



Ken Broun

Ken Broun's career spans local and international lines, as a lawyer, educator, public servant, and dedicated citizen of Chapel Hill. He moved here in 1968, and ever since, his involvements have encompassed all facets of life in this active community.

He began his career in Chapel Hill in the UNC School of Law, first as an assistant professor, then an associate, then a full professor. He served as Dean of the School of Law from 1979 to 1987. Ken has been the Henry Brandis Professor of Law at UNC since 1990.

His international activities include work in training trial advocacy in South Africa for the Black Lawyers Association of South Africa, serving both during and after apartheid. In recognition of his legal acumen and global outreach, he was named an honorary bencher of the Honourable Society of the Middle Temple Inn of Court in London.

Understanding the needs for development in Chapel Hill, Ken seemed destined to move into local politics. He was elected Mayor in 1991, a transition time for the town and the University. He was deeply involved in working to balance interests and needs for development and growth.

He attempted to bridge the differences between town and gown when land usage changes and expansion were proposed.

As mayor, Ken felt well-received both by the town and the University. Despite the usual anecdotes relating the perils of political office, he found himself well treated both by the townspeople and the media, even remaining friends with some of the reporters of the day. He describes his affection for both Chapel Hill and North Carolina in comparison to his hometown of Chicago, recognizing that his appreciation of Chicago simply doesn't match his passion for his adopted town and state.

Since moving to the town in 1968, Ken has seen the changes in the town and in its population. He has witnessed the movement away from sole reliance on the University and the shifts in Chapel Hill's population with the ever-increasing waves of students and professionals. However, looking forward, he hopes that Chapel Hill will retain the wonderful character which makes it a desirable community in which to live – even while it embraces more diversity and balance among its citizens.