

**MARTIN & JONES**  
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*Attorneys at Law*

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Kim Hill (above right) pictured with her mother, Carolyn Carter, and her son, Tyler.

**MJ** *notes*  
NEWSLETTER

If you do not wish to receive this newsletter, please call Martin & Jones toll-free at 1-800-662-1234 and request to be removed from our mailing list. Or, if any of your contact information changes, please let us know so that we can be sure this and other mailings reach you.

If you have legal questions, call us at:  
**800-662-1234**  
or visit us online at:  
**www.MartinandJones.com**

**OUR ATTORNEYS:**

Katie Bricio  
Carrie Guest  
Matt Healey  
Forest Horne  
John Alan Jones  
Chris Olson  
Spencer Parris  
Mike Riley  
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**Step Out and Raise Funds to Fight Diabetes**

Did you know that 26 million people in the U.S. have diabetes? Martin & Jones Firm Administrator, Kim Hill, volunteers with the ADA (American Diabetes Association) and walks in the annual ADA Step Out Walk in memory of her mother, a life-long diabetic. Kim believes that every dollar raised and every step taken helps make a positive impact in the lives of those who are affected by diabetes. Please consider walking and raising money in this important event on Saturday morning, November 8th on the beautiful Dorothea Dix Campus (walk distance is less than 3 miles). [www.diabetes.org/stepoutraleigh](http://www.diabetes.org/stepoutraleigh)

A NEWSLETTER FROM THE LAW OFFICES  
OF MARTIN & JONES, PLLC

**MJ** *notes*

**WE HELP PEOPLE WITH THE  
FOLLOWING CLAIMS:**

- Trucking Accidents
- Car & Motorcycle Accidents
- Wrongful Death
- Medical Malpractice
- Nursing Home Abuse
- Traumatic Brain Injury
- Harmful Products
- Defective Prescription Drugs
- Mesothelioma
- Asbestos-Related Lung Cancer
- Railroad Injuries/FELA
- Construction Site Accidents
- Workers' Compensation
- Wage & Hour Class Actions
- Insurance & Investment Fraud
- Small Business Litigation
- Whistleblower Lawsuits
- Wrongful Conviction/Civil Rights
- Consumer Rights

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

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**Carteret County Jury Awards Record Verdict**

After almost two years and a two-week trial, a Carteret County jury gave closure to the family of Sue Cross. Ms. Cross, who was 57 years old, was tragically killed on November 9, 2012 when a Valley Proteins tanker truck ran over her twice at the intersection of Fort Macon Road and Atlantic Beach Causeway. On September 26, 2014, in the largest verdict ever returned in Carteret County, a jury compensated her husband of 37 years and their two children in the amount of \$2,250,000.

Ms. Cross and her husband Robbie owned a home in Atlantic Beach and had both recently retired. That Friday morning, Ms. Cross walked her dog across the intersection returning to their home. Michael Bowden, 21 years old, of Clinton, was driving a tanker truck owned by Valley Proteins, Inc. of Winchester, Virginia. Mr. Bowden turned right on red while Ms. Cross and her dog were about halfway through the marked pedestrian crosswalk with the walk signal. Witnesses report that Ms. Cross attempted to escape the path of the tanker as it was overtaking her. The front tires of the tanker truck ran over her first, and as she was trying to crawl from under the tanker, the rear tires ran over her again.

Ms. Cross was taken to Carteret General Hospital and was later airlifted to New Hanover Regional Hospital, where she died nine hours after being fatally injured. Ms. Cross was a dedicated blood donor, and in their efforts to stabilize her, doctors gave her over 49 units of blood products, the whole supply of blood immediately available. At the hospital, doctors told her husband that Ms. Cross was bleeding from almost every surface in her body.

The defense attorneys tried to blame Ms. Cross for her own death, first arguing that she was crossing against the light, and then resorted to arguing that her dog Lindzee, who survived the accident, pulled Ms. Cross into the intersection. Witnesses, however, confirmed that neither was the case, and the jury determined that Mr. Bowden was negligent in the operation of the 56-foot-long tanker truck that weighed 80,000 pounds. The driver failed to yield to a pedestrian already in a designated crosswalk. A "No Turn On Right" sign for commercial vehicles was posted at that intersection after the tragedy.

Superior Court Judge Ken Crow presided over the two-week trial, at which approximately 15 witnesses testified. The jury deliberated six hours before returning the verdict of \$2,250,000 to Mr. Cross and his adult children. Mr. Cross and the estate of Sue Johnson Cross were represented by Hoyt Tessener and Hunt Willis of Martin & Jones.





## VOTE FOR FAIR AND INDEPENDENT JUDGES

On November 4, voters will elect four judges for the North Carolina Supreme Court, shaping our judicial system for years to come. Now more than ever, we need fair and independent judges, committed to equal justice for all.

Judicial races are nonpartisan and candidates will appear on your ballot with no party identification.

As attorneys who believe that everyone deserves a fair hearing, we have reviewed the qualifications and experience of the candidates for the Supreme Court and Court of Appeals. Many of our clients, friends and family have asked for our recommendations.

For the Supreme Court, four good judges deserve to keep their seats. We encourage you to vote for:

**ROBIN HUDSON**  
**CHERI BEASLEY**  
**BOB HUNTER**  
**MARK MARTIN**

For the Court of Appeals, 19 candidates are listed for the first seat on the ballot. Two candidates are listed for each of the other two contested seats. We encourage you to vote for

**MARK DAVIS**  
**KEISCHA LOVELACE**  
**LUCY INMAN**

If you want more information about a particular candidate, please visit the candidate's campaign website. You can find links to their websites by visiting [www.MartinandJones.com](http://www.MartinandJones.com).

