

**Conference of Superior Court Judges  
School of Government, UNC-Chapel Hill  
October 12, 2006  
4:30-5:15 p.m.**

**Communicating Effectively and Ethically with the  
Legislative Branch Of Government**

**Moderator:** Judge Judson D. DeRamus, Jr.

**Panelist/Presenters:**

Judge Dennis Jay Winner

Judge Jerry Braswell

Mr. Doug Heron, Director of Governmental Affairs, North Carolina Bar Association

**Materials from Paul Ross, Executive Secretary, N.C. Judicial Standards Commission:**

Only part of these materials are attached: a formal advisory opinion dated July 25, 2006, an informal advisory opinion dated August 2, 2006, and a compilation of brief summaries of opinions in other States.

Compare the NC Judicial Standards Commission's approach to what is sanctioned and what is not in the July 25, 2006, opinion to the summaries of the opinions in Pennsylvania (3/3/04) and West Virginia (March 10, 1997).

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Mr. Heron's Power Point presentation and all of Mr. Ross' materials will be a available online @ <http://www.judges.unc.edu> (click October 2006 conference)

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**Judge Dennis Jay Winner**

- A.** The most personal approach is the best approach.
  - B.** It is far better to lobby for or against a specific proposal rather than for or against a generality.
  - C.** It is imperative to make a strong, logical argument why the proposal for which you are lobbying is needed or the damage, which would be caused by the proposal against which you are lobbying.
  - D.** Although most legislators are honest and would be offended by any *quid pro quo* offer there is a tendency of feeling people to try to help those who have helped them or at least not to strongly oppose those who have helped them.
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## **Judge Jerry Braswell**

### **FIRST WIN THE WAR.... THEN GO TO BATTLE**

#### **Group Approach**

- Clerk of Court Judge
  - District Attorney
  - District Court Judges
  - Superior Court Judges
- schedule meeting at courthouse
  - discuss general court needs
  - give tour of facility

#### **Long Session**

- January – July
- How to contact your legislator
- When to contact your legislator

#### **Individual Approach**

- 2-3 lawyers with Superior Court
- arrange private lunch
- lawyers discuss important role of judges and judicial salaries

#### **Short Session**

- May – July
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