

# For the Long Run

## A Passion to Serve

Bob McIntosh's goal of helping people in this area hasn't wavered in 21 years

Bob McIntosh wears a casual button-down shirt and khakis as he sits in his Davidson office. Stacks of papers cover the Mecklenburg County native's desk, as the founder of The McIntosh Law Firm explains how his practice began 21 years ago.

"I spent one morning in traffic on I-77. It took me 45 minutes to get from Exit 28 to just north of Exit 16, and what had traffic stalled was a very large boat had come off the trailer and was sitting in the median in the interstate," explains McIntosh, who was commuting to Charlotte to practice law at the time. "Everybody was stopped to look at a boat sitting in the median, and I said, 'This is shortening my life for no reason. I'm going to move the office to Davidson.'"

McIntosh says leaving his partners he had worked with for about eight years was the hardest thing he's ever done professionally, but he was committed to making things work in Davidson. He and two associates started working in 900 square feet in Heritage Plaza by Carolina Cones.

"We had five people in two rooms, and we were working off fold-up tables because that was the only office space available at the time," says McIntosh, who focuses on civil litigation, collections, trust administration, law firm management, and business and transactional law.

After moving to a bigger office at Davidson South Main near Fuel Pizza, he eventually set up shop in his current location at Davidson Cotton Mill, a building he now owns.



Bob McIntosh

Bob McIntosh serves the community in all sorts of ways through The McIntosh Law Firm in Davidson.

Regardless of the location, McIntosh says that service has always been the mission of the firm. "We're not your standard law firm. Some people would look at us and say, 'That's not what I would expect in a lawyer, and I can understand that,'" he says. "We believe in getting down in the weeds with a client and getting the job done. We're not about billable hours here. ... We look at the problem and try to fashion a resolution that they're going to be satisfied with and happy to have."

There are nine attorneys, including McIntosh, in the firm, as well as 40 staff members. "I tend to let people do their own thing. I don't micromanage the practice," explains McIntosh. "I try to provide an environment

where they can come in and be successful. We can have referrals back and forth to one another and support each other's practices."

Being part of The McIntosh Law Firm also means being part of the community, and McIntosh sets the bar high by being involved with all sorts of nonprofits in the area. He recently wrote the forward to Nancy Snell Griffith's book, *Ada Jenkins: The Heart of the Matter* about Ada Jenkins Center in Davidson and attends many of the book signings. He's active with Historic Rural Hill, as his ancestors on both sides date back to the 1700s in this area. He's a Freemason and an Eagle Scout who devotes a lot of

time to the University of North Carolina School of Law, his alma mater.

"I could have gone anywhere to practice, but I wanted to come back here because here's home. Ninety percent of my family either lives or is buried within 25 miles of where you're sitting, and it's been that way since the 1700s," says McIntosh. "There's just something special about this area that attracts me and gives me the passion to serve the people of this area."

— Lori K. Tate, photography by Allison Hinman

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