

Background

The North Carolina Association of Municipal Attorneys was founded on April 27, 1962, as an affiliate of the North Carolina League of Municipalities. The organizational meeting was held in the Hayes Barton Room of the "old" Sir Walter Hotel in Raleigh. Representatives of the League and the Institute of Government (now School of Government) were present at its founding, and the League was designated as secretariat for the Association. Today more than 200 municipal attorneys and others are members of the Association.

Goals and Activities

Mission. The Association was founded to "encourage a closer relationship and a greater degree of cooperation among municipal attorneys; to offer an opportunity to discuss and exchange information, ideas, and experiences; to keep informed as to current problems in the field of municipal law; to cooperate both on the state and national levels with other associations of municipal officials; and to promote in general the interest and welfare of North Carolina municipalities." Active members of the Association include full and part-time municipal attorneys and others who have actively demonstrated a past or present interest in the practice of municipal law. To improve the quality of municipal law and government in North Carolina, the Association works closely with the League of Municipalities in Raleigh and the School of Government at UNC-Chapel Hill.

Conferences and CLE. The Association holds two continuing education programs annually, coordinated through the School of Government, making them eligible for N.C. State Bar CLE credit. Each program is eligible for six hours of credit, including one hour of professional responsibility/ethics credit. An hour of substance abuse awareness is also offered periodically to comply with CLE requirements. The City Attorneys' Winter Conference is held annually in March at the School of Government and the Association Summer Conference is held annually in late July or early August at a resort location. In addition to their educational aspects, Association Summer Conferences are true "family" events where lifetime relationships are developed.

Committees. The Association has several committees offering opportunities for direct involvement. For example, the Program Committee helps to develop timely and informative CLE programs; the Legislative Committee advises the League of Municipalities on legislative matters of importance in the area of municipal law; and the Appellate Advocacy Committee makes recommendation to the League's General Counsel on requests to the League to file amicus curiae briefs in the North Carolina Appellate Courts on cases of major significance to municipalities.

Membership Categories and Criteria

Active Membership. Any attorney licensed to practice law in the State of North Carolina who is employed or retained as city, town or village attorney for an incorporated North Carolina municipality, including deputy, assistant or associate attorneys, is eligible to be an active member in the Association. In addition, the General Counsel and other attorneys on the staff of the League of Municipalities are eligible for active membership. Only Active Members have the right to vote on all matters coming before the membership. Where a law firm is retained as counsel for a municipality or municipalities, the number of members of the firm who are eligible for active membership is limited to the number of municipalities retaining that firm.

Associate Membership. Any attorney licensed to practice law in the State of North Carolina who is a member of a law firm retained as city, town or village attorney, other than the member or members of the firm who are eligible for active membership; any former city, town or village attorney or deputy, assistant or associate municipal attorney; and any attorney who has actively demonstrated a past or present interest in the practice of municipal law is eligible to be an Associate Member.

Honorary or Lifetime Membership. May be granted by the governing board of the Association to any licensed attorney. Lifetime membership is granted to Past Presidents without election, provided dues are paid and the member remains eligible for active or associate membership.

New Member Application

Name _____

Title _____

City or Firm _____

Mailing Address _____

Business Phone _____

FAX No. _____

E-Mail Address _____

Home Address _____

Home Phone _____

Membership Dues. Dues are billed for the fiscal year beginning July 1. Dues for new members joining on or after January 1 shall be one-half the regular annual dues.

Membership Category (Check one)

- | | | |
|--------------------------|----------------------------|------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> | Active Member | \$40 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | Associate Member | \$40 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | Retired Municipal Attorney | \$25 |

Amount Enclosed \$____

Checks should be made payable to the North Carolina Association of Municipal Attorneys (NCAMA) and mailed to PO Box 3069, Raleigh, NC 27602-3069.

For financial and membership information, contact Wendy Hales (919-715-9769) whales@ncml.org, for program and professional association information, Kim Hibbard (919-715-3936) khizzard@ncml.org.

Earnest H. Ball Award For Excellence in Municipal Law

In 1991 the Board of Directors of Association established the North Carolina Association of Municipal Attorneys Distinguished Service Award for Excellence in Municipal Law, on recommendation of the past presidents of the Association. In 1994, the Board voted to rename the award the **North Carolina Association of Municipal Attorneys Ernest H. Ball Award for Excellence in Municipal Law**, in recognition of the many contributions the late Ernie Ball, former General Counsel of the North Carolina League of Municipalities, made to the Association and to municipal law during his lifetime.

The award is intended to recognize persons who have made valuable contributions to the field of municipal law, whether through a single accomplishment or through an entire career. The Association's Past Presidents recommend the recipient to the Board of Directors, which votes to make the award. A plaque containing the names of the recipients is displayed in the offices of the North Carolina League of Municipalities.

Past recipients are:

Phillip P. Green Jr.	1991
David M. Lawrence	1992
Jesse L. "Skip" Warren	1992
Henry Underhill	1993
Claude Jones	1993
Warren J. "Jake" Wicker	1994
Louis B. Meyer	1995
Roddey M. Ligon, Jr.	1996
William I. Thornton, Jr.	1997
William A. Campbell	2002
Judith Welch Wegner	2003
Gerry F. Cohen	2006
Dewitt F. "Mac" McCarley	2010

**Your invitation to
membership in the**

NORTH CAROLINA ASSOCIATION OF MUNICIPAL ATTORNEYS

