

Wayne Goodwin

State Representative Wayne Goodwin was born in 1967 in Hamlet, North Carolina. Growing up there, Wayne graduated from Richmond Senior High School after serving as student body president and valedictorian of his 1985 graduating class. Wayne then attended the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill on a Morehead Scholarship and on the U.S. Senate/William Randolph Hearst Scholarship. After graduating with honors in Political Science, he attended UNC School of Law, graduating in 1992. During his years at UNC, Wayne also became a Fellow of the Institute of Political Leadership in Wilmington.

Wayne and his wife, Melanie, operate Goodwin Law Offices in Hamlet. There he concentrates on employment law. Respected by his peers in the legal community, Wayne, is Past President of the Richmond County Bar Association.

Over the years, Wayne has remained active in civic and volunteer work. He is an active member of various service organizations in Richmond County, as well as across North Carolina. For his service, the North Carolina Jaycees named him one of its top five Outstanding Young North Carolinians in 1995. Governor Jim Hunt recognized him as well for his volunteer service to victims of domestic abuse and the homeless. In response to his concern for the children of our state, Wayne was appointed to the Board of Directors of the Methodist Home for Children in Raleigh. He has been a member of the adjunct faculty at Richmond Community College for several years and served as President of the Young Democrats of North Carolina from 1995 through 1997. He is also a member in the Chamber of Commerce in both Richmond and Scotland Counties.

Wayne has represented the Sandhills area in the North Carolina General Assembly since January 1997. During his service, he has shown leadership in many areas, including education, workplace safety, environmental concerns, emerging electronic commerce issues and economic development and community development in rural North Carolina. He is Chairman of the General Assembly's Occupational Safety and Health Committee.

Wayne is married to the former Melanie Wade. They live in Rockingham with their daughter, Madison, and attend First United Methodist Church in Rockingham.

David Curtis Smith

A native of Banner Elk, North Carolina, David is a graduate of the North Carolina School of Science and Mathematics, North Carolina's statewide public residential high school for academically gifted students. He earned his Bachelor of Arts degree in Political Science from the University of North Carolina, Chapel Hill in 1991 and completed his law degree from North Carolina Central University School of Law's competitive Evening Program in 1999 while working full-time.

For over 15 years, David has worked on matters related to health care policy and regulation. In the early 1990's, David served as policy and research advisor to Lieutenant Governor Dennis A Wicker, during which he was responsible for drafting North Carolina's major revisions to the Small Group Health Insurance Reform laws. He also served as policy director for the State Health Plan Purchasing Alliance Board, coordinating relations with numerous health insurers, agent associations and other major constituencies during the start-up of the Caroliance program, North Carolina's experiment in health insurance purchasing cooperatives.

From 1997 until 2002, David worked with Blue Cross and Blue Shield of North Carolina, the state's major health insurer, in numerous capacities in the sales and marketing division. During his last three years, David coordinated relationships with producers throughout the state and developed one of the best-in-class agency performance management tools for the insurer. In addition, he was responsible for managing numerous major projects, including creation of a coordinated business support unit for agents as well as the transition of 12,000 Conseco policyholders to BCBSNC.

He began full-time practice of law in 2002, with the formation of The Benefit & Insurance Law Center (BenInsLaw), as a law and consulting firm focusing on serving the needs of employers, insurance agents, and plan administrators throughout North Carolina and the United States. As a part of his active practice, David works with the NC Department of Insurance on issues affecting small groups and agents within North Carolina.

Simultaneously, his broader practice of law fell under the firm of David Curtis Smith & Associates, PLLC, which was a general practice located in Durham, North Carolina. The firm was successful in representing clients in a variety of matters, including estate administration, personal injury and business litigation.

David joined the firm of Herring, McBennett, Mills & Kratt, PLLC in January 2007. There his practice focuses on employee benefits and insurance-related matters as well as employment law defense work and civil litigation. Today his clients include a number of the largest health insurance agencies throughout North Carolina and the Southeast region and a

growing number of employers from around the state. He has also authored articles in national magazines on the impact of the new privacy rule on agents and employers throughout the United States and speaking nationally on issues related to insurance agents and agencies.

David has been a member of the North Carolina State Bar since 1999 and is licensed to practice before its state and federal courts. He is a member of the Durham County, North Carolina (Employment Law Section) and American Bar Associations (Labor and Employee Benefits Sections).

David is also a very active member of the National Association of Health Underwriters, serving in leadership positions at the local, state and national levels for the organization. He is currently President-Elect of the North Carolina Association of Health Underwriters (which he will be President of in 2008-09), where he will be the first non-agent president of the association. He is also licensed as a continuing education provider in four states and the District of Columbia and is an affiliate member of the Independent Insurance Agents of North Carolina and the North Carolina Association of Insurance and Financial Advisors.

He currently serves as Chairman of the Finance Committee of the North Carolina School of Science and Mathematics Board of Trustees, Secretary of the Board of Trustees for Duke School for Children, and a member of the Technology Advisory Committee for the North Carolina Bar Association. David formerly served as President of one of Durham's most prestigious neighborhood associations, a member of the General Statutes Commission and the State Governing Board for Common Cause of North Carolina. He has also previously served as Chairman of the Durham Area Transit Authority and as one of two David Smiths on the Durham City-County Merger Commission in 2000.

He has two amazing children, Mary Kathryn (9) and Drew (6). He is also an avid reader, a technology "nut," has won an award for renovations at his office/house from the Durham Historic Preservation Society and wrote a number of articles for the recently published Encyclopedia of North Carolina.

John Odom

Files for North Carolina Insurance Commissioner

Raleigh, NC: John Odom, former Raleigh Mayor Pro-tem and five term City Councilman, filed today for North Carolina Commissioner of Insurance.

"I pledge to run as a candidate for the people and not the special interests," John Odom said. "The people of North Carolina have had enough of rising insurance rates and lack of concern from the Department of Insurance. I'm running because the people need someone that will listen and respond to their insurance needs."

"North Carolina has changed over the past 20 years but the Department of Insurance has not changed with the times. We need to simplify and modernize the antiquated insurance system that we now endure. We need to look at a free market system to enhance insurance competition in this state."

"If elected Insurance Commissioner, I will work to improve our insurance department and make it responsive to the people. I want to put my business experience to work for the people."

John Odom is a native of Scotland County (Wagram, NC) where his father served for 28 years as the chief deputy sheriff. His mother was a Democrat legislator in the North Carolina General Assembly. Odom is married to Hoke County Linda Calligan. The Odom's reside in Raleigh. They have two children and two grandchildren. He is a widely respected small business owner and leader with over 34 years experience in running successful business enterprises. He currently owns three Meineke Muffler franchises in the Raleigh area. Odom also serves as executive director of the Greater Raleigh Merchants Association, which he has led for the past 13 years.

"I'm looking forward to the next eight months and campaigning in all 100 counties of North Carolina," Odom remarked.

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