

James Scott Farrin Attorney Reaches Out To New Lawyers



Released on: January 06, 2010, 6:29 am

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Industry: [Law](#)

Sean Cole, a personal injury attorney at the Law Offices of James Scott Farrin, spoke at a seminar sponsored by the North Carolina Advocates for Justice (NCAJ) titled "Trying Your First Case." The event was held at NCAJ headquarters in Raleigh on Sept. 18.

The seminar covered topics ranging from preparing for the trial to continued vigilance after the trial is over. Cole focused his talk on jury selection and the presentation and handling of witnesses and evidence.

"There is absolutely no substitute for trial experience," he said. "But to get ready for that, you have to hear from people who already have it."

The seminar was designed around a member-identified need for more education on practical trial skills. While the majority of the approximately 20 participants were new to the field of law, several were seasoned attorneys who just didn't have a lot of trial experience.

Despite a full caseload at the Law Offices of James Scott Farrin, Cole says he will always make time to help the NCAJ pursue its Continuing Legal Education (CLE) functions.

"When I just started as an attorney, I'd go to a lot of CLE programs, especially those given by the NCAJ," said Cole, a 12-year legal veteran. "I was impressed by how many great attorneys were taking the time to teach and share their experiences just to help others become better lawyers. I knew it would be important to give back one day."

The Law Offices of James Scott Farrin encourages its attorneys to become involved with NCAJ, and the firm as a whole is a member of the group's Leader's Forum – the highest level of firm financial contribution recognized by the NCAJ. Most of the firm's attorneys are NCAJ members, several of whom hold leadership positions.

Cole is extremely active in the NCAJ. He recently received an Order of Service Award from the organization for his contributions to advancing its mission of protecting people's rights. Other James Scott Farrin attorneys who received Order of Service Awards included: James S. Farrin, Michael Jordan, J. Stewart Clontz and Rick Fleming. Cole currently serves as a member of the Education Committee and is the Listserve Security Officer for the Auto Torts Executive Committee. In addition, he was Editor in Chief of the NCAJ's newly released North Carolina Manual of Complaints– 3rd Ed. Over the years, he has presented at more than a dozen NCAJ Continuing Legal Education programs.

NCAJ was formed more than 45 years ago as a nonprofit, nonpartisan association dedicated to protecting people's rights through professional and community legal education, championing individual rights, and protecting the safety of North Carolina's families.

ABOUT THE FIRM

Founded: 1997 by James S. Farrin, Duke University School of Law, J.D. (1990) in Durham

Number of employees: Approximately 130, including 24 attorneys. Approximately 20 staff members are fluently bilingual, speaking English and Spanish.

Offices: 13 statewide, including Durham, Raleigh, Charlotte, Fayetteville, Greensboro, Greenville, Goldsboro, Henderson, New Bern, Roanoke Rapids, Rocky Mount, Sanford, Wilson

Major practice areas: Personal Injury, Intellectual Property, Civil Rights, Social Security, Workers' Compensation

Website: <http://www.farrin.com>

Presently leading one of the largest civil rights cases in United States history: In re Black Farmers Discrimination Litigation, Case No. 08-mc-0511 (PLF) (D.D.C.), which deals with the United States Department of Agriculture's discrimination against African-American farmers.

The firm's many philanthropic pursuits include Duke Children's Hospital, The Leukemia and Lymphoma Society, and Mothers Against Drunk Driving. The firm has a matching-gift program wherein it matches an employee's philanthropic contributions.

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