

North Carolina Association of Women Attorneys (1978-2009): A Comparative History of NCAWA Members and Women Attorneys Nationally

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Over its 30 year history, the North Carolina Association of Women Attorneys (NCAWA) has provided personal and professional networking, support, and camaraderie among women lawyers in North Carolina. Each year the NCAWA worked to help further the cause of women in the law by assisting women lawyers in job placement, and campaigning to place women in positions of importance in the judiciary and law organizations.

Through the years, the NCAWA also focused on keeping women attorneys educated about the issues facing women by providing Continuing Legal Education credit, seminars on current topics concerning women in the profession, and informative research articles in their newsletter.

The NCAWA endeavored to promote the general welfare and legal equality of women in the state through lobbying and support of legislation. Through their efforts in the North Carolina General Assembly and support of various grassroots movements, they helped support the enactment of laws that promoted women's rights and equality for all. Women's struggles during this period were inexorably intertwined with other equally important issues, including the struggle against discrimination on the basis of class, race and sexual orientation, and the promotion of children's interests.

The following is a brief, by no means exhaustive, chronology of many of the major events in the history of the association, including major legislative efforts, projects, seminars, achievements of members, and other important moments in North Carolina and American women's legal history.

If you see a need for any corrections or additions to this history, they would be gratefully received by the author (contact jbrobst@ncu.edu).

Sources:

- North Carolina Women's Legal History compiled from NCAWA newsletters and materials and *The Changing Face of Justice: A Look at the First 100 Women Attorneys in North Carolina*, Emily Colin and Lynn P. Roundtree (North Carolina Bar Association, 2004).
- U.S. Women's Legal History compiled from the following sources: *Myra Bradwell: First Woman Lawyer*, Elizabeth Wheaton (Greensboro, NC: Morgan Reynolds, Inc., 1997); *The*

¹ Originally created as the "NCAWA 1978-2008 Chronology" by Jennifer Brobst as Secretary of the NCAWA Board of Directors and Virginia A. Neisler, a UNC Law School pro bono intern, in October 2008 in honor of the NCAWA 30 year anniversary; currently updated by Jennifer Brobst.

Women's Liberation Movement in America, Kathleen C. Berkeley; Greenwood Press Guides to Historic Events of the Twentieth Century, Randall M. Miller, series editor (Westport, CT and London: Greenwood Press, 1999); *Still Unequal: The Shameful Truth about Women and Justice in America*, Lorraine Dusky (New York: Crown Publishers, Inc. 1996).

- NCAWA history compiled entirely from NCAWA newsletters, association archives, and members.

Notable Moments in Early North Carolina and United States Women's Legal History

1673: Ann Marwood Durant becomes the first woman known to act as an attorney in North Carolina.

1848: Seneca Falls women's rights convention, organized by Elizabeth Cady Stanton and Lucretia Mott, held in Seneca Falls, NY.

1869: Myra Bradwell- first woman attorney, passes Illinois state bar exam with honors, but denied admission to practice law by Illinois Supreme Court because she was a woman.

1874: Woman's Christian Temperance Union founded.

1878: Tabitha Anne Holton, first woman in North Carolina admitted to the bar. First woman in the South to become a licensed attorney.

1890:

- Myra Bradwell admitted to the practice of law by Illinois Supreme Court.
- National American Woman Suffrage Association founded.

1892: Illinois resident Myra Bradwell admitted to practice law by the U.S. Supreme Court, but dies two years later.

1896: National Association of Colored Women founded.

1908: U.S. Supreme Court upholds law limiting women's working hours on the premise that women's frailty requires legal protection. *Muller v. Oregon*

1911: Lillian Rowe Frye - first woman admitted to UNC School of Law.

1913: Lillian Rowe Frye becomes the first woman admitted to the NC bar.

1914: Julia McGehee Alexander- first woman to enter into independent practice of law in North Carolina.

1915: Women's Peace Party founded in the U.S.

1915: Margaret Berry Street- first woman to earn a degree from UNC Law.

1920:

- Katherine Robinson Everett graduates first in her class at UNC Law and receives the top grade on the bar examination.
- Nineteenth Amendment gives women the right to vote.

1925: Daisy Strong Cooper - first woman student named editor of North Carolina Law Review.

1927: First woman admitted to Duke University Law School - Miriam Cox.

1928: First woman graduate of Wake Forest Law School - Ella Margaret Gordon.

1932: Ruth Whitehead Whaley becomes first African-American Woman licensed in NC.

