

# Locals earn Citizen Lawyer awards

CHRONICLE STAFF REPORT

The North Carolina Bar Association honored Valene Franco and Alfred G. Adams of Winston-Salem on Friday, June 24 as 2011 recipients of the NCBA Citizen Lawyer Award. The awards were presented at the NCBA Annual Meeting in Asheville.



Adams

Franco is the managing attorney for the Family Law Department of Legal Aid of North Carolina's Winston-Salem office. She is a past president of the Winston-Salem Bar Association and currently serves as president of the Forsyth County Bar Association and 21st Judicial District Bar.

Her vocation and avocation often intersect as Franco also provides countless hours of volunteer service to support the unmet needs of the needy. She is a member of the Family Services, Inc., Domestic Violence Community Council and Sexual Assault Response Team. This group of professionals and survivors works together to assist vic-



Valene Franco

tims and hold offenders accountable for their actions.

Franco is also devoted to the cause of Big Brothers Big Sisters and the Winston-Salem Chamber of Commerce's Victory in Partnership Program. She is a graduate of Leadership Winston-Salem and serves on the advisory council of the Shugart Women's Center at Forsyth Technical Community College.

She is a graduate of Cornell University and the Boston College School of Law.

Adams practices with Womble Carlyle Sandridge & Rice and served on the NCBA Board of Governors from 1987-90.

An unabashed ambassador for downtown Winston-Salem, Adams has served on the board of directors for

Downtown Winston-Salem Partnership, the primary entity responsible for the revitalization of the downtown area, and chaired the DWSP Task Force on Downtown Entertainment.

In addition, he has chaired the board of directors of the Downtown Winston-Salem Foundation, which makes low-interest loans to nurture small downtown business, and served on the board and as secretary-treasurer for Winston-Salem Business, Inc., which recruits businesses for Winston-Salem and Forsyth County.

Adams has also provided volunteer leadership to Piedmont Triad Research Park, United Way of Forsyth County, Centenary United Methodist Church (board chair) and Forsyth Country Club (president), and also served as president of the American College of Mortgage Attorneys.

Adams is a graduate of Wake Forest University and the Wake Forest University School of Law, where he served from 1995-2005 as an adjunct professor. He is also a continuing guest lecturer for the law school and the undergraduate school of business, and in 2003-04 served as president of the Wake Forest University Alumni Association.

The NCBA Citizen Lawyer Award was established in 2007 to recognize lawyers who provide exemplary public service to their communities.



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