



State of North Carolina
General Court of Justice
Superior Court District 15B
ORANGE AND CHATHAM COUNTIES

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Mr. Melvin F. Wright, Jr.
Executive Director
Chief Justice's Commission on Professionalism
100 Six Forks Road
Suite 303
Raleigh, NC 27609

Re: Orange County Professionalism Program

Dear Mel:

Thank you so much for your support of our Professionalism Program for Judicial District 15B. The direction and material support provided by you and Judge Arnold was a major reason for the success of our program.

Our program was a tremendous success! Over two hundred lawyers attended, at least twice as many as have ever attended any other district bar function. Not only have dozens of lawyers talked about how much they were inspired by the program, but I have observed a higher level of mutual respect and courtesy among the lawyers appearing in court. We are already planning to have a similar program once every three years.

You asked for my comments, thoughts and recommendations to others planning a similar program.

1. The Senior Resident Superior Court Judge should chair the leadership with two or three attorneys, who are motivated and hard-working. Peggy Rundell, Lisa Vera and Melinda Evans worked hard to make the arrangements, make multiple contacts with all the lawyers in the district and take care of all the details – such as name tags for all attendees.
2. I, as Senior Resident Superior Court Judge, sent a letter to each attorney in the district a couple of months in advance. We saved mailing costs by enclosing that with our Bar Counselor's Quarterly Report.
3. Have the program centered around members of the local bar. We had approximately 16 lawyers and judges make presentations, while you and the Chief Justice were the only other speakers.