1935:

- Lee Smith McKeithen and Elizabeth Lupton Peterson first two women to graduate Duke Law.
- Mary McLeod Bethune founds National Council of Negro Women in the U.S.

1938: Federal Fair Labor Standards Act establishes equal pay, but does not apply to women's work.

1946: Women allowed to serve on juries in NC.

1947: Elreta M. Alexander - first African-American woman to practice law in NC.

1948: Susie Sharp - First woman to serve as a Superior Court Judge in NC (1948-1962).

1961: JFK establishes The President's Commission on the Status of Women.

1962: Susie Sharp - first woman to serve on North Carolina Supreme Court

- Mary Gaither Whitener - First woman District Court Judge
- First African American woman to graduate UNC Law

1963: Federal Equal Pay Act.

1964: Title VII of the Civil Rights Act prohibits race and sex employment discrimination.

1966: National Organization for Women founded (NOW).

1967:

- Mary Gaither Whitener- first woman to serve as Chief District Court Judge.
- Naomi Morris- first woman to serve on NC Court of Appeals (1967-1982)
- President Johnson issues executive order prohibiting sex discrimination in the federal government.

1968: First National Women's Liberation Conference held in Chicago.

1972:

- Winifred T. Wells - first woman to serve as a resident superior court judge, or as a senior resident superior court judge in NC.
- Title IX of Higher Education Amendments Act prohibits sex discrimination in all educational programs receiving government funds.

1973: *Roe v. Wade* and *Doe v. Bolton*. U.S. Supreme Court overturns anti-abortion statutes.

1974: Federal Women's Educational Equity Act

1975:

- Irene Lape - First Asian American woman to graduate from UNC Law
- Susie Sharp - first woman Chief Justice on a State Supreme Court in the US, 1975-1979.

1976: Mary Jo Scopac - First Native American to graduate from UNC Law

1978-2008 – 30 YEARS OF NCAWA HISTORY

1978: On March 11, a group of over 100 women attorneys in North Carolina meet in Greensboro to found the North Carolina Association of Women Attorneys; NCAWA supports the passage of the Equal Rights Amendment by the North Carolina General Assembly. Naomi Morris first woman to serve as Chief Judge on NC Court of Appeals. Linda Sedivec first Hispanic woman to graduate from UNC Law

U.S. Women's Legal History - Pregnancy Discrimination Act passed.

1979: Convener/President Carolyn McAllaster; NCAWA supports the appointment of Karen B. Galloway to District Court Judgeship of the 14th district; NCAWA supports reproductive freedom for women; The North Carolina State bar provides an office in the State Bar building for the NCAWA. Annie Brown Kennedy- first African-American woman appointed to serve in the NC General Assembly.

1980: On December 6, 1980, NCAWA Annual Meeting and Seminar held in Raleigh: "Women, Families and the Law;" NCAWA supports the amendments to Child Care licensing laws and equitable distribution of marital property.

1981: NCAWA is able to hire part time staff in their State Bar office; NCAWA supports:

- Equitable Distribution of marital property Legislation
- Proposed amendment to North Carolina State Daycare Licensing Laws
- Committee on Women's Needs, which testified to the General Assembly about their findings and recommends legislation.

North Carolina General Assembly passes Equitable Distribution legislation. NCAWA member assisted drafting bill and supporting legislation through lobbying efforts; efforts of NCAWA help kill a bill which would limit and reduce the amount of state funds used to fund abortion. On November 20, NCAWA Annual Meeting and Seminar held: "Making Women Electable." Over 200 women attorneys and laypeople attend.

U.S. Women's Legal History - Sandra Day O'Connor becomes first woman Supreme Court Justice (nominated by President Ronald Reagan).

1982: Two women attorneys, NCAWA member Joyce Davis of Raleigh and Francis Rutty of Salisbury appointed to Judicial Nominated Committee by the Governor and the Chief Justice respectively. NCAWA's Government Action Committee joins with the North Carolina Coalition of Choice to fight for reproductive rights in legislation. NCAWA supports Tenancy by the Entireties legislation through lobby day in the General Assembly. On June 18, Tenancy by Entireties legislation gives men and women equal rights to marital property held by tenancy by the entireties. NCAWA's campaign committee is instrumental in helping Judge Karen Galloway get elected to the District Court Bench of Durham County by a margin of 1109 votes. (June 18, 1982). At the November 19-20 NCAWA Annual Meeting and Seminar: "Litigation & Negotiation Technique from a Woman's Perspective," the following women were honored:

- The Honorable Karen B. Galloway for her distinguished argument in the Little murder trial favoring increased protection for women held in local jails
- Rachel Gray for her staunch support of the ERA
- Ruth Easterling for her work on the Legislative Research Commission of Women's Needs

- Jane Patterson for her work spearheading the lobbying effort for the Equitable Distribution of Property Act.

