

*We, Friends and Colleagues of
Joan G. Brannon*

*affix our signatures to this certificate to express our admiration and
gratitude for her nearly forty years of wonderful service to
North Carolina's public officials and the people they serve, through
December 31, 2010.*

For all of her long and distinguished legal career, Joan Brannon has been devoted to public service; she came straight to the Institute of Government from the UNC School of Law in June, 1971 as a highly regarded graduate, and she is now retiring from the same institution. Her first duties were in local government law, specializing in privacy and record-keeping. It wasn't long, however, before Joan moved to what became her career focus—the North Carolina justice system. From the beginning, Joan focused her work on public officials who often get overlooked—first deputy sheriffs, then assistant clerks of courts and magistrates. Every day of her career, Joan has embodied the Institute's value that all public officials are worthy of our best efforts. She created an extensive training program for magistrates, including an intensive course for new magistrates. She created a small-claims course that became the template for the Judicial College's programs the School now offers. The employees who make the civil justice system work—deputy sheriffs, magistrates, and clerks of court—have a regard for Joan that is unmatched. Her phone and email workload became legendary, but with her amazing storehouse of knowledge, she managed it with grace and efficiency. Not one to let a need go unmet, for several years she added mental health law to her expertise. In 1998, she was named the first Hinsdale Professor of Public Law and Government, to the surprise of no one but Joan.

The list of duties Joan has assumed to help the university, school and court system would take pages. They include editing *Popular Government* and *North Carolina Legislation*, supervising summer law clerks, and serving on countless school and university committees. If a task needed doing, Joan was always a willing volunteer, from drafting forms to organizing and cleaning up after School receptions.

Joan shared with us her love of art, for her faith, for Carolina athletics, for her family, and for her Texas roots. She both formally and informally mentored many faculty, keeping us on a path with Institute and School values and principles. We wish Joan many wonderful years with her family and enjoying the seaside life in Wilmington. We and the School's clients will miss Joan; her contributions have been monumental.