

PROFILE:

## **Charles F. Blanchard**

### **1994 Recipient of the Joseph Branch Professionalism Award**

The Wake County Bar Association has selected Charles F Blanchard as the 1994 recipient of the Joseph Branch Professionalism Award. The award is presented annually to the practicing attorney in Wake County who “best exhibits the qualities of professionalism.”

Charlie Blanchard is a senior partner in the Raleigh firm of Blanchard, Twiggs, Abrams and Strickland, the firm with which he has been associated for nearly 30 years. He is a graduate of Duke University and the Duke University School of Law, Blanchard has provided leadership to various legal organizations including service as the first Chair of the Young Lawyers Division of the North Carolina Bar Association, President of the North Carolina Academy of Trial Lawyers 1969-1971, President of the Tenth Judicial District Bar 1970-1971, President of the Wake County Bar Association in 1977, Councilor of the North Carolina State Bar 1980-1985 representing the Tenth Judicial District, member of the Board of Governors of the North Carolina Bar Association 1983—1986, and Governor of the Association of Trial Lawyers of America 1965—1967 and 1970-1973. He now serves as President of the Braxton Craven Inn of Court sponsored by Duke University School of Law, as President of the International Society of Barristers and as Chairman of the North Carolina Supreme Court Historical Society.

Howard Twiggs, one of Charlie’s partners, indicates that Blanchard was one of the first plaintiffs’ trial lawyers Twiggs knew. “No one was doing strictly plaintiff’s work or specializing at the time.” Howard says that Charlie Blanchard always gives all relevant material during discovery, answers interrogatories in a timely manner, is always courteous to the lawyers and parties on both sides of the case, and that he has taken abuse good naturedly with professional “cool and conduct.”

In addition to his work as a leader in the legal community, Charlie is also active in St. Michael’s Episcopal Church, the Episcopal Diocese, and the Vestry in his church. He has been active with cultural events and societies in the Wake County area, including the NC Symphony and the NC Art Museum. Charlie is an avid competitor in sports, including tennis and golf.

No picture of Charles Blanchard would be complete without mentioning his family. He is married to Bernard Berkeley Blanchard and they have two daughters, Anna Neal and Lelia.

Hopefully, the oral presentations on November 8 at the Wake County Bar luncheon will provide insight into the “Study Club” which for more than 40 years has included Blanchard, Joseph B. Cheshire, Jr., John R. Jordan, Jr., Bill Joslin, Sam Leager and Robert McMillan, Charlie will be the third member of that illustrious group to receive the Joseph Branch Professionalism Award. (Joslin and McMillan have previously received the honor.)

Charles F. Blanchard represents the finest in the legal profession — a life that is balanced with family, civic activities, church, and love for his fellow humans in addition to his love for the law. He also proves that a good sense of humor will help one get through many difficult times.