



## The 2003 Joseph Branch Professionalism Award Recipient

# Ann Reed

It is especially appropriate that Ann Reed is the recipient of the Wake County Bar Association's 2003 Joseph Branch Professionalism Award. Like Chief Justice Branch, Ann has devoted her professional life to public service and the law, and through that devotion inspired us all to remember everyday that we became lawyers to help others.

Within the first year of her career in the Attorney General's Office, Ann had handled several criminal appeals in the North Carolina Court of Appeals and had argued her first North Carolina Supreme Court case. The high quality of Ann's early legal work quickly gained her the confidence and respect of her clients and colleagues. In 1988 Attorney General Lacy Thornburg appointed Ann as Senior Deputy Attorney General responsible for the Department of Justice's largest legal division, a position in which she continues to serve today under Attorney General Roy Cooper. In this position, Ann essentially serves as the "managing partner" of a 70 member law firm that represents and advises the diverse set of State agencies responsible for regulating and administering health and human services programs, investing and managing the State's monies, conducting the State's elections and resolving the tort claims of injured citizens. Even with these heavy responsibilities, Ann has found the time to provide extraordinary service to the legal profession. From 1996 through 1997, she chaired the Grievance Committee of the State Bar and in 2001 she served as the President of the North Carolina State Bar. Ann was the first woman and the first public sector lawyer to serve in both these important positions. Public service continues to be an important part of Ann's daily routine. She currently serves on the Disciplinary Hearing Commission as

well as various committees of the State Bar and the North Carolina Bar Association.

Professionalism, of course, is not measured simply by skill and dedication to the law. It also is measured by the way in which we relate to clients, colleagues and citizens. Ann fulfills all her responsibilities with patience, respect, diplomacy and dignity without pretense. Confrontations are always best resolved by seeking solutions; not by escalation. The balanced perspective Ann brings to work everyday has made her a role model for all of her colleagues in the Attorney General's Office, but especially the women on staff. Ann epitomizes the professional woman. In 1971 Ann was one of two women employed as lawyers in the Attorney General's Office. Today the lawyers on staff are almost evenly divided between men and women. Ann has been supportive of women in the Attorney General's Office and has always shown great interest in the development of their careers. By example, she has shown other women lawyers how to be successful in the field without compromising their principles or individuality.

Professionalism also requires the ability to balance the demands of the profession and the family. Ann's responsiveness to her family demonstrates her ability to balance these competing interests. Ann is married to Glenn Dunn, who is a partner in the firm of Poyner and Spruill. They have two daughters, Nancy Dunn, who just began her practice of law in the Attorney General's Office and Helen Dunn, who just began work on a graduate degree in French at the University of Virginia.

Anyone who knows Ann appreciates her devotion to her mother who lives nearby and

her admiration of her father, Olin Reed. Ann is quick to credit her father with her desire to become a lawyer and will unequivocally tell you, "My hero is the first lawyer I ever knew—my father. He always maintained high standards of ethics and professionalism and had a strong sense that it was his duty as a lawyer to use the law to help people." Although Mr. Reed died soon after she began practicing law, Ann still uses her father's conduct as the yardstick by which she measures her own, and so should all of us.

*Submitted by Eddie Speas and Melissa Trippe.*