



ANNUAL REPORT 2022-23

UPDATES FROM OUR FACULTY AND STAFF

WELCOME



Joseph Hyde

Joined the faculty in November 2022 to work in the area of criminal law and to serve as the faculty lead for state prosecutors



Danielle Ward

Joined the School in December 2022 as a Legal Research Associate

CONGRATULATIONS



Sara DePasquale

Awarded the Albert and Gladys Hall Coates Distinguished Teaching Excellence Award



Jacqui Greene

Awarded the Albert and Gladys Hall Coates Distinguished Assistant Professorship



Meredith Smith

Awarded the Albert and Gladys Hall Coates Distinguished Associate Professorship

BY THE NUMBERS

47

Continuing education courses offered

2,270

Students attending programs

4.72



Average course usefulness rating

631.5

Hours of continuing education credit offered

NEW PROJECTS AND PUBLICATIONS

Juvenile Law Bulletins	Publications	
<i>Juvenile Interrogation</i> (September 27, 2022)	<i>North Carolina Magistrates' Guide to Pretrial Release</i> (September 2023)	<i>Human Trafficking: Mandated Reporting and Agency Response</i> (January 2023) with funding support from North Carolina Human Trafficking Commission and North Carolina Administrative Office of the Courts
<i>Juvenile Law Related to the Investigation of Delinquent Acts</i> (May 2023)	<i>Arrest Warrant and Indictment Forms, 2023 Edition</i> (June 2023)	
<i>Infant Safe Surrender in North Carolina: Significant Changes in 2023</i> (October 2023)	<i>NC Superior Court Judges' Benchbook</i> (updated chapters)	

Two New Advanced Juvenile Certifications for District Court Judges

Advanced Child Welfare Certification

Advanced Juvenile Justice Certification

EXPANDING THE IMPACT OF OUR JUDICIAL EDUCATION

Chief District Court Judge Leadership Training

Develops the leadership skills chief district court judges need in their administrative and supervisory roles and focuses on a particular aspect of leadership each year.

"These sessions are extremely informative, thought-provoking, and entertaining. The Judicial College staff is astute and meticulous in the topics they choose and present and their presentation tactics are regularly out-of-the-box, which makes a lasting content impression. Every course has provided valuable information relevant to my current challenges as Chief."

Edgar Barnes
Chief District Court Judge
Judicial District 1

Dispositions in Abuse, Neglect, and Dependency Court

Focuses on dispositional orders that are entered in abuse, neglect, or dependency actions and for respondent parents. Judges are asked to complete a simulation experience working a dispositional case plan and then join online to discuss their experiences.

"It put me in the shoes of the parties in abuse, neglect, and dependency court who often are tasked by way of court-ordered recommendations to undertake several things at one time. Empathy from me is important."

Mario Perez
District Court Judge
Judicial District 3A

Drafting Orders for Clerks

Covers issues related to drafting orders where the clerk is the presiding judicial official and there is no form order applicable to the proceeding.

“One of my favorite parts of the course was actually getting over my fear of drafting an order. With this course, I was able to overcome this fear because this topic was laid out so that everyone could understand.”

Edwin Chapman
Clerk of Superior Court
Alexander County

Introduction to Small Claims

Provides magistrates with a refresher of the legal principles often addressed in small claims cases as well as the rules of procedure.

“I truly enjoyed the course and what I was able to take away would not only benefit me, but my colleagues as well. The format was awesome. [Faculty member] Melanie Crenshaw introduced topics in a way that one can’t help but learn, understand, and retain the information.”

Lee Custis
Magistrate
Pasquotank County

Judicial Decision-Making for Magistrates

Explores aspects of judicial decision-making: how those decisions are made, how they should be made according to the law, and how they often fall short of that ideal.

“The Judicial Decision-Making for Magistrates class has impacted me more than any continuing education class I have taken in my 28 years as a Magistrate. Not only did I gain more insight into

how laws were to be applied, but I also learned how to be more socially aware of the parties that are brought before me—both from a criminal and civil perspective.”

Chris Sullivan
Chief Magistrate
Johnston County

Senior Resident Superior Court Judge Leadership Training

Discusses strategies for leadership in the courts system, such as communication, strategic planning, case management, and managing conflict.

“The Senior Resident Superior Court Leadership Training was helpful to me in understanding my new role and how to effectively and mindfully lead my judicial family—a group of disparate equals—with respect, inclusion, and tact.”

Lori Hamilton
Senior Resident Superior Court Judge
Judicial District 22B

Special Topic in Small Claims

Dives into skill-building and substantive law for small claims magistrates at various stages in their careers.

“With her background in the legal field, in education and her experience as a magistrate, [faculty member] Melanie Crenshaw benefited us greatly because she has been where we sit, and she understands the tasks placed upon us. She has a way of commanding your attention while being engaging and hands-on, which helps to better grasp the material.”

Amy McCrimmon
Magistrate
Robeson County



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FROM THE DIRECTOR • Given the rapid pace of developments in the courts, the beginning of last fiscal year seems like eons ago. Since that time, the Administrative Office of the Courts (AOC) has launched a new application for generating criminal process and pleadings (eWarrants) and has expanded eCourts to five counties, including Mecklenburg and Wake. As significant as those changes are, recent developments have involved more than technology. There are many new faces in the judicial branch, including the nineteen new superior court judges who attended our orientation program in January. And, of course, there always is new case law to digest and legislation to unpack and implement. Together with our partners at the AOC, we have endeavored to arm judicial officials, advocates, and others with the skills and knowledge essential to the work of a highly functioning state court system.

Over the past two years, we have shepherded two cohorts of judicial district executive teams through a leadership and case management series, *Getting Justice Done*. That program enables judicial districts to focus on the dynamics of working together as a team while taking a deep dive into the performance data for their districts. Every district develops an action plan during the course and leaves having identified a first next step. Last year, the Judicial College added leadership training for senior resident superior court judges to our slate of role-specific leadership offerings, complementing our long-standing leadership program for chief district court judges, now in its 14th year. We also offered a robust curriculum of courses grounded in law and procedure,

including *Advanced Family Law*, *Foreclosure Hearings for Clerks*, *Domestic Violence for Magistrates*, and *Disposition in A/N/D Court*, as well as orientation programs for all stripes of court officials. And, as always, we delivered many case, legislative, and topical legal updates to groups of judicial officials in various formats and updated our manuals to provide court system actors with current information.



We celebrated the achievements of our colleagues, three of whom were awarded professorships in recognition of their excellent work, and we happily welcomed new people to our team. Joseph Hyde joined our faculty to work in criminal law and to serve state prosecutors. Danielle Ward joined us as a legal research associate tasked with helping to update the bench book for district court judges and the manual for clerks of superior court.

We have a strong team. We are committed to serving our state by teaching, writing for, and advising its court officials and other court system actors. 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
Director, North Carolina Judicial College