



## 'We've always been nothing but best friends'

BY SARAH NEWELL

Record Staff Writer

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Newton mayor and attorney Robert 'Bob' Mullinax laughs with his son Robert 'B.J.' Mullinax Jr. in the library of their law office on Friday. B.J. came to work at his father's firm after graduating from law school.

Alan Rogers (Record Photographer)

NEWTON -- Bob and B.J. Mullinax are a team.

The father-and-son duo works in the same law office. They spend free time on the golf course together. And they often dine at each other's home. B.J. even helps Bob in his work as mayor of Newton. When elected duties call Bob away from the law office, B.J. often fills in.

Bob has been practicing law for about 30 years. B.J. is in his third year. B.J. grew up watching his father practice law, and knew it was something he wanted to do.

"To get to practice law under someone I love, respect and admire is an honor. One thing I've learned is that being a lawyer is hard. People expect a lot out of you. It's nice that my mentor is someone that supports me, and I don't take that for granted," B.J. said.

Bob feels that it's a blessing to have his son work with him, as well. He said he's always had a close relationship with B.J., and he hoped his son would return to practice law after he graduated from law school. Bob said B.J.'s exactly the kind of lawyer he'd hoped to hire.

"He's very diligent and takes the law seriously. He does the work he needs to do, and is a good complement to me in the law practice. He's as compassionate an individual as I've ever met," Bob said. "We've always been nothing but best friends. It's wonderful that it's been able to spill over into our professional life. B.J.'s a good man. If he wasn't my son, he still would be."

B.J. returned the compliment.

"I'd like my dad, even if he wasn't my father. He's fun to give a hard time, and he gives others a hard time, too. He's a funny guy," he said. "He'd do anything in the world for me."

When they're not at the law office, the pair can be found at sporting events for their alma mater, Wake Forest University, at Carolina Panthers football games, going to the beach as a foursome - B.J. and his wife, Kim, and Bob and his wife, Lynn - or spending some time on the golf course.

"We have a lot of good times together," Bob said.

[snewell@hickoryrecord.com](mailto:snewell@hickoryrecord.com) | 322-4510 x 5408 or 304-6915