

**RESOLUTION OF MECKLENBURG COUNTY BAR BOARD OF DIRECTORS
REGARDING PROPOSED DUES INCREASE**

WHEREAS, the Mecklenburg County Bar (MCB) is projecting a budget deficit in 2012; and
WHEREAS, the MCB Bar Staff and Board have explored and implemented options to increase revenues and hold down expenses; and

WHEREAS, the size of the MCB has increased by 1,000 members in the past 10 years; and

WHEREAS, MCB membership dues have not increased in 10 years; and

WHEREAS, in the past 20 years MCB membership dues have increased by a total of \$50; and

WHEREAS, less than 40% of the Bar's annual budget comes from membership dues; and

WHEREAS, the MCB has maximized non-dues income through CLE and other sources and consistently maintained expenses below budget; and

WHEREAS, the MCB has explored and implemented CLE tuition breaks and other tuition benefits in an effort to recognize the financial constraints on public sector attorneys and other attorneys of limited means; and

WHEREAS, the NC State Bar has declared the MCB is prohibited by law from implementing a tiered dues structure based upon financial means; and

WHEREAS, to better serve its members and to enable the MCB to host larger CLE and other revenue producing events, the MCB needs a larger and less functionally obsolete Bar Center; and

WHEREAS, the current Bar Center is owned by the Mecklenburg Bar Foundation and leased to the MCB; and

WHEREAS, the Mecklenburg Bar Foundation has voted to sell the current Bar Center with the goal of purchasing a larger, more effective Bar Center sufficient to support the current needs of the MCB; and

WHEREAS, the MCB has determined that leasing space from the Mecklenburg Bar Foundation will result in cost savings as compared to leasing office space in or near uptown Charlotte; and

WHEREAS, a 2008 space-need analysis conducted by the architectural firm Gantt-Huberman concluded that current Bar Facility has less than one half of the square footage needed; and

WHEREAS, the results of a 2008 MCB survey of members reflect a desire for more networking and CLE opportunities that additional facility space will accommodate; and


WHEREAS, the current Bar Center is aging and requires ever-increasing expenditure of funds for maintenance and upkeep; and

WHEREAS, the current Bar Center has inadequate parking space which precludes large-scale CLE and networking events; and

WHEREAS, a future Bar Center will provide improved services to MCB members, including more networking and social events, CLE opportunities, member meeting and conference space and additional parking; and

WHEREAS, the MCB Board of Directors, after extensive review and deliberation, has determined that a dues increase is necessary.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the MCB Board of Directors hereby re-affirms the Board's January 21, 2010 unanimous vote to endorse a dues increase, and hereby unanimously recommends to the members of the MCB a dues increase to \$225 effective July 1, 2010.



Signature
Patrick E. Kelly
Mecklenburg County Bar President
on behalf of the Board of Directors