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## **Board of Ethics Welcomes New Chairman and At-Large Member**

The Board of Ethics is back at full strength. Governor Mike Easley has appointed Judge Robert L. Farmer as the Board's new chairman to replace the late George F. Bason. At the same time, the Governor appointed Robert W. Barber to fill the Board's sole remaining vacant position. Please see their brief biographical sketches below.

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### **Robert L. "Bob" Farmer**

The Board of Ethics is extremely pleased to welcome Judge Farmer as its 7th chairman. He brings a wealth of experience to the job.

He served as a Superior Court Judge for 26 years and represented Wake County in the NC House of Representatives from 1970 to 1977 where he chaired the Judiciary III and Finance Committees. While in the House, he sponsored legislation that created ethics laws for the Legislature.

"As a former legislator, attorney and Superior Court Judge, Judge Farmer brings more than 40 years of experience to lead this board. More importantly, he brings a lifetime of integrity to a very critical role," Governor Easley said.

He is a former solicitor of the Wake County Domestic Relations Court and former attorney for the Wake County Board of Education. He is currently a certified mediator and arbitrator, a member of the Raleigh Kiwanis Club, and a Sunday School teacher at Hayes Barton United Methodist Church.

A Johnston County native, Judge Farmer received both his undergraduate and law degrees from the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill.

He is married to Martha Lassiter Farmer. They have three children and six beautiful grandchildren.

### **Robert W. "Bob" Barber**

Bob Barber grew up on the family farm in Johnston County. He was graduated from the University of North Carolina School of Pharmacy and went to work at NC Memorial Hospital until entering the U.S. Army and Army Reserve from 1960 to 1966. He was commissioned a First Lieutenant prior to completing his military service in 1966.

After completing his military service, Mr. Barber returned briefly to Memorial Hospital and then accepted employment as a retail pharmacist in Raleigh where he worked for nearly 12 years.

In 1974 he began his long career with the State Bureau of Investigation. He began as the NC Drug Authority's (later renamed the Drug Commission) contract representative on the SBI's Diversion Investigation Unit, investigating the diversion of controlled substances from their legitimate path and use. One year later he joined the SBI, and after attending the SBI Academy, he was sworn-in as a Special Agent. He retired after 20 years of dedicated service in 1995. After retiring, Mr. Barber continued working on the SBI's successful CALEA (Commission on Accreditation for Law Enforcement Agencies) accreditation.

He is married to Elizabeth Taylor Barber and has two wonderful step-children. He is the proud Grandpa to three grandchildren.