



Knox Law Center

Knox, Brotherton, Knox & Godfrey

*Perfecting the Practice of Law - Let us be your
Voice*



Spring has finally arrived and we at the Knox Law Center want to take a moment and thank you for your continued patronage. Please remember to follow us on both Facebook and Twitter and do not hesitate to email us with any legal questions that may present themselves in your daily lives. We are happy to take the time to help our clients both present and past.

Congratulations to H. Edward Knox and Frances Knox!



The American Society of Legal Advocates has selected both Eddie and Frances Knox as **“Top 100 Litigation Lawyer(s)”** in the State of North Carolina for the year 2013. The ASLA researched tens of thousands of attorneys over a period of six months and selects “less than 2% of lawyers overall.” So congratulations to Eddie and Frances for being recognized by the ASLA for your outstanding achievement in the field of Civil Litigation!



Fifth Annual Spring Spirit 5K @ S. Ray Lowder Elementary School in Lincolnton

Written by Mary Bolynn, NCCP and Participant

On March 16, 2013, S. Ray Lowder Elementary School in Lincolnton held its fifth annual Spring Spirit 5K race. Knox, Brotherton, Knox & Godfrey was proud to sponsor this event as well as have two of our paralegals participate in the race. Mary Bolynn and Sherry M. Crump (pictured Right) were two of the 427 participants. Medals were given to all children that participated and the top three finishers in each

age group. Funds raised from the event will help the school purchase classroom supplies and technology upgrades.

Concealed Carry Permits

Written by Michael G. Knox, Attorney at Law



With so much in the news concerning the recently defeated gun control legislation in the U.S. Senate by a vote of 54-46, we thought it would be good to let you know where the law stands in North Carolina. The proposal that was defeated would have expanded the background checks currently required, to include not just licensed gun dealers, but also sellers operating at gun shows and over the internet. The bill also provided for limiting the

magazine size for a gun to ten (10) rounds. The one portion that did pass was the increase in reporting on the mentally ill. However, in that the bill failed, none of the provisions will be implemented and the discussion has been shelved for now.

To purchase a handgun in North Carolina, you must obtain a gun permit from the Sheriff of the county in which you reside. You do not need a permit to purchase a rifle or shotgun.

The requirements for the Purchase Permit are as follows:

- The applicant must be a citizen or resident alien;
- Twenty-one (21) years old;
- Resident of the county;
- Provide a picture I.D. or Driver's License issued by the State;
- Complete a criminal background check;

If the Sheriff is fully satisfied as to the good moral character of the applicant, and the applicant satisfies the above requirements, a permit may be issued. The permit is valid for five (5) years. However, for good cause, a permit may be denied. The Sheriff is to notify the applicant within seven (7) days of a denial. The applicant may appeal the decision of the Sheriff to the Chief District Court Judge for the district.

A Purchase Permit may not be issued to the following:

- Someone under indictment or who has been convicted of a felony, excepting some white collar crimes.
- Someone who is a fugitive
- Someone who is an unlawful user of drugs or addicted to a drug
- Someone adjudicated mentally incompetent or one who has been committed to a mental institution
- Someone dishonorably discharged from the military
- Someone who has renounced their citizenship
- Someone who is under a court restraining order prohibiting them from harassing, stalking, or threatening an intimate partner or child, commonly referred to as a Domestic Violence Restraining Order.

The recent shootings in Newtown at the Sandy Hook School also seemed to raise the public concern about access to weapons. The reaction was twofold; an outcry for more restrictive gun measures to be taken, and an increase in consumer demand for handguns and concealed carry permits.

North Carolina Concealed Carry Permit, in addition to the requirements for a purchase permit, include the following:

- Must not suffer from a physical/mental infirmity that would prevent the safe gun handling
- Must have successfully completed an approved firearms safety and training course which involves the actual firing of handguns and instruction in the law with regard to carrying a concealed weapon and the use of deadly force
- Must not have pled or been found guilty of, or had a prayer for judgment continued for a violent misdemeanor
- Does not have pending disqualifying criminal offenses
- Must not have had a driving while impaired conviction within three (3) years of the application
- Must not have any other federal or state law that would disqualify them from owning or possessing a firearm

In addition, the applicant is fingerprinted and must provide a release to the Sheriff which authorizes disclosure of any records concerning the mental health or capacity of the applicant. Recently, there was an article in the Charlotte Observer in regard to the Sheriff denying permits and the appeal process to the Chief District Court Judge. Much of the focus of the article was denials based on mental health records. In many instances the Sheriff's decision was overturned. If you have a question involving an issue about gun permits, give us a call.

Top 40 Academic Achievers in Lincoln County

We would like to congratulate the Top 40 Academic Achievers from East Lincoln, North Lincoln, Lincolnton and West Lincoln High Schools for the 2013 school year. We are proud and honored to be a sponsor of the **Annual Academic Achievement Awards Banquet** being

held in honor of these students on **May 21, 2013, 7:00 pm, at the James W. Warren Citizens Center.** The banquet and ceremony are being organized by the Lincoln County Chamber and the Lincoln County Board of Education and all students will be recognized with certificates to memorialize their outstanding achievements.

Congratulations to Intern Serena Ghaemizadeh, the Newest Edition to “Live With Kelly & Michael”



Congratulations go out to Serena Ghaemizadeh (left) for being selected out of 300 applicants to intern with ABC’s “Live with Kelly & Michael” during the Fall of 2013. Serena will be living in New York City this Fall during her internship. We



are so very proud of her and will be looking forward to hearing about her NYC experience.

New “Tags & Tax System” for NC Drivers

Written by Sherry M. Crump, NCCP



The way you pay your vehicle property taxes and register your vehicles is about to change. Say goodbye to paying taxes and registration separately and welcome the “New Tags & Tax system” passed by the NC General Assembly. Effective July 1, 2013, the NC DMV will assume responsibility for collecting the motor vehicle taxes. Currently the county is responsible for tax collection.

How will this affect you? You may find that you have to pay the property tax on your vehicle earlier this year. Rather than receiving a notice for your vehicle registration and a separate notice months later for registration renewal you will now receive a single combined notice. Remember: you cannot renew your vehicle registration unless the taxes and registration fees on the vehicle are paid.

If the DMV has your correct address on file, then you can expect a Tax & Tag Notice via USPS advising of both registration and taxes due. Drivers can expect to receive the notice approximately 6 days prior to registration renewal.

For more information, please click on the link below:
<http://www.ncdot.gov/dmv/vehicle/tagtax/>

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