one else thinks it's nearly as funny as you do. Or hearing younger lawyers discuss music, and learning that Linkin Park is a band, not a suburb of Chicago! Or perhaps even watching a lawyer who's been working with you since day one argue before the North Carolina Supreme Court and taking some pride in the fact that you may have helped her in some small way with the success achieved that day.



Time has indeed flown by as I realize it has been a year since I became your President and recited several bad jokes in my remarks. We have accomplished a lot, moving to our new headquarters and handling our finances so that we are still in good shape financially. We have also enhanced our visibility statewide and been effective in the legislature and the North Carolina State Bar with issues of importance to our members. We have gone online with the Defender. We hope to adopt a bylaw change to create a Law Student Division, allowing us to continue our efforts to collaborate with the law schools of North Carolina.

It has been a remarkable honor to be entrusted with the Presidency over the last year, and while the time has flown by, it has not been so fleeting that it has not given me the opportunity to enjoy this office and the wonderful collegiality of our Association. I have called upon many of you for assistance this year and on each and every occasion the answer has been an unqualified yes. I thank you all for that and for your support. The upward arc of the last several years will certainly continue under our new leadership. Your soon-to-be new President, Bonnie Refinski-Knight, has been working, and will continue to work, tirelessly on your behalf. The Officers and Directors, along with the Chairs of the Practice Groups and Committees, will continue the work that has been started. Incredibly, I will be starting the best job in our Association, Immediate Past President.

I must thank Lynette and Angela, without whom NOTHING would get done. Heartfelt thanks also go to Brian Beverly, Bonnie Refinski-Knight, Trisha Kerner, Chris Smith, and Mark Kurdys for their support and collaboration on the Executive Committee and for covering the obligations that I was unable to discharge this year. The final THANK YOU is again to you, our members, for allowing me this opportunity.

See you all at Hilton Head!