

## Adam Kleemeier Hagan Hannah and Fouts History

**In celebration of the Greensboro office's 50th Anniversary, attorney Walter Hannah wrote this history of Adam Kleemeier Hagan Hannah and Fouts prior to its merger with Nexsen Pruet.**

Huger Sinkler King was a native of Darlington, South Carolina and attended the University of South Carolina both undergraduate and law. He had married into the Richardson-Carlson family and began the practice of law in Greensboro, North Carolina with Mr. Clifford Frazier, Sr. He was Mayor of the City of Greensboro when World War II started and resigned to enter the United States Navy where he commanded a destroyer and attained the rank of Lt. Commander.

When he returned to Greensboro following his service in the U.S. Navy, he practiced with Mr. R.R. King, Jr. for several years then joined with Jack Kleemeier and Charlie Hagan in the firm of King, Kleemeier & Hagan.

Charles T. Hagan, Jr., a native of Greensboro, attended both Women's College of the University of North Carolina and the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill in his undergraduate days. He then attended the University of Virginia School of Law from which he graduated.

He was in the 1st Platoon Leader's School of the United States Marine Corp. and during World War II was activated and sent, with a platoon, to Brazil. In Brazil he contracted malaria and, while on leave and in the Wesley Long Hospital married Virginia Blair Carter. He was sent to Hawaii where he was on the staff of the 4th Division of the United States Marine Corp. and, in that position, was in the planning for the invasion of Japan.

In 1945 he returned to Greensboro where he picked up again in the practice of law until 1948 when he was elected Solicitor. At the end of his term on December 31, 1954, he participated in the formation of King, Kleemeier & Hagan. He stayed active with the Marine Reserve and rose to the rank of Major General.

John A. Kleemeier, Jr. joined the firm of Tillett, Tillett & Kennedy in Charlotte in 1935 and practiced there until 1938 when he returned to Greensboro and opened his own practice.

In 1942, Jack joined the United States Navy and was assigned to an intelligence unit in Charleston, South Carolina. The unit commander was Clement Hainesworth, later Chief Judge of the United States Fourth Circuit Court of Appeals. Jack had sea duty on the USS Quincy, which carried President Roosevelt to the meeting in Yalta.

In 1945, Jack returned to the practice of law and shared offices with Charles T. Hagan, Jr. until Mr. Hagan became Solicitor (now District Attorney) in 1947.

Jack graduated from Davidson College and the University of North Carolina Law School in 1935. However, he was licensed to practice on August 23, 1934. Jack, and his classmate Bill Markham, formed a firm in

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Chapel Hill during their senior year in law school.

In October, 1954, Jack Kleemeier called me into his office to inform me that Huger, Charlie and Jack were forming a law firm as of January 1, 1955. They invited me to join them as an associate. I had been sharing offices with Jack and Charlie for a year, although Charlie did not use his office as he was Solicitor (now District Attorney). He informed me that they could not offer me more than \$250.00 per month as they were new to the game of a firm as opposed to sole practitioners.

On January 1, 1955, the firm opened its offices with two secretaries and four lawyers. We quickly added another secretary.

In March, 1956, Mr. King asked me to come into his office and told me that Bill Adams was joining the firm and that his name would come before Jack Kleemeier's as Bill had been licensed longer. He also told me that they would not bring anyone in over me in the future.

In the fall of 1958, Mr. King announced that he was withdrawing from the firm as he had been requested to become President of Richardson Corporation and, due to family connections, he could not refuse. So the firm became Adams, Kleemeier & Hagan.

In early 1958, Durwood Spencer Jones had been hired as the second associate. He had been head cheerleader in his undergraduate days during the Justice Weiner era.

Daniel Watson Fouts was hired in 1959 as an associate after clerking at the North Carolina Supreme Court.

In 1963, I became a named partner in the firm and in 1964 Dan became a named partner.