1983: President Leslie Winner. NCAWA reaches 200 members. On January 15, 1983: Ms. Jacqueline Morris-Goodson appointed to District Court Bench in Wilmington. On May 5, 1983: NCAWA puts on 3rd Annual Lobby Day in the North Carolina General Assembly. Over twenty members help lobby. On May 29, Rocky Mount *Telegram* publishes tribute to Katherine Robinson Everett. NCAWA supports Governor's Conference on Women and the Economy. Isabel Scott Day appointed by Governor Hunt as Public Defender for 26th Judicial District. Member Carol Spruill reports to the General Assembly on the findings of the Legislative Commission on the Needs of Women, and presents recommendation for Child Support Enforcement Legislation.

1983 General Assembly: Ratifies every major bill supported by NCAWA, including:

- State Abortion Fund continues undiminished
- Equal Distribution Law clarified
- Domestic Violence funds set aside
- Bill creating automatic procedures for getting delinquent parents in court.
- Tenancy by the Entireties legislation made effective for property bought at any date.

November 11-12: Annual Meeting and Seminar in Charlotte: "Dispute Resolution: Negotiation, Mediation and Settlement Techniques." New Annual Dues structure adopted, with the following women honored:

- Katherine Robinson Everett- The 4th woman to receive license to practice law in NC and the first woman to work a case before the NC Supreme Court. At age 90 she was still actively practicing law with her firm in 1983.
- Elreta Alexander Ralston- As District Court judge she was the first black woman to learn a law degree at Columbia University Law School, the first black woman to practice law in NC and the first black woman to be elected a judge in the nation.
- Carolyn McAllaster- first president of NCAWA, active in the organization, active trial lawyer winning the largest personal injury settlement ever awarded in Durham County.

1984: President Gwyn Davis. Over 1000 practicing attorneys in North Carolina as of June 25, 1984. On March 23, Mary McLaughlin Pope sworn in as Superior Court Judge after receiving endorsement of NCAWA along with Anne Lupton of Greensboro. She is the third woman to serve on Superior Court in North Carolina, and the youngest judge on the bench at 33 years old. In May, NCAWA hosts Judicial Conference, co-sponsored by the Office of the Governor, designed to assist women who are interested in becoming judges to learn about the appointment process. Active NCAWA member Carolyn Spruill becomes Deputy Director of Legal Services in NC. NCAWA board member Patricia A. Timmons sworn in as District Court Judge in the 12th district and Sarah Elizabeth Parker sworn in as Court of Appeals Judge. Annual Banquet honorees:

- Former Governor James Hunt for his contributions toward women in the economy.
- State Senator Wimla Woodard, best known for her work as Co-Chairman of the Governor's Conference on Women and the Economy (1983).
- Buncombe County Clerk of Court J. Ray Elingburg- significant contributions in the area of enforcement and collection of court-ordered child support.
- Founding NCAWA member and Deputy Director of Legal Services of North Carolina Carol Spruill for her work with women and the economic difficulties facing them.

U.S. Women's Legal History - Geraldine Ferraro, vice-presidential running mate to Walter Mondale.

1985: President Lillian O'Briant. NCAWA supports Senate Bill 20- regulates day care standards, and Amendment to Equitable Distribution act adding maintenance, devaluation, improvement or ownership of property during separation as a factor considered when dividing marital property. General Assembly passes Amendment to Equitable Distribution Act. The state fund for abortions for poor women was continued, although at a reduced rate, thanks to the lobbying of NCAWA government action committee member Mardie McCreary. June 21, 1985: NCAWA co-sponsors program with the North Carolina Bar Association at NCBA's annual convention in Asheville. The program was designed to share views about women's impact on the practice of law. Annual Banquet honorees with certificates of accomplishment for landmark work in voting rights cases: Susan Perry, Brenda McGhee, and Leslie Winner. Also honored with awards for contribution to NCAWA and women's rights under the law: past NCAWA president Gwyn Davis, and president Lillian O'Briant.

