



SCHOOL OF GOVERNMENT

North Carolina Judicial College

ANNUAL REPORT 2021-22

UPDATES FROM OUR FACULTY AND STAFF



WELCOME
Melanie Crenshaw

Joined faculty in August 2022 to work with magistrates on civil law matters



WELCOME BACK
Jeffrey B. Welty

Rejoined faculty after leading the Special Prosecutions and Law Enforcement Section within the Criminal Division of the North Carolina Department of Justice



CONGRATULATIONS
Cindy Lee

Promoted to associate director of North Carolina Judicial College curriculum and administration

BY THE NUMBERS

41

Continuing education courses offered

2,167

Students attending programs

4.75

★★★★★
Average course usefulness rating

544

Hours of continuing education credit offered

NEW PROJECTS AND PUBLICATIONS

ONLINE BOOK SERIES

North Carolina Clerk of Superior Court Manual Series

WEBINAR

Relief from Financial Obligations in North Carolina Criminal Cases

BOOK

North Carolina Trial Judges' Bench Book, District Court, Volume 1 Family Law

CERTIFICATION

Advanced Juvenile Justice Certification

PODCAST

North Carolina Criminal Debrief

EXPANDING RESPONSIVE JUDICIAL EDUCATION



Navigating Difficult Conversations for Clerks of Superior Court

In a December 2021 risk assessment report, the North Carolina Administrative Office of the Courts identified “talent management” as the top risk facing the judicial system in 2022. In response to this pressing need for professional development to strengthen court officials’ leadership and management skills, the Judicial College partnered with the School’s Center for Public Leadership and Governance to offer two courses for Clerks of Superior Court: *Navigating Difficult Conversations* and *Building Coaching Skills to Tap Potential*. Both courses provided valuable opportunities for clerks to practice skills and receive coaching on real-life work challenges.



Fines and Fees Workshop

A cross-sectional group of judicial officials and lawyers from four districts came to the School of Government in May for a workshop on Fines and Fees. This included a discussion of new Rule 28, which requires consideration of defendants’ ability to pay.



Medical Malpractice for Superior Court Judges

The School of Government collaborated with the Superior Court Judges’ Education Committee to develop this course. Expert judges provided an overview of issues that make medical negligence cases unique, covering both legal theories and practical considerations important to case management. Attendees described it as “one of the most practical and valuable courses that I have ever attended,” and “an incredible CJE.”



Presiding Over DWI Cases

A group of magistrates and district court judges gathered to explore the problem, prevalence of, and strategies for preventing and detecting impaired driving. The class included a review of governing law and procedure and culminated in a visit to the DART Center in Goldsboro, the State substance abuse treatment program for men on probation.

Blair Williams

Clerk of Superior Court, Wake County

“In the midst of handling stressful and demanding work, I find it helpful to refer back to the tools that the North Carolina Judicial College provides. One specific tool, Prayers of MBTI, remains in daily sight as reminder of how I am wired. Tools such as these are invaluable in navigating whatever storm or rainbow is currently on our public service path.”

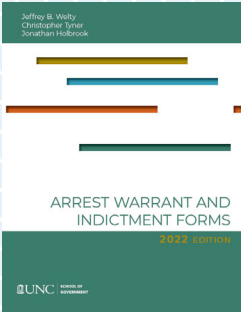
Bill Southern

Chief District Court Judge, District 17B

“The North Carolina Judicial College is one of the finest examples of our state’s investment in the service of our public officials. The College provides education and support for our court system to efficiently administer justice in both the substantive application of the law as well as the practical realities of daily life. It means a tremendous amount to myself as well as my colleagues to receive the personal attention provided by the experts at the College no matter how nuanced the issue we find ourselves dissecting.

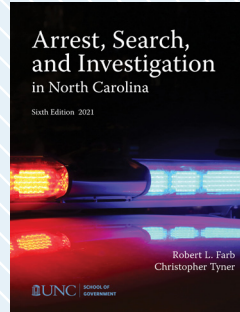
The educational opportunities enrich my understanding of the law and our justice system with annual conferences, leadership retreats, trainings on a wide array of topics, and visits to sites around the state where we can see the real-world application of our daily tasks. The North Carolina Judicial College is an invaluable resource that complements our entire court system.”

