

# Todd: Politics Is Way To Cut Through Red Tape

By Teresa Simmons  
Post Managing Editor

Losing the 25th District Court Judgeship to Marilyn Bissell has only served to strengthen the convictions of T. Michael Todd.

"In my long range plans I envision my name back on the political ballot," Todd announced. "I believe this is one way to effectively assist the black community."

Todd well remembers his high school days at Charlotte's Myers Park. Much of his inspiration to achieve came from his parents, minister, and some teachers. But perhaps one of the most profound influences was his feelings of frustration as a high school student.

"During that time," Todd began, "I felt that everything was onesided. On one hand I saw others in control while I felt only frustration."

To combat this frustration Todd sought to harmonize the four most important aspects in his life: God, family, friends and aiding other people.

The first is a continuous growth for Todd "I feel that everyone should be in a church." The second and third aspects of Todd's life are handled with love. "I know people here in Charlotte, I was born here and I'm happy here," are reasons he continues to reside in Charlotte.

The final aspect of aiding others prompted Todd to continue his education. As a small child he thought of becoming a doctor. Upon entering college he knew his talents included artistic abilities, and he almost majored in art with minor in music. "But I soon realized," Todd explained, "that I could not make the statement I wanted to make on canvas. Others could, but I could not. I changed my major to Political Science and developed an interest in attending law school. I wanted to help people and make an impact. I want to make an important difference in society."

It was like an unending strain in Todd's life was suddenly beginning to unravel. Before, his feelings of frustration were coupled with powerless feelings of being out of control.

"It's important to seize control of your own destiny," Todd suggested, "and to determine the fate of your own life. Believe in yourself."

The unraveling of the frustrations did not just



**T. Michael Todd**  
...Former district court judge

### An Achiever

occur through simple thought processes. "It takes hard work," Todd stated about completing a degree in law and continuing in the profession as an attorney. "You have to start out working hard and put in early hours. But hard work, as usual, pays off. And one must not forget to pray."

After graduating from Myers Park High School, Todd attended Duke University acquiring a BA in Political Science. He was then accepted at Vanderbilt University Law School in Nashville, Tenn. and there he received the Law Degree J.D. He is also a member of the N.C. Bar Association, the Charlotte Mecklenburg Bar Associa-

tion and the Charlotte Chapter of the N.C. Association of Black Lawyers. He is also an associate with Leon Clive, P.A.

As a member of Macedonia Baptist Church, where Rev. L.J. Wallace pastors, Todd serves as a Trustee. He is involved in several civic extracurricular activities and is the son of Maurice and Thelma Todd of Charlotte. Todd enjoys jogging, all types of sports and collecting antiques.

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