1986: President Angela Bryant. Patron membership increases dramatically. April 11: President Angela Bryant and members Kaye Webb and Leslie Winner appeared before the NC Courts Commission to discuss the election and appointment of judges, and the barriers women face in trying to attain these positions. April 16: NCAWA hosts reception for three new members of the State Bar Council, Julia Jones, Patricia Pegram and Kaye Webb, the first women admitted to the Council. May 31: NCAWA PAC (political action committee) formed to use existing Judicial Nominating Committee process to do more to endorse judicial candidates. NCAWA joins with N.C. Equity to make a grant proposal for a project which would provide legal assistance for working women. The Mary Reynolds Babcock Foundation awarded them \$70,000 to create the women's employment law project. NCAWA endorses Joy Hamilton in elections for District Court Judge of Wake County, and she was listed twice among the three top vote getters. She was also selected to replace a retiring judge by the Wake County Democratic Committee. Banquet Honorees: Annie B. Kennedy, Judge Sarah Parker, and Past NCAWA president Gwyneth B. Davis. Additional Seminars offered during the year: "Civil Liberties/Civil Rights/Voting Rights," "Advocacy in Juvenile Court."

1987: President Jane Wettach. New Regional meetings are held across the state. Through the Women's Employment Law Project, NCAWA worked to provide legal services for low to moderate income women and act as co-counsel with private attorneys to help defray the cost of litigation, thanks to a grant from the Mary Reynolds Babcock Foundation. In September, NC Equity Board disassociated itself from the project. Two NCAWA endorsed candidates, Former Forsyth County District Attorney Loretta Copeland Biggs and former assistant district attorney in Mecklenburg County Shirley Fulton, were appointed to District Court judgeships in the twenty-first and twenty-sixth districts, respectively. Mentor Project: initiated to assist new attorneys and students in making contact with more experienced attorneys for advice and support. Other Seminars offered during the year: "Making Women Electable," "Fitting the Pieces Together... The Female Offender Dilemma." Annual Banquet honorees:

- Jane Harper for her role in developing Mecklenburg County's Domestic Violence Task Force
- Pam Silberman for her representation of low-income clients before the NC General Assembly
- Sharon Thompson for her continued outstanding work promoting women's interests under the law.

N.C. Women's Legal History - Marlene Hyatt is first woman elected to Superior Court judgeship in NC.

1988: President Pam Silberman. North Carolina Women's Resource Center begins handling NCAWA's administrative tasks. Career Support Committee gathers information about women lawyers practicing in North Carolina for publication in the *State Bar Quarterly*. February 13: NCAWA,

with the contribution of member Dee Wallis, shows strong leadership in the North Carolina Women's Legislative Agenda, which was created to bring all the women's associations in the state together to make a collective legislative agenda. The Agenda included: women in poverty, teen and low-income pregnancy issues, child care, caring for the elderly, and collecting child support. Women's Employment Law Center becomes incorporated, has a fifteen member board with eight NCAWA members, and receives first foundation funding. June 16: Past president and board member of NCAWA Gwyneth B. Davis died after a three year fight with cancer. A memorial scholarship fund to assist women pre-law graduates was created in her honor. NCAWA Endorsed Candidates Sherry Fowler Alloway for Guilford County and Margaret L. Sharpe for Forsyth County won contested races for district court judgeships. Honorees for Public Service Awards:

- Pamela Gann: Duke University's first law dean, she actively researches gender-based issues within her academic area of expertise.
- Mary Margaret Flynn: A zealous, knowledgeable and effective advocate for victim's rights in Domestic Violence.
- Judge James B. McMillan: a distinguished jurist whose decisions have had far reaching impact on women across the state and the country.

N.C. Women's Legal History - Pamela B. Gann, Dean of Duke University School of Law and first woman to head a law school in NC

U.S. Women's Legal History - Congress overrides presidential veto to pass Civil Rights Restoration Act

1989: President Heidi Chapman. Mentor Program expanded. January 1: first female District Attorney Jean E. Powell sworn in as DA for Hoke and Scotland Counties. March, 1989: NCAWA signs onto a brief in the US Supreme Court Case *Webster v. Reproductive Health Services* as part of the NCAWA's longstanding pro-choice stance. General Assembly passed Pro Se domestic violence initiative through work of NCAWA and other women's groups. Shirley Fulton becomes first woman elected without having first been appointed; Judith W. Wegner first woman dean of UNC Law. Award Banquet Gwyneth B. Davis Award Honorees: Senator Russell Walker- a tireless supporter of legislation which has substantially improved the lives of women and the poor in North Carolina; and Dean Judith Wegner, of UNC School of Law has become a role model, teacher, and friend to many women students.

