

James F. “Jim” Morgan Receiving Citizen Lawyer Award

The Citizen Lawyer Committee of the NCBA Young Lawyers Division, in conjunction with the NCBA Local Bar Outreach Committee, provides expanded coverage of the 2017 Citizen Lawyer Awards in recognition of their volunteer service and leadership in their communities and beyond. The following article is submitted for your consideration by the North Carolina Bar Association. The 2017 Citizen Lawyer Awards will be presented on Friday, June 23, at the NCBA Annual Meeting in Asheville, but the recipients have been notified of their selection and there is no embargo on this information. A photo of the recipient is attached.

By Raina J. Wallace

HIGH POINT – When you walk into the law offices of Morgan, Herring, Morgan, Green & Rosenblutt, there is a sign on the right encouraging you to be kind, value truth, and count your blessings. When you meet with James (“Jim”) Morgan, he may take your coat and offer you a coke or water. And when you leave, Morgan will put a hand on your back and ask you to come back again, because he wants you to know you are always welcome.

Having been born and raised in High Point, Morgan is a true Southern gentleman. Morgan has been active in his community since he graduated from law school, because (as his father always said) “you need to give back as much as you can.”

Morgan enjoys being an attorney because he has the ability to help others. He believes that “if you learn to care and really want to help people, then it helps you.”

Morgan has been the chairman or president of over 75 local and state organizations and served three terms in the N.C. House of Representatives.

Henry H. Isaacson, the attorney who nominated Morgan, believes Morgan is the model of a citizen lawyer. Isaacson stated, “If there was ever anyone in the state and local community that deserved to be a citizen lawyer, it’s Jim Morgan. He has done so much for so many; his record speaks for itself.”

One of the issues most important to Morgan is education. He served as chairman for two different scholarship committees, Guilford Technical Community College and the Bryan School at UNCG. He is also working with the Say Yes program to help finance college education for Guilford County residents.

As a legislator, Morgan embraced controversial subjects, such as liquor licensing and death penalty legislation. He stated, “I didn’t run to get re-elected; I ran to do what was right.” Morgan even once refused to withdraw a controversial bill because he believed that the people had the right to debate it.

Morgan does not believe in holding grudges. He said, “If you hate somebody so much, it will hurt you much more than the person you hate.” As a legislator, he made sure to embrace his opposition. As an attorney, he often hands his clients a paper that reads: “The power of reconciliation is stronger than revenge.”

Currently, Morgan is a Sunday school teacher at Christ United Methodist Church. He loves to sing old hymns such as “Standing on the Promises” and “Love Lifted Me.” Morgan believes his faith has had a profound impact on his career. “Every day I thank God for his direction and help. I couldn’t do it without him.”

END

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