

A NEWSLETTER FROM THE LAW OFFICES  
OF MARTIN & JONES

# MJ *notes*

## WE HELP PEOPLE WITH THE FOLLOWING CLAIMS:

- Personal Injury
- Wrongful Death
- Medical Malpractice
- Workers' Compensation
- Social Security Disability
- Nursing Home Negligence
- Inadequate Security
- Insurance Bad Faith
- Environmental Contamination
- Assisted Living Negligence
- Premises Liability
- Consumer Class Action
- Product Liability
- Pharmaceutical Claims
- Asbestos-Related Diseases
- Vehicle Accidents
- Construction Site Negligence
- Stockbroker/Investment Fraud

If you have legal questions,  
call us at **800-662-1234**.

**Martin  
& Jones**

## *One of Our Own Helps Rebuild Katrina Homes*

Attorney Tom Barwick spent part of his holidays this past winter helping victims of Hurricane Katrina. Traveling to the Gulf Coast with members of his church, Tom got a firsthand look at the destructive force of America's worst natural disaster.

With this year's hurricane season upon us, it may seem long ago since Katrina hit the Gulf Coast. But life in the areas hit hard by Katrina is far from normal. Tom saw first hand the aftermath of the storm's destruction that still exists when he traveled to Gulfport, Mississippi, with a work crew from his church, Mount Moriah Baptist Church of Clayton. The group, sponsored by the North Carolina Baptist Men, assisted in repairing homes damaged by the hurricane's wind, rain and floods.

"The scenes were depressing with many people living in small campers parked in front of their homes made uninhabitable by the storm," Tom explained. "The coastlines of Gulfport and Bay St. Louis, where we worked, were still in ruins as clean up and recovery has been slow in coming."

Officials explained to the group that rehabilitation efforts for many people have been impeded by lack of funds, skills or labor to make repairs. The North Carolina Baptist Men, through crews like those from Mount Moriah, are lending a much-needed helping hand to many who would not be able to rebuild on their own.



"I was very impressed with the Baptist Men's organization," Tom said. "They housed and fed almost three hundred workers in the Gulfport area during my trip, as well as provided needed construction tools and supplies." Tom's crew worked in homes in both Gulfport and Bay St. Louis, where damage resulted from not only wind and rain but also from the high storm surge.

"I was most impressed by the gratitude of those we helped," he continued. "Everyone seemed so appreciative and thankful for our help in the rebuilding effort. It will take years for these people to replace what the storm took away, and it was gratifying to contribute to restoring normalcy to some who are still suffering."

In his law practice with Martin & Jones, Tom represents patients and families injured through medical negligence. Tom and his wife have three children ages 21, 17 and 14. Tom enjoys sailing with his family and is Commodore (president) of the Neuse Sailing Association, a sailing club located in Oriental, North Carolina, and is also first vice-chair of the Johnston County Democratic Party.

## *Martin & Jones' Staff ....Making a Difference*

By Kim Hill

I've just celebrated my 22nd anniversary at Martin & Jones... a wonderfully rewarding career doing meaningful work that I love! As Martin & Jones' Administrator, the personal rewards I enjoy are from working with this dedicated staff that truly cares about others, and working for the finest individuals and families who deserve and appreciate our help. As our firm has grown and added to its numbers over the years, we've sought staff members who sincerely love working with people, and want to make an important contribution in helping others recover from challenging and difficult losses. These key ingredients are what pull us together as a cohesive team insuring success in our important work. We all make a difference individually, but together, we make an even greater impact. This newsletter speaks volumes in illustrating the difference our Martin & Jones team has made, and our passion to continue making a difference for our clients and in our communities!

"The achievements of an organization are the results of the combined effort of each individual."

Vincent Lombardi

Kim Hill was the first paralegal hired at our firm. As she helped the firm grow, Kim grew into the position of Administrator. We all look to Kim for her ability to make each person feel empowered, capable, needed and valued.

# MJ

A NEWSLETTER FROM THE LAW



### *Hoyt Tessener honored as Legal Elite and SuperLawyer*

Hoyt Tessener, who manages the firm's personal injury, nursing home abuse, investment fraud and Social Security Disability practice groups, was recognized as an outstanding attorney by his peers in two statewide publications this year.

The January issue of Business North Carolina magazine featured Hoyt in its list of "Legal Elite" attorneys recognized throughout the state. He was also recognized in the February issue of Charlotte's City Magazine published in conjunction with the statewide issue of North Carolina SuperLawyers.

Hoyt is married with three children, ages 20, 18 and 16. His oldest child works with KB Home. His middle child is going to Lycoming College in Pennsylvania. His youngest is a rising junior at Millbrook High in Raleigh.

**Susan Brice**, a Paralegal in the personal injury practice group, chaired a Meal On Wheels fundraiser in April, helping raise more than \$10,000 for the charity. The mission of Meals On Wheels is helping Seniors remain independent and contributing to the overall wellbeing of Seniors by providing regular nutrition and daily contact with a caring volunteer.

With two young sons, **Lee Todd**, stays busy with sports. She's a team mom for her 10-year-old son's Pop Warner football team – the Capital City Steelers. She can also be found keeping score for her 12-year-old son's basketball team in the North Wake County Basketball Association. Lee currently works as a Social Security Disability Claimants' Representative but will soon be working with the personal injury practice group.

**Cindy Sexton** works in the firm's accounting office. She was recently graduated from the North Carolina State University College of Management. Cindy has 14 years of accounting experience. When she's not working with numbers, she enjoys her dog, two cats, and pet iguana. Originally from Morehead City, North Carolina, Cindy loves all sorts of outdoor activities like horseback riding, windsurfing, and hiking.