1990: President Meyressa Schoonmaker. NCAWA survey released, summer 1990, highlighting the difficulties and barriers as well as demographic changes facing women and men attorneys state wide. Representative Sharon Thompson, retiring in 1990, was honored for her years of service in the North Carolina General Assembly for her work on behalf of women in the legislature. Allyson B. Duncan becomes the first African American woman to sit on North Carolina Court of Appeals. Academy of Trial Lawyers has first woman president, Mary Ann Tally (1990-1991). Gwyneth B. Davis Public Service Awards given to:

- Anne Barns: member of NC General Assembly who co-sponsored legislation which has had an enormous positive impact on women and children in North Carolina.
- Charlotte Brody: the Executive Director of Planned Parenthood of Greater Charlotte, Inc. who acted at the front of the grassroots battle for reproductive rights in North Carolina.
- Anne Mackie: Director of the Women's Agenda Project of NC Equity, Inc. Worked to make the legislature aware of women's issues.

1991: President Martha Lowrance. October 18: President Martha Lowrance presents the NCAWA's findings on the continuing gender and racial discrimination and sexual harassment throughout the legal profession to the State Bar Council Meeting for their consideration in fixing long-range policy for the future. With NCAWA support, General Assembly passes Mammography

and Pap Smear Legislation. Rhoda Billings - first woman President of NC Bar Association (1991-1992). Gwyneth B. Davis Public Service Awards:

- Helen A. Marvin - for her work sponsoring and pushing through the Mammogram and Pap Smear legislation.
- Mary Wright - the newly appointed dean of NC Central University's school of law for her continuing work with law students and community activities.
- Brenda Campbell- the chair of the Mecklenburg County Domestic Violence Advocacy Council for her tireless work raising awareness of and defending battered women.

1992: President: Judge Jane Harper. Ann Christian hired as NCAWA's first full time lobbyist for 1993. NCAWA's Elizabeth Armstrong writes an Amicus Brief on behalf of the NCAWA in the case of *Doe v. Holt* in support of the North Carolina Court of Appeals rejection of the application of the doctrine of parental immunity in a case of sexual abuse. The NC Academy of Trial Lawyers signed onto the brief. The NCAWA Political Committee endorsed the winning candidate in every single contested appellate court primary. NCAWA backed two recently appointed judicial candidates Shelly Sweda Hold and Jacqueline Morrison-Goodson, both former NCAWA board members. Ms. Holt's campaign received money from the NCAWA-PAC and NCAWA support, and was sworn in as District Court Judgeship for the 5th Judicial District. Judge Goodson was appointed to Chief District Court Judge for the 5th Judicial District. Katherine R. Everett dies at age 98. NCAWA honors her by establishing the Katherine R. Everett Endowment Fund to promote education and research relating to women's issues in the law. Katherine Everett was one of the first women to practice law in North Carolina and an active attorney for over seven decades. Annie Brown Kennedy- first African-American woman elected to serve in the NC General Assembly. October 9-10: Annual Meeting and Conference in Asheville will honor North Carolina's women judges. The keynote speaker is Justice Esther Tomljanovich of the Minnesota Supreme Court. Gwyneth B. Davis Awards:

- Judge Patricia Love- for her work in the North Carolina House of Representative and on the judge's bench for her work in promoting the Equitable Distribution of Marital Property Act, and her advocacy for children's and domestic violence issues.
- Jacqueline Morrison-Goodman- a district court judge since 1983, she was the first African American woman to be appointed Chief District Court Judge. She is honored for her long career of advocacy for women.

1993: President Susan Freya Olive. NCAWA pushes for female appointee to Supreme Court of North Carolina and the Superior Court. Betsy McCrodden was appointed a seat on the Supreme Court, and Catherine Eagles was appointed to the Superior Court. Gwyneth B. Davis Awards: awarded to three women who made a long term commitment to a report on the role of women in the legal profession which was presented to the North Carolina Bar Association. Their work informed the Bar and others about the plight of women in the profession through statistical analysis. These three women have been appointed to the lead the new Committee on Women in the Legal Profession in North Carolina, sponsored by the NC Bar Association and the NCAWA: Kathryn Jones-Cooper- an attorney at the North Carolina Attorney General's office, Dorothy C. Bernholz- an attorney at University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill, and Sharon L. Parker- an attorney in private practice in Marion. The General Assembly passes a bill that makes it possible for married women to prosecute their husbands for rape, giving them the same protections as single women under the law.

