



Samuel Bobbitt “Sambo” Dixon

2008 North Carolina Bar Association Citizen Lawyer

Edenton attorney Samuel “Sambo” Dixon lives by the credo, “if the idea of improving the entire world seems too daunting, begin by making the community in which you live the best it can be. Dixon was deservedly selected by the North Carolina Bar Association as one of eleven outstanding citizen lawyers honored for exceptional service to his community outside the scope of his law practice.

Dixon’s desire to be a good citizen of his native town of Edenton is evident. “he sees everyone as his neighbor and has a strong sense of obligation to take care of his community and the people who live her,” says Susan Small, Dixon’s paralegal and friend. As part of the internationally recognized Open Days program of The Garden Conservancy, Dixon routinely opens the gardens which surround his 150 year-old family home, Beverly Hall. He and his family regularly entertain special interest groups in history, arts and architecture, and host visitors for the annual Christmas Tour, and for the Biennial Pilgrimage of historic houses — an Edenton tradition since the 1940s. Mr. Dixon quotes his father as saying, “If you don’t share it, what’s the point in having it at all?” Dixon’s volunteer service in the community has ranged from church membership to civic board memberships. He has served on the boards of RBC Centura Bank, the Chowan Arts Council, the Edenton-Chowan Development Corporation, the Edenton-Chowan Tourism Authority, and the private preparatory school, Lawrence Academy. He is the newly-elected president of the Edenton Rotary Club.

Dixon has also served as Town Attorney and continues in his third term as an elected town councilman. Key among his contributions in that capacity are his leadership in the development of a town and county joint Greenways and Open Space Master Plan, and for his advocacy for a second plan, a Corridor Overlay Plan to further support intense development standards.

A long-time member of the Edenton Historical Commission and former board member of The Preservation Foundation of North Carolina, Dixon has a passion for preserving Edenton and Chowan County’s cultural and architectural heritage. Dixon was instrumental in the renovation of the 1769 Chowan County Courthouse and the preservation of the early 20th century Edenton Cotton Mill and Mill Village. The Mill project became a significant local asset that was redeveloped for new residents while enabling many long-time residents to remain in their homes. Dixon’s understanding of the balance between Edenton’s need for growth and economic development the need for historic preservation led to his selection as chair of the committee tasked with redrafting the Edenton Unified Development Ordinance. He was recently elected a member of the Advisory Council of the National Trust for Historic Preservation.

Dixon practices with the Edenton law firm Dixon & Thompson Law, PLLC. His areas of practice include personal injury, criminal trials and real estate. He is principally recognized for his defense counsel in high-profile capital cases. He is a graduate of Virginia Episcopal School, University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill and Wake Forest University School of Law. He and his wife, the former Annie Gray Thorpe, have three children.