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Biography Questionnaire: Robert Epting (BOB)

When did you start your position or role within the organization (and at your job)?

I began practicing law in Chapel Hill in 1973, after leaving my position as a member of the faculty of the Institute of Government at UNC. Joe Hackney joined me in 1974, when we founded EPTING & HACKNEY, which just celebrated its thirtieth anniversary as a Chapel Hill law firm last Spring.

I am an environmental lawyer, and continue to have an active trial practice.

What was your background and where are you from originally?

I grew up in High Point, managed to graduate from High School at High Point Central, and somehow got into UNC, where I had hoped to play football, but was unable because of knee injury in my last high school football game. I got both my undergraduate and law degrees at UNC.

I have spent most of my vacation and leisure time at Lake Hickory since 1965. My college roommate and (present next-door neighbor on Lake Hickory) was from Taylorsville, and both my brothers graduated from Lenoir Rhyne College, and so I have been connected to this community for more than forty years.

Why are you interested in this line of work or organization?

I went to law school because I perceived I could work as a lawyer and make a positive difference in my community.

In 2002, I was inducted into the General Practice Hall of Fame by the North Carolina State Bar Association, the youngest member ever to attain this distinction, among less than one hundred inductees.

What awards or recognitions have you earned in recent years?

Numerous public service awards from Sertoma International, local and state Rape Crisis intervention programs, Family Violence Prevention Center, State Crime Victim's Support Network, State Attorney General's Office for Environmental Activities,, Governor's Office in Environmental and Conservation Affairs, Natural Resources Defense Council for Environmental Affairs, received National Humanitarian

of the Year Award by the EAA in connection with the Young Eagles Program for extending program to UNC Burn Center victims, and Burn Center victims across the country, and for having flown more than 2,000 children as Young Eagles, fifth most in the United States.

Any other significant work experiences?

Began legal career as an instructor in law enforcement schools, including Highway Patrol, SBI, Forestry Officers, Wildlife Officers while attending UNC Law School; served for ten years as a member of the State Environmental Management Commission; founded and am still Captain of the Neuse River Air Squadron, which makes environmental monitoring flights from New Bern to the Coast to monitor and report river pollution, and the Cape Fear River Squadron, which does the same thing down the Haw and Deep Rivers, into the Cape fear to the Coast.

I also served on the NC Environmental Management Commission from 1992 until 2002, where I served as Vice Chair of the Water Quality Committee, and Ground Water Committee.

How would you sum up your feelings about the importance of your job and your commitment to it? (One or two sentences only please.)

I am the luckiest guy in the world to be able to l do the work I do, and to fly my Piper Cub and Arrow airplanes in service to the people of the State.

Do you have family locally?

No. I am divorced from a very lovely wife, who no longer lives in Chapel Hill. I have no kids, except the several thousand who have flown with me.