



The 2000 Joseph Branch Professionalism Award Recipient John B. McMillan

This year's recipient of the Wake County Bar Association's 2000 Joseph Branch Professionalism Award is John B. McMillan who was born on August 31, 1942, in Rochester, Minnesota. John was the first of four children born to Dorothy and Robert McMillan. After Dr. McMillan finished his residency at the Mayo Clinic, the family spent 3 years in Europe during World War II. In 1946, the McMillans moved to Southern Pines.

After graduating from The Hill School in 1960, John became a double Tarheel, receiving his BA in 1964 and his JD in 1967. John was active in many aspects of campus life, both in undergraduate school and in law school. He was a member of Alpha Tau Omega and Phi Delta Phi Legal Fraternity.

The highlight of his days at Chapel Hill was his marriage on August 22, 1964, to Angelin W. Stokes. Angie has been an active partner in many of his ventures.

After passing the Bar in the summer of 1967, John came to Raleigh and began practicing with Manning, Fulton & Skinner. It was there that he began developing his law practice which features legislative work, but which includes administrative law, and general litigation. John has distinguished himself in every aspect of his practice, but his outside activities are even more remarkable.

Within a few years after coming to Raleigh, John (who had played tennis as a freshman at Carolina) was involved in creating, and completing the Raleigh Racquet Club. His single digit membership number attests to his early involvement.

In the early 1970s, John organized the Wake County Chapter of the North Carolina Zoological Society and served as President for several years. He was largely responsible for

raising the \$34,000 needed to purchase the first two giraffes at the North Carolina Zoo.

For more than twenty years, John served as a Scout Master for Troop 395 at White Memorial Presbyterian Church in Raleigh. Many current members of the Wake County Bar Association are alums of his Scout troop. John continues his interest in Scouting by serving on the Occaneechee Council Executive board.

John and Angie have been long-time members of White Memorial Presbyterian Church and have been active in Church affairs. John is a former Deacon, Elder and Clerk of Session. They have always shared a love of nature and will return from their tenth trip to Kenya just in time for the election and the presentation of this award. An avid photographer, John has entertained thousands with slide presentations of animals he has photographed on his many trips to Africa. On the most recent trip, he will be taking the WRAL HDTV camera in hopes of capturing enough wildlife scenes to present a program of his trip through that medium.

John was a member of the Board of Trustees of the North Carolina Chapter of the Nature Conservancy from 1989 to 1998 and served as Chairman of the Board from 1995 to 1998. He has served on the Executive Committee and Board of Directors of the Friends of the NC Museum of Natural Sciences from 1990 including a two-year term as President. Betsy Bennett, Museum Director for the NC Museum of Natural Sciences has this to say: "If it wasn't for John the Museum would not have opened when it did and would not have been as successful as it has been. He has been on numerous dinosaur hunts with the Museum and helped bring in the Terror of the South and the Dinosaur with the Heart."

John has been active in The Will Turner Hiking Club which has served as a source of pleasure and inspiration for him. This group, which features a number of lawyers, was started by Robert McMillan. John enjoys the camaraderie of the group. They mix the toil of full days of hiking and camping out with nights around the campfire with lies and legends, religion, philosophy, confession, and a little singing. Lawyers who take the law seriously, but not themselves. John McMillan has never taken himself seriously.

With all of these outside activities, John has been a major contributor to the profession. In addition to the North Carolina State Bar, John joined the North Carolina Bar Association and the Wake County Bar Association soon after joining Manning, Fulton & Skinner. He has been active in all three Associations.

He has served as the Chairman of the Legislative Advisory Committee of the North Carolina Bar Association from 1997 to date and was the Chairman of the Legislative Advocacy Working Coalition of the NC Commission for the Delivery of Civil Legal Services from 1996 to 1998.

John was a member of the Disciplinary Hearing Commission of the North Carolina State Bar from 1981 to 1990 and served as its Chairman from 1986 to 1990. He was a member of the Committee to rewrite the rules governing disciplinary procedures and was also a member of the Rules of Professional Conduct Rewrite Committee. He has been a delegate to the State Bar Council since 1997.

John served as the President of the Joint Bar Associations in 1985 and then followed

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as the Chairman of the Long Range Planning Committee from 1990 to 1993 and the Chairman of the Bench/Bar Committee from 1996 to 1997.

Previous to this award, John received the Legal Services of North Carolina Award in 1991, the Wake County Bar Association President's Award in 1996, and the Greater Raleigh Convention and Visitor's Bureau John B. Rogers, Jr. Leadership Award in 1999.

The Joseph Branch Professionalism Award, which is the highest honor of the Bar Association, is presented to John in recognition of his

extraordinary service to his clients and the community. About learning of the Award, John says, "It is a high honor to be recognized by your colleagues and to follow in the footsteps of prior Award winners. The Wake County Bar is a wonderful group of professionals, and I am privileged to be in their company." John will receive the award at the November 7, 2000 monthly luncheon meeting of the Wake County Bar Association.