U.S. Women's Legal History:

- President Bill Clinton signs Family and Medical Leave Act.
- 89% of women surveyed by Prentice Hall believe that sexual harassment in the workplace was "somewhat of a problem" or a "large problem" or a "pervasive problem."
- 2/3 of women attorneys in small firms report sexual harassment in survey.

1994: President Anne Winner. October 14-15: Annual Meeting and Conference held in Ashville. Keynote Speaker was Deborah Ellis, the Legal Director of the NOW Legal Defendant and Education Fund in New York City. Gwyneth B. Davis Awards:

- Ellen Gelbin of the Winston-Salem firm Ellit, Pichko, Gelbin & Morgan P.A.
- The Honorable Janice McKenzie Cole of Raleigh- the U.S. Attorney for the Eastern District of North Carolina.

1995: President Luellen Curry. NCAWA submits amicus curiae brief for the defendant in *Forsyth Memorial Hospital v. Chisholm*. The hospital is trying to hold the defendant liable for her late husband's bills though they had been separated at the time of his hospitalization. The General Assembly enacts several conservative acts, including an act requiring any woman under 18 to get parental permission for an abortion; State abortion fund reduced to \$50,000 (from original \$1.2 million); and some of NCAWA's long supported legislation finally ratified, including: adjusting alimony laws, establishing a pilot mediation program, allowing partial distribution awards before final judgment in equitable distribution cases, and allow claims for equitable distribution to be resolved either before or after an absolute device. Members resolve to personally represent at least one low-income woman a year. NCAWA member and founder Judge Linda McGee appointed to Court of Appeal. Gwyneth B. Davis Awards:

- Special recognition went to Ann Christian for her work as lobbyist for the NCAWA.
- Allyson Duncan- the first black woman to serve on the North Carolina Court of Appeals and the first black woman to act as Commissioner on the North Carolina Utilities Commission.
- Lynn Burtleson- helped to rewrite and lobby for the change of the Alimony laws. He practiced with Petree Stockton firm in Winston-Salem.
- Marcia Armstrong- also helps to re-write and lobby for the change in the Alimony Laws. She was a partner at Armstrong & Armstrong in Smithfield.

1996: Presidents Tracy Kenyon Lischer (1995-1996); Maria J. Mangano (1996-1997). Membership increases over 40% more than the previous year (to 384). NCAWA member Elaine F. Marshall elected as Secretary of State. She won 53% of the vote over opponent Richard Petty, and is the first woman elected as Secretary of State. NCAWA members Carolyn McAllaster and Jane Wettach start an in-house legal clinic for indigent persons diagnosed with HIV at Duke University. NCAWA joins Academy of Trial Lawyers as *amicus* in support of a worker's right to maintain patient/doctor privilege in a workers' compensation claim in response to *Salaam v. N.C. D.O.T.* Elizabeth L. Betty Quick appointed president elect of NC Bar Association. Annie Brown Kennedy- first woman elected to NCBA's General Practice Hall of Fame. Gwyneth B. Davis Awards presented to: Representative Eva Clayton, Judge Linda McGee, former State Senator Elaine Marshall, Professor Suzanne Reynolds, and First Annual Distinguished Attorney Award: Annie Brown Kennedy.

1997: President Maria J. Mangano (1996-1997); Harriet S. Hopkins (1997-1998). NCAWA Member the Honorable Patricia Timmons-Goodson appointed by Governor Hunt to the NC Court of Appeals. State Bar Approves a Ban on Sex with Clients, a measure strongly advocated by NCAWA. NCAWA lobbyist Ann Christian and the Government Action Committee act as a resource and make recommendations to various NC General Assembly committees considering the report by the Commission for the Future of Justice and the Courts in North Carolina. NCAWA joins the National Conference of Women's Bar Associations, and affiliate of the American Bar Association, to strengthen the power of women in the law through cooperative efforts. October 3: All four speakers at the UNC seminar on "Women in the Legal Profession" are NCAWA members. NCAWA becomes charter member of North Carolinians for Ratification of CEDAW (Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination Against Women). Gwyneth B. Davis Awards:

- Melinda Lawrence for her work on the class action *Willie M. v. Hunt* that led to a consent decree and \$100 million annually for services to children with mental disabilities.

