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See Sports on B1



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THE CHRONICLE

Volume 43, Number 8

WINSTON-SALEM, N.C.

THURSDAY, October 29, 2015

Atty. alleges 'pattern & practice' of fraud in W-S clerk's office

BY CASH MICHAELS

FOR THE CHRONICLE

The attorney suing the Forsyth County Clerk of Superior Court Office, an estate guardian, and others over alleged "acts of fraud" involving the loss of over \$1.4 million in assets belonging to a now deceased African-American retired nurse, claimed in court papers a year ago that he has evidence that this wasn't just a one-time occurrence, but rather, "a pattern and practice of fraudulent activity by the Clerk's Office..." and that specific guardian.

Even though The Chronicle is focusing

on allegations centered at the Forsyth County Clerk's Office, the allegations of fraud in the quasi-judicial process of determining legal guardians for incapacitated individuals could have statewide implications if they're being replicated in

other counties without investigation.

Reginald D. Alston, the attorney representing the estate of the late Mary Ellen Brannon Thompson (legally known as the "ward"), made the allegation in the lawsuit

See Part One of report
See last week's website story that reports the filing of the lawsuit at www.wschronicle.com.



Thompson



Frye

he filed last week (as exclusively reported by The Chronicle) against the Forsyth County Clerk of

Superior Court Office, which administers guardianships; and attorney Bryan Thompson (no relation to Mary Thompson), the estate guardian alleged to have had an official in the Forsyth County Clerk's Office on May 1, 2007, "... sign a guardianship appointment in his favor... without giving notice to Mary Thompson [while she was living] and her next of kin..." as required by state statute.

Alston also made the allegation in several motions he filed in the case dating back to March 2014.

As the Clerk appointed estate guardian,

See Fraud on A9



Photos by Todd Luck

(L-R) Chronicle Publisher Ernie Pitt, Keith Grandberry, Robert Brown, Oba Kabiru Adewale Shotobi with his daughter Adetayo, and his wife Kudirat are at The Chronicle office.

King with ties to Triad seeking investors

BY TODD LUCK

THE CHRONICLE

Oba Kabiru Adewale Shotobi, the king of the Nigerian city of Ikorodu, visited North Carolina last week in hopes of finding new partnerships to help his people.

Shotobi visited Winston-Salem last Wednesday as one of his many stops in the Tar Heel state. In Charlotte, he visited a sustainable energy project at Johnson C. Smith University. He's also had numerous meetings with

business leaders interested in doing work in Africa. This week Shotobi is scheduled to go to Washington, D.C., and Chicago. Ikorodu is a city of 1.5 million people in Lagos State, Nigeria, that is known for its agriculture. Shotobi said his city has many infrastructure needs in education, transportation, energy and other areas.

"I am here to solicit for investors to assist us," he said.

The trip also had a deep personal meaning for Shotobi,

who is a 1983 graduate of N.C. A&T State University, which he visited during the college's homecoming this past weekend.

Shotobi said his electrical engineering degree from A&T was thanks to Robert Brown, founder and CEO of global business management consulting firm B&C International of High Point. Brown is a veteran in crisis management and communications professional who, over his long career, worked on the presidential campaigns of John and Robert Kennedy and Richard Nixon and advised Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.

Shotobi was working in a hotel in Lagos when he met Brown, who was staying there while helping to organize a new government in Nigeria. Shotobi was one of several young people Brown took to the United States to attend college.

"I felt Nigeria needed some great leadership," said Brown. "They had some very good people there, but I felt

they needed more."

Shotobi said he believed that the education Brown helped him get was one of the reasons he was picked by his city's kingmakers this year for the coveted position he now holds. He said Brown was like a father to him. He said he dedicated his crown to Brown.

"I wanted to come and say thank you for helping to make me what I am today," Shotobi said.

Brown, who helped plan Shotobi's current trip, said he was surprised and delighted when Shotobi became King.

"I think he'll be a great king," said Brown. "He's compassionate, he knows what to do, he's knowledgeable, he's a brilliant guy."

Shotobi is not the first African leader to have an education in America. Winston-Salem State University

See King on A2

Judge denies motion to dismiss case filed by N.C. NAACP

N.C. photo ID federal lawsuit will go on

BY TEVIN STINSON

THE CHRONICLE

A federal judge has denied a motion by the State of North Carolina to dismiss parts of the law-

suit filed by the N.C. NAACP and the Southern Coalition for Social Justice that challenges North Carolina's voter-identification requirement.

A new tentative hearing has been set for January 2016.

The N.C. General Assembly passed the law known as the Voter Information Verification Act in 2013. The law requires voters to have a photo ID when voting and would go into effect in 2016, during the March 15 primary.

According to the Dr. Rev. William J. Barber II, president of the N.C. NAACP, the day after the law went into the books he began to prepare to file the lawsuit. Since filing the lawsuit, Barber has been trying to educate the community on what the law means and how it will have a direct effect on minority voters.

Ahead of the trial, Republican legislators passed an amendment that eased the photo ID

See ID on A2

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