

Elon University School of Law

Contact: Waneta Ellis  
Cell Phone: (910) 200-7832  
Email: [wellis2@elon.edu](mailto:wellis2@elon.edu)

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

## ELON LAW V. CHARLOTTE LAW INTER-LAW SCHOOL POKER TOURNAMENT

Elon University School of Law will host the second inter-law school poker tournament against Charlotte School of Law on Saturday April 4, 2009 at 1:00 p.m. The students at Elon Law and Charlotte Law began a tradition of a friendly Saturday poker game to enhance their understanding of the skills associated with poker and the use of those skills in the courtroom.

The mission of the Elon University School of Law chapter of the Global Poker Strategic Thinking Society is to facilitate learning about the strategic aspects of practicing law through a common forum. As lawyers, each student will be faced with strategic challenges. They will be faced with choices between recommending trial or accepting settlements; what cause of action is best for their clients; whether or not to object, and many other decisions that will impact cases. Often, the strategies employed will be based on the behavior of opponents and on the barest of information. Poker, as a game of skill involving similar decision-making situations in a limited-information environment, provides a model from which law students may hone their strategic thinking skills.

Charlotte Law professor John Kunich states that "A good poker player, like a good lawyer, thinks about what the other side might have and why they are still in the game. You figure out if you have the advantage or not," he explained. "That's taking it to the next level, and a lot of people never get beyond that in law or in poker. So they lose."

The same mistakes that will impact the credibility of a lawyer in the courtroom will also have a negative impact on the reputation of a poker player. Law students are encouraged to master skills that will make them effective advocates while learning to control the impulses that will cause them to lose a winning hand.

Speaking at the event is Marcus E. Hill. Mr. Hill is a graduate of the University of North Carolina in 1978 and it's Law school in 1983. Marcus has a successful criminal and traffic practice in Durham, NC, and has been in practice for 25 years. He has garnered some media attention, mostly for his unpopular stand supporting the Constitution and the bill of rights. He was a guest on "The Situation" with Tucker Carlson, discussing a constitutional rights case.

Mr. Hill is a well known player and theorist of poker and can be often heard opining, "if you don't think poker is game of skill, then come play with me!" Mr. Hill represented The Joker Club against Durham District Attorney Jim Hardin in an attempt to get a judge to rule that poker is a game of skill, not chance, and thus that betting in a poker game is not gambling or illegal. Though he lost the case, his battle for sanity and common sense in the law continues. Attorney Hill thinks that the skill set needed to be a good poker player closely resembles the skill set a litigator needs to achieve success.

#####

If you would like more information about this event please contact Waneta Ellis at (910) 200-7832 or email: [wellis2@elon.edu](mailto:wellis2@elon.edu)