- Senator William Nelson Martin: state senator from Guilford County, for his work in advocating education, humane welfare reform, and his work on behalf of low income and minority women and children.
- Jennie Leake Hemrick: Victim's Advocate for Sexual Assault and Domestic Violence Victims for her work with Family Services, Inc.

1998: Presidents Harriet S. Hopkins (1997-1998); and Leto Copeley (1998-1999). NCAWA member Ann E. McKown appointed to the District Court Bench for the 14th Judicial District. Longtime NCAWA member M. Patricia Divine appointed to newly created District Court judgeship for Orange and Chatham Counties. First NCAWA Chapter established in by women attorneys in Wake County, who name themselves Wake Women Attorneys. NCAWA mentor program hosts first mentor/mentee retreat at Emerald Isle. Ann Reed, Senior Deputy Attorney General elected Vice President of the North Carolina State Bar. March 14: Distinguished member Elreta Alexander-Ralston dies. October 9-10: NCAWA 20th Anniversary Annual Meeting and Conference held in Winston-Salem, with keynote Speaker Doris Betts, a UNC professor and author. Gwyneth B. Davis Award: Bertha "Bea" Merrill Holt. Ms. Holt served in the NC House of Representatives for twenty years, and dedicated her life to public service. Outstanding Judge of the Year Award: Judge Shirley L. Fulton, the Senior Resident Superior Court Judge in the Mecklenburg County 26A District. She is the first woman to serve as a Senior Resident Superior Court Judge.

U.S. Women's Legal History – 150th anniversary of Seneca Falls Convention.

1999: Presidents Leto Copeley (1998-1999) and Lisa Brachman (1999-2000). NCAWA former member Anne Winner serves as NCAWA lobbyist for the 1999-2000 legislative season. Professor Janice L. Mills becomes dean of North Carolina Central University's School of Law. NCAWA member Kathryn Skeen Lindley chosen as one of the Top Ten Business Women in the nation. June 13: NCAWA Judicial Division and Judicial Election Committee sponsor first meeting of all the women judges in the state organized by Linda McGee. November 29: NCAWA hosts lunch with the co-chair of Korea Women's Associations United, Ms. Kyung-Sook Lee. Gwyneth B. Davis Award: E. Ann Christian for her work lobbying for the NCAWA both as a volunteer and a paid professional for many years. Outstanding Judge of the Year: Honorable Linda M. McGee, a judge on the North Carolina Court of Appeals. A charter Member of NCAWA, she has served since 1995, created the Judicial Division of NCAWA and launched a series of programs and presentations by women judges at the state's law schools.

U.S. Women's Legal History - National Directory of Women-Owned Law Firms and Women Lawyers created.

2000: Presidents Lisa Brachman (1999-2000) and Lisa Grafstein (2000-2001). March 2000: NCAWA begins offering monthly online newsletter in addition to its quarterly review. March 31-April 2: NCAWA co-sponsors The Feminist Expo 2000 in Baltimore, MD. April 21: NCAWA representatives met with Lydia Zigomo, the Director of the Zimbabwe Women Lawyers Association, an organization which provides legal assistance to women and children. NCAWA appoints Claire Rauscher to the Commission on Indigent Defense Services, created by the NC legislature, and Christine Walczyk as liaison to North Carolina Bar Association's task force on women in the profession. M. Ann Reed first woman president of the North Carolina State Bar.

- Gwyneth B. Davis Award: Honorable Catherine C. Eagles, a superior court judge in Guilford County. She was honored for her work on behalf of women through Summit House, an alternative prison for women with children, as well as her work on the Bar Association's study of women in the legal profession.

- Outstanding Judge of the Year Award: Honorable A. Elizabeth Keever, Chief District Court Judge for the 12th Judicial District. Honored for her work on the NC District Court Judges' Association as president and chair of the Education Committee.

2001: Presidents Lisa Grafstein (2000-2001) and Leah Broker (2001-2002). January 26: NCAWA members meet with delegates from the People's Republic of China to discuss international women's issues, such as domestic violence, equal pay, and women and children's rights in divorce cases. April 10: NCAWA and the Women's Caucus of the North Carolina Academy of Trial Lawyers join together to honor women leaders in North Carolina with a reception. September 28: North Carolina Court of Appeals held its first all-woman panel in Cullowhee, NC. Judges on the panel were Judge Linda McGee, Judge Patricia Timmons-Goodson, Judge Loretta Biggs, Judge Robin Hudson and Judge Wanda Bryant. Gwyneth B. Davis Award: Elizabeth F. Kuniholm.

