

NCLC is most proud
to honor Mal
Maynard with the
2007 Vern
Countryman Award.

Each year the National
Consumer Law Center honors
the accomplishments of an
exceptional consumer attorney
who, through the practice of
consumer law, has contributed
significantly to the well being of
vulnerable consumers.

"Mallam Maynard is a piper of consumer law,
inspiring others to take up the
cause and training lawyers
and housing counselors
across the country. He has
undertaken groundbreaking
work with national impact for
low-income consumers,
including creative and
important payday lending
and mobile home cases. He
commands universal respect.
He is an exceptional human
being, and a distinguished,
compassionate advocate.
We're pleased to present
him with the Vern
Countryman Award."
Willard P. Ogburn,
NCLC Executive Director

Mallam J. Maynard

2007 Recipient

Vern Countryman Award

Although space constraints prevent us from including all the laudatory remarks we received on Mal's behalf, we share with you comments from a few of his colleagues who know him best.

The leader and soul of consumer law advocacy in North Carolina

"While he would be the last person to lay claim to his legacy, Mal is and for many years has been the leader and 'soul' of consumer law advocacy in North Carolina. He is that rare person who has demonstrated an enduring commitment, outstanding legal skills, and exemplary ethical and professional conduct in service to his community; at the same time his genuine compassion and kind nature inspire all who have the privilege to work with him...Mal has been a true beacon of justice and incredible role model for others dedicated to social and economic justice." *William J. Whalen*

Zealous and distinguished consumer advocate

"Mal has been a zealous and distinguished consumer advocate for over 20 years...He has successfully represented hundreds of low-income clients in cases brought in defense of foreclosure or mobile home repossession. He also litigates cases involving predatory mortgage lending and manufactured housing defects...opposing lawyers lament that Mal is incapable of drafting a complaint of less than 100 paragraphs. That is a testament to Mal's penchant for complex consumer law litigation that few lawyers have the passion, courage, or expertise to undertake...Mal has the remarkable capacity to empathize with the daily challenges of a client in severe economic distress. No matter the legal complexities or the policy impact at stake in any given case, Mal never forgets the particular situation of each client and never loses sight of what is in the client's best interest." *Maria D. McIntyre*

What would Mal do?

"He is truly an honor to the legal profession as well as to the practice of consumer law. I can think of no one more compassionate about the work we do, and no one more humble and deserving of this award...Mal has practiced in all areas of consumer law and works tirelessly on any case he takes on. His work, however, goes far beyond his individual advocacy. His pleadings and theories have helped countless advocates across the state, and even the country. Mal is always willing to help other lawyers, and will take the time to send helpful pleadings or briefs, no matter how busy he is with his own caseload.

"When confronted by a challenge in a particular case, whether it is a legal or ethical dilemma, I find myself asking "What would Mal do?"

Carlene McNulty

**Awards
Luncheon
12 noon
Saturday,
November 10,
2007**

**Former
Countryman
Recipients**

F. Paul Bland
Irv Ackelsberg
Gail Hillebrand
Dan Hedges
Joanne Faulkner
Lynn Drysdale
Richard Rubin
Kathleen Keest
Alan Alop
David Ramp
Elizabeth Imholz
Jim Sturdevant
Pat Sturdevant
Mike Ferry
Bill Brennan
Carolyn Carter
Margot Saunders
Henry Sommer

Everyone pays close attention to Mal

"Mal is a bit of a rarity: he is a man who is invariably spoken of in remarkably favorable terms, and then when you get to actually meet him and work with him you realize that the real man is even more impressive than his outsized reputation...Mal is also a thoughtful strategist who is thinking of the long-term implications of every argument and case in which he participates. He usually speaks with a calm and measured integrity, but when Mal speaks it's like the old TV advertisement: everyone pays close attention."
F. Paul Bland

Mal dreams of attacking predatory lending

"Mal's ability to explain complex lending practices and the legal theories to attack them is legendary...Some of us believe that Mal never stops thinking of ways to attack unfair and predatory lending practices. I suspect he even dreams of ways to do so. He has been at the forefront of developing legal theories as defenses and counterclaims in predatory lending cases. Most importantly, he shares those ideas unselfishly with his colleagues in the legal aid world."
Celia Pistolis

By teaching, he has magnified his impact

"Watching him, and listening to him [during shared trainings on foreclosure prevention], one can sense his acute zeal for justice. His demonstrative outrage at the abuses he details helps keep the room buzzing...He inspires, he challenges folks to want to learn more, and he reinforces a sense of mission...He imparts a sense of hope that even amidst a seemingly intractable sub-prime mortgages crisis, just one client helped remains a worthwhile accomplishment. By teaching, he has magnified his impact through these counselors to thousands of homeowners across the country."
Mark Benson

A model for us all to aspire to

"Mal Maynard embodies what consumer advocates should do and be...Mal is a fearless and gifted litigator, repeatedly taking consumer cases to juries and winning...Mal's work has included impact litigation establishing important principles for consumer remedies and substantial class actions, providing real relief - not coupons - for thousands of families...Equally important...has been his teaching of consumer law to thousands across the country. In addition, Mal has served as pro bono counsel for many non-profit organizations, and was the leading force behind the creation of affordable housing apartments for senior citizens in Wilmington. Finally, Mal has done all of this with a trueness of purpose, and humility and grace that few can match...He is a model for us all to aspire to."
Mike Calhoun