After training for nearly a year, **Nicole Hudson** ran her first marathon in San Francisco last Fall. As a member of the Leukemia and Lymphoma Society's Team in Training, she ran the Nike Women's Marathon and raised \$4,000 to benefit leukemia research. She also organizes the annual Martin & Jones American Red Cross blood drives. Nicole is a Paralegal in the products liability practice group.



## *Martin & Jones' Office...Rich in History*

Martin & Jones' home office in Raleigh is located in the historic Pine State Creamery, now known as "The Creamery." Our staff enjoys working in this unique industrial landmark in the heart of Raleigh's recently redeveloped neighborhood, Glenwood South. We're proud of the building's rich history and its carefully preserved early twentieth century industrial design. Pine State Creamery was established when pasteurized milk was needed for troops at Camp Polk in Raleigh during World War I.

As both a tribute to and a reminder of those working here before us and the hard-working individuals our firm has represented over the years, our hallways and conference rooms proudly display historic photos of the former Pine State Creamery operations from its earliest days in 1928 through its restoration following fire damage in the 1970's, as well as historic photos of textile, construction, and industrial workers throughout North Carolina.

We're pleased to have numerous visitors who often reminisce about this old, familiar building and its significance in Raleigh's industrial history. There's even been a New York Times article on the area and building. There seems to be a shared civic-mindedness and appreciation for the historical, architectural, and economic value in revitalizing old structures. Now a ritual, we solicit our staff's input in developing unique renderings of The Creamery to share with our clients and friends in the form of holiday greeting cards each year. How fortunate we are to be able to celebrate our building's former use while also enjoying its uniqueness and bright open spaces as we go about our daily work.

The Creamery is on the National Register of Historic Places and has been designated a Raleigh Historic Landmark.

**Mary Dean** is the Claims Adjuster for the medical malpractice group. She is also an artist. With a kiln at her house, she paints and fires china that she sells at arts and crafts shows and retail shops all around the area. She also enjoys making jewelry. Mary is currently serving as chairperson for the Arts Committee of the Youngsville Woman's Club in Youngsville, North Carolina.

**Donna Elliott**, the firm's Marketing Director, has a passion for animal welfare issues. She and her dog, Reason, have helped rescue and find new homes for dozens of pets. She is a volunteer with AnimalKind, an organization that fights pet overpopulation by providing low-cost spay and neuter vouchers to low-income families.

Another pet lover, **Margaret Surcey**, works as a Paralegal in the workers' compensation practice group. Margaret loves to spend time with her two daughters, and her Chihuahua, Cookie. She also loves cooking, planting flowers in her yard and feeding the birds, rabbits and squirrels who live in it.

**Allison Rogers**, who is a Claims Adjuster for the workers' compensation practice group, helps Martin & Jones employees bring Christmas to dozens of children each year. Allison coordinates gift giving to children living at the Masonic Home for Children, an orphanage in Oxford, North Carolina. She works with the orphanage to get a list of Christmas needs and wishes for 12 to 16 children and then coordinates the 65 Martin & Jones employees so that as many of the gifts are provided as possible.

*We're YOUR  
Law Firm!*

In our previous newsletters, Martin & Jones has addressed important legal issues possibly affecting all of us. We hope you have found the topics interesting and the information useful.

In this newsletter, we are doing something different. We are sharing some information about who we are.

We want you to think of Martin & Jones as your law firm. Even if we are not able to handle your particular situation, we can help you find the right attorney. We can provide you the name and telephone number of an attorney to handle any legal situation. Martin & Jones is active in the American Trial Lawyers Association, the North Carolina State Bar, the North Carolina Academy of Trial Lawyers and the North Carolina, South Carolina and Georgia State Bar Associations.

Martin & Jones is much more than our lawyers. A dedicated and hard-working staff (that includes the lawyers) committed to helping those who have experienced a life-changing event make up Martin & Jones. Individually, we are spouses, Moms, Dads, coaches, marathon runners, and volunteers. As a team, we bring our compassion and dedication together and put it to work for you.

We hope you enjoy these stories and that they allow you to get to know us better. If you would like to know more about any of us at Martin & Jones or have a particular topic that you would like for us to address in future newsletters, please let us know by letter, phone call or email. Our contact information is provided on the back page.

## ¿Habla Español?

Martin & Jones has many Spanish-speaking clients, and we have several people on staff who are bi-lingual.

As a college student, Martin Ramey lived in Seville, Spain for nearly a year where he studied Spanish literature and culture. Originally from Georgia, Martin went on to obtain a Bachelor of Arts degree in Spanish from Arizona State University in Tempe, Arizona. He has traveled extensively throughout Spain. Martin is an attorney whose practice includes products liability, personal injuries and some securities litigation.

Bertha da Roza was born in Guatemala City, Guatemala. She spoke only a few English phrases (such as "I don't speak English") when she moved to New Orleans as a 14-year-old and had to learn the language when none of her classmates or teachers spoke Spanish. (Her Algebra teacher, however, could communicate with her in French.) Bertha has worked with Martin & Jones for 14 years and is the Assistant Administrator.

Susana Merritt was born and raised in Liberia, West Africa. Her parents moved there from Spain for her Father's job with Voice of America. Her family moved to the United States in 1981 after a coup in Liberia. As a child and teenager, Susana spent summers in Spain and now visits every two to three years. She is a Legal Assistant in the medical malpractice group.

Maria Harriss is originally from Nogales, Sonora, Mexico, a border town across from Arizona. She has been bi-lingual since she was a child and learned English by watching Sesame Street. She moved to the United States when she married her husband seven years ago. Maria is a Legal Assistant in the Social Security Disability practice group.

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A NEWSLETTER FROM THE LAW OFFICES OF MARTIN & JONES

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