These excellent judicial candidates deserve our support. Please cut out the list below, put it in your wallet, and take it with you when you vote.

Thank you.

✂

Supreme Court

**ROBIN HUDSON**

**CHERI BEASLEY**

**BOB HUNTER**

**MARK MARTIN**

Court of Appeals

**MARK DAVIS**

**KEISCHA LOVELACE**

**LUCY INMAN**

✂



## Backpack Project Helps Children in Need Start School With Pride

It's back to school time, and the folks at Martin & Jones have done their best to help 31 students start the year off right. Under the direction of Wendy Kriebel, Martin & Jones attorneys and staff collected \$1,205 to purchase and fill 29 brand new backpacks with needed school supplies. Two individuals also purchased and filled two additional backpacks themselves. Employees donated supplies that they purchased throughout the year and saved for the project. This year's 31 backpacks was a record number for Martin & Jones.

Wendy Kriebel has coordinated the backpack drive at Martin & Jones for the last four years as part of the Back to School with Pride Project sponsored by the Friends of the Wake County Guardian ad Litem (GAL) Program. Its website explains that the group started the program "to help children maintain their sense of hope and excitement about the first day of school" and "ensure that each child is ready to go, ready to do well, and ready to start school with pride."

Martin & Jones became involved with the project in 2007 at the invitation of the Raleigh-Wake Paralegal Association (RWPA). The RWPA collected 68 backpacks in total this year from all participating law firms and presented them at the group's August meeting to Babs Wagner, the volunteer coordinator for the Friends of GAL.

It was also a record year for the Friends of GAL in total, with 891 backpacks collected this year.

"We reached out to swim teams, church youth groups, Y Guides and the National Charity League," explained Ms. Wagner. "These young folks have really boosted our numbers and also helped with the sorting, organizing and delivering. We believe that children helping children is a wonderful way to inspire compassion in young people."

She explained that while most of the backpacks were delivered to children living in "kinship care" – children placed with relatives (mostly grandparents) to keep them from going into foster homes – and Guardian ad Litem referred children, GAL was also able to support other Back to School projects that ran short of their goals this year, including the Helping Hands Mission, the Community Diversity Foundation and the Healing Place of Wake County.



"Unfortunately, with about 26 percent of Wake County children living in poverty (approximately 2,700 of them are homeless), there are always unmet needs," Ms. Wagner said. "However, with the help of our great sponsors, we are able to help more and more deserving children this year."

Wendy said she purchased 110 three-ring binders, 64 packs of pens, 29 packs each of highlighters, erasers, notebook paper, colored pencils and number two pencils, 26 scientific calculators, and 26 planners.

"Standing in the checkout line of a store with carts filled with 110 three-ring binders, dozens of backpacks, and numerous other school essentials garners odd looks, questions about how many children I have," laughed Wendy, "or initiates a conversation about who or what the supplies are going to benefit. I proudly share that I am a member of the team at Martin & Jones, whose generous contributions provide fully-equipped backpacks and supplies, and help the Friends of GAL achieve their goal of setting up children for success and helping them feel a sense of pride on their first day of school."

Ms. Wagner said it well when she noted, "They were obviously purchased and packed with generosity and love."

## Attorneys Recognized as "Best Lawyers" and "Lawyers of the Year"

Seven of our attorneys have been named Best Lawyers in America for 2015. John Alan Jones, Hoyt Tessener, Forest Horne, Chris Olson, Matthew Healey, Katie Bricio and Spencer Parris have been selected by their peers as Best Lawyers.

Best Lawyers identifies outstanding attorneys by conducting peer-review surveys in which thousands of leading lawyers confidentially nominate and evaluate their peers.

Martin & Jones attorneys were recognized in the following practice areas:

**John Alan Jones** - *Medical Malpractice, Product Liability, Mass Tort Litigation and Class Actions*  
**Hoyt Tessener** - *Personal Injury, Product Liability*  
**Forest Horne** - *Personal Injury, Product Liability, Mass Tort Litigation and Class Action*  
**Chris Olson** - *Mass Tort Litigation and Class Actions*  
**Matthew Healey** - *Workers' Compensation*  
**Katie Bricio** - *Medical Malpractice*  
**Spencer Parris** - *Mass Tort Litigation and Class Actions*

"I am fortunate to practice law with such highly-skilled and highly-regarded lawyers who are also friends I greatly admire," stated John Alan Jones, the senior partner at Martin & Jones. "I am also honored to be recognized by my peers as a 'Best Lawyer' in the areas of medical malpractice, product liability, and mass tort litigation and class actions. I practice law in these areas because I love the work and consider it a privilege to help people with these cases."

Three of these attorneys have the additional honor of being recognized as a Lawyer of the Year. For the second year in a row, Mr. Jones has been recognized as Lawyer of the Year for Raleigh - this year in product liability litigation. Last year Mr. Jones was selected Lawyer of the Year in the area of medical malpractice. He has been recognized as a Best Lawyer in America since 2008.

Spencer Parris was recognized as a Lawyer of the Year for 2015 in the area of mass tort litigation and class actions. Matthew Healey has been selected as a Lawyer of the Year in the area of workers' compensation.



Hoyt Tessener has been featured as personal injury attorney of the month in an article for the Triangle edition of the monthly Attorney at Law Magazine. Publisher Bob Friedman interviewed Hoyt for the feature that appears in the October issue. Hoyt talks about his trucking accident cases, teaching jury selection at Campbell and attending Gerry Spence's Trial Lawyers College. Visit our website and read the whole story on Hoyt's profile page. [www.MartinandJones.com](http://www.MartinandJones.com)