

Blanton loves her new profession

Kings Mountain native Donna Blanton switched careers from journalism to law in Tallahassee, Florida and loves it.

She said her newspaper experience and her law school interest helped her revise Florida's Administrative Procedures Act and brought her recognition from her peers.

Blanton, who uses her maiden name in her law profession, is the daughter of Charles Blanton of Kings Mountain and Elizabeth Blanton of Sarasota, Fla. She is married and has a 13-year-old son, Lee Ziffer.

At a time when too many lawyers measure productivity in terms of billings and total immersion in the profession, Blanton, 40, offers a striking counterpoint.

The 1996 recipient of The Florida Bar's Young Lawyers Section Most Productive Young Lawyer Award, she is an advocate for balance between personal professional and public service interests.

"Nothing is more important to me than not overloading one aspect of my life at the expense of another," she says. "As a lawyer, I work hard because I love my work. But it's also important that, as a member of the legal profession, I'm involved in bar activities and, as a mother, that I keep up with my 13-year-old son."



DONNA BLANTON

One component in her successful equation is maintaining a research interest she developed in law school involving administrative law.

In February, 1966, after a five month stint as executive director to the Administrative Procedures Act Revision Commission, she delivered the most comprehensive rewrite of the Act since its original passage in 1974. The revision sailed through the Legislature and was signed into law by Governor Lawton Chiles.

Blanton was capitol bureau chief for The Orlando Sentinel for seven years after graduation

from Ormand Beach High School and the University of Florida in Gainesville. She covered state government and the Legislature and had the chance to move to the Sentinel's Washington bureau but decided to remain in Tallahassee and attend law school.

"I was able to apply myself and use my experience with deadlines," she said of her second career choice. During her

third year in law school she was editor of the FSU Law Review.

After graduation from law school in May 1992 Blanton went to work for Florida Supreme Court Justice Rosemary Barkett as a law clerk. Early in 1994, she joined Katz Kutter in Tallahassee, working primarily in general administrative law, insurance regulation and general appellate litigation. She says she anticipates the 1997 legislative session in Florida.

Outside of her professional life, Blanton has a keen interest in education and says that much of the criticism of public education can be avoided with parent involvement. Last year, she served on the Heterogeneous Task Force at Raa Middle School in Tallahassee, a group charged with reviewing a controversial administrative decision to abolish division of students by skill level.



FIREFIGHTER II AWARDS - These Kings Mountain firemen have certified as Firefighters II after completing over 500 hours of training and received hats at a recent supper at the Kings Mountain Fire Department. Front row, from left, Lt. Bobby King, Assistant Chief Johnnie Caldwell, Captain Joe Hamrick, David Ayscue and Chief Frank Burns; and back row, Claude Clark, Roger Moore, Willard Yarborough Jr. and John Wright.

Adjustment board okays variance

A variance to the city's side-yard setback requirements was approved by the KM Board of Adjustment Tuesday morning on request of Matthew C. Wood.

Wood is adding to his residence at 614 Meadowbrook Road.

Planning Director Steve Killian said the board issued a three foot side yard setback after a public hearing in which no one spoke in opposition to the expansion.

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Barber shop to build in Kings Mountain

Recycling of former city property has resulted in new construction.

Planning Director Steve Killian said that the most recent building activity is for a barber shop being planned by Georgia and Noble Guest at North Cansler and West King Street. The Guests bought a piece of property from the city which

had been acquired through Housing & Urban Development and they purchased it at tax value.

Killian said that grading is underway at the site.

Killian said that several homes have gone up on Cook Circle on former redevelopment property owned by the city.

Pottery display set at The Arts Center

Cleveland County Arts Council will host a pottery display featuring the works of 23 Western North Carolina potters February 6-March 6 at the Arts Center, 111 South Washington Street, Shelby. There will be an opening "Meet the Artist" reception February 6 from 5-8 p.m.

Local potters displaying are Hal Dedmon of Shelby, George

Foster of Bessemer City, Ronald Jordan of Shelby, Brenda London of Shelby, Kaye Lowery of Shelby, Evylee McBrayer of Kings Mountain, Ron Philbeck of Shelby, Carl Pruett of Shelby, Tina Rucker of Shelby, and Connie Rupprecht of Shelby.

Gallery hours are Monday-Friday 10 a.m.-4 p.m. For more information, call 484-2787.

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