2002: President Leah Broker (2001-2002), Susan Barry (2002-2003). NCAWA sponsors "Laying Down the Law," a legal talk show produced and hosted by member, Lynne Albert. The show is seen on stations throughout North Carolina, including channels in Chapel Hill, Durham, Greensboro, Charlotte, Asheville and Raleigh. NCAWA introduces a new logo, designed by Lynn Schultz and a new website, re-designed by Cheryl Ross of MRG Design. Gwyneth B. Davis Awards: Anne Winner and Senator Ellie Kinnaird. Judge of the Year Award: Justice Sarah Parker.

2003: Presidents Susan Barry (2002-2003), Stella Boswell (2003-2004). NCAWA 25th Anniversary. NCAWA wins National Conference of Women's Bar Associations' 2003 Public Service Award for sponsoring the legal talk show, "Laying Down the Law." Allyson K. Duncan becomes the first African American president of NC Bar Association. Louise Flanagan becomes first woman Federal District Court judge in NC. NCAWA offers first annual Law School scholarships to one student from each of the major law schools in the state. Recipients: Julie Walker (Campbell), Katherine Soby (Duke), Jennifer Blue (NCCU), Adrienne E. Allison (UNC), and Christina Crockett (Wake Forest). Gwyneth B. Davis Award: Anne Rosalind Slifkin- one of the founding members of NCAWA.

2004: Presidents Stella Boswell (2003-2004), Lydia E. Lavelle (2004-2005). March 18, 2004: NCAWA celebrates the first 100 years of women lawyers in North Carolina with a banquet in Cary, NC. Gwyneth B. Davis Award: Sorien K. Schmidt, Legislative Director of the North Carolina Justice Center in Raleigh. Judge of the Year Award: The Honorable Joyce Hamilton, Chief District Court Judge in Wake County. Distinguished Attorney Award: Secretary of State Elaine Marshall.

2005: Presidents Lydia E. Lavelle (2004-2005), Lynne Albert (2005-2006). Record number of members at 543. NCAWA creates tax-deductible foundation for donations to help achieve the association's charitable and educational goals. The NCAWA Fund at the Foundation will be used to finance annual scholarships and other charitable giving. Gwyneth B. Davis Awards: Michelle Robertson and Robin Ames. Judge of the Year Award: Judge Jane Harper. NCAWA presents 2005 Balanced Life Workplace Awards to three firms that promote a balance between work and home life for attorneys. Recipients: Law Office of Faith Herndon (Small Firm); Allen and Pinnix, P.A. (Medium Firm); and Robinson, Bradshaw & Hinson, P.A. (Large Firm).

2006: Presidents Lynne Albert (2006-2006), Harriett T. Smalls (2006-2007). Two long time NCAWA members, Sarah Parker and Patricia-Timmons Goodson, to the North Carolina Supreme Court as Chief Justice and Justice respectively. June 5: Fourteen NCAWA members sworn in to United States Supreme Court Bar by Chief Justice John G. Roberts. August: NCAWA president Lynne Townsend Albert elected president of National Conference of Women's Bar Associations (NCWBA). Gwyneth B. Davis Award: The Honorable Patricia Timmons-Goodson. Judge of the Year Award: The Honorable Allyson K. Duncan. Balanced Life Workplace Awards: Broker &

Hamrick, P.A. (Small Firm); and Legal Aid of North Carolina, Inc. (Large Firm). NCAWA creates local Women of Wisdom and Men of Wisdom awards celebrating those who have given twenty-five years of service to the community. Gold Service Awards given to: Elizabeth F. Gervais-Gruen, Bertha Merrill Holt, and Annie Brown Kennedy.

2007: Presidents Harriett T. Smalls (2006-2007), Susan Dotson-Smith (2007-2008). Gwyneth B. Davis Awards: Stella Boswell, Judge Joyce Hamilton, and Sally H. Scherer. Judge of the Year Award: Judge Shelley Holt, District Court Judge for Hanover County. Balanced Life Workplace Awards: Erdman and Hockfield, LLP (Small Firm) and Moore & Van Allen PLLC (Large Firm).

2008: President Susan Dotson-Smith (2007-2008). NCAWA celebrates its 30th Anniversary.

2009: President Charlotte-Anne Alexander (2008-2009).

2010: President Dionne Fortner (2009-2010).