NEW PUBLICATIONS



Arrest Warrant and Indictment Forms, 2022 Edition

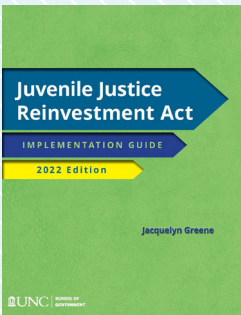
Jeffrey B. Welty, Christopher Tyner, and Jonathan Holbrook



Arrest, Search, and Investigation in North Carolina, 6th Edition, 2021

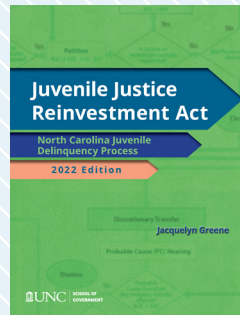
Robert L. Farb and Christopher Tyner

Electronic version available Fall 2022



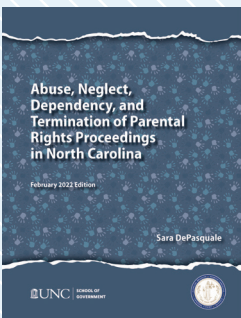
Juvenile Justice Reinvestment Act: Implementation Guide, 2022 Edition

Jacquelyn Greene



Juvenile Justice Reinvestment Act: North Carolina Juvenile Delinquency Process, 2022 Edition

Jacquelyn Greene



Abuse, Neglect, Dependency, and Termination of Parental Rights Proceedings in North Carolina, February 2022 Edition

Sara DePasquale



Stages of Abuse, Neglect, and Dependency Cases in North Carolina: From Report to Final Disposition, 2021 Edition

Sara DePasquale

Tara M. Honesty

Magistrate, Edgecombe County

“I have been a magistrate for eight years and during this time I have attended numerous classes in person and online from the Judicial College. The courses are truly beneficial and I love that they provide me with the necessary tools and resources to execute my job effectively. The courses provide hands-on learning, giving us real scenarios that impact real life. The professors are knowledgeable, encouraging, and accessible. Recently, there were some changes with the summary ejection process and magistrates across the state had lots of questions. I contacted one of our professors and within a few days, we had an impromptu Zoom meeting discussing the issue while gaining clarity. The trainings provided by the Judicial College are key to the success of all judicial officials.”

Jason Disbrow

Senior Resident Superior Court Judge, District 13B

“As a former district court judge and current superior court judge, the Judicial College has been an invaluable asset in my growth. I have attended multiple training programs and have left every time with increased knowledge and understanding of the topics presented. In January, I attended a medical malpractice program, an area of law I have never practiced and don't have the highest level of confidence in as a judge. I was blown away by the instructors and left feeling much more comfortable going forward as I preside over those types of cases.

While attending several out-of-state conferences, I have learned we are one of the very few states to have a Judicial College. Additionally, I have taken advantage of the access we have to the instructors, often calling upon them for answers to questions that are not always easy to discern. Their support and advice are always welcome and contribute greatly to my growth as a judge.”



SCHOOL OF
GOVERNMENT

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FROM THE DIRECTOR

Our new fiscal year began days after Chief Justice Paul Newby rescinded the last of the remaining COVID-19 emergency directives. So, it was back to business as usual ... well, not quite. In this new era, court officials wrestled with issues like resolving case backlogs created by the pandemic, implementing new statutory provisions broadly authorizing remote proceedings, and leading their judicial teams through rapid change, as well as the never-ending challenge of staying abreast of case law and legislative developments.

We at the North Carolina Judicial College endeavored to help in all these areas. In partnership with the Administrative Office of the Courts, we began work on a new leadership and case management series. We helped officials understand law concerning remote proceedings. We offered two leadership classes for clerks of superior court, who collectively supervise and manage thousands of employees. We held our 13th annual leadership training for chief district court judges, highlighting issues and trends facing North Carolina counties that impact the courts and exploring how chief judges may develop and lead collaborative teams to successful outcomes. Finally, we did what we've always done: deliver many case, legislative, and topical legal updates to groups of judicial officials, and update School of Government manuals to ensure that court system actors have information needed to effectuate justice.



Over the past year, we said hard goodbyes and welcomed colleagues new and old. Dona Lewandowski retired in January after serving for more than a decade as our primary liaison with North Carolina magistrates and as their advisor and teacher. Longtime legal research associate Christopher Tyner left the School in June to pursue a one-of-a-kind opportunity in Sweden. Jonathan Holbrook joined the Conference of District Attorneys as their director of training, and Elizabeth Watkins Price, our former associate director of curriculum and administration, departed to launch her own consulting firm. The sadness of these departures was lightened by the return of Jeff Welty, the arrival of Melanie Crenshaw, and the promotion of Cindy Lee. You can read more about these exciting updates on page one of this report.

Through all these changes, we remain committed to our work and the court officials we serve. We are honored to be your trusted advisors, instructors, and collaborators, and look forward to embracing new challenges and changes in the year to come.

Shea Riggsbee Denning

*Robert W. Bradshaw Jr. Distinguished Term Professor of
Public Law and Government*

Director, North Carolina Judicial College