



SCHOOL OF GOVERNMENT

North Carolina Judicial College

2023–24 ANNUAL REPORT

Updates from our Faculty and Staff

— WELCOME —



BELAL ELRAHAL

Belal joined the faculty in July 2024 to work in criminal law, specializing in impaired driving and motor vehicle law.



DANNY SPIEGEL

Danny joined the faculty in January 2024 to work in criminal law and evidence.

THANK YOU



JIM DRENNAN

Jim retired from the faculty in June 2024 after 50 years of service at the School of Government.

By the numbers

51

Continuing education courses offered

3,211

Students attending programs

4.8

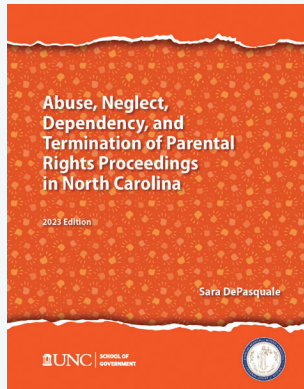
★★★★★
Average course usefulness rating

687.75

Hours of continuing education credit offered

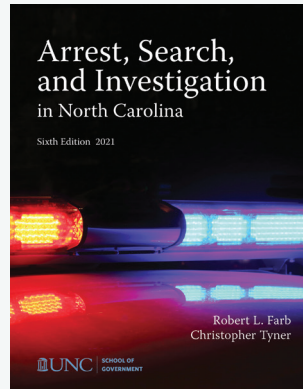
New Projects and Publications

BOOKS



ABUSE, NEGLECT, DEPENDENCY, AND THE TERMINATION OF PARENTAL RIGHTS

2023 Edition
Sara DePasquale
(March 2024)



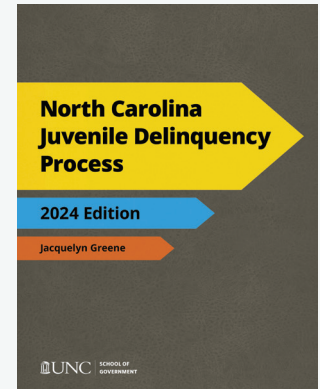
ARREST, SEARCH, AND INVESTIGATION IN NORTH CAROLINA

Digital Edition
Robert L. Farb,
Christopher Tyner,
Jeffrey B. Welty
(Spring 2024)



ARREST WARRANT AND INDICTMENT FORMS

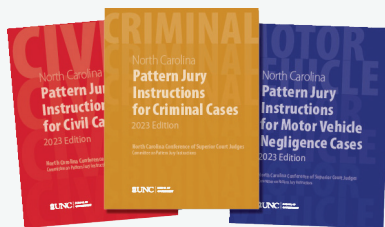
2024 Edition
Joseph L. Hyde
(July 2024)



NORTH CAROLINA JUVENILE DELINQUENCY PROCESS

2024 Edition
Jacquelyn Greene
(January 2024)

E-BOOKS



NORTH CAROLINA PATTERN JURY INSTRUCTIONS FOR CIVIL, CRIMINAL, AND MOTOR VEHICLE NEGLIGENCE CASES

2023 Edition
Shea Riggsbee Denning
(November 2023)

GUIDE

NORTH CAROLINA MAGISTRATES' GUIDE TO PRETRIAL RELEASE

Brittany Bromell
(September 2023)

BULLETINS

PRETRIAL INTEGRITY ACT: ADMINISTRATION OF JUSTICE BULLETIN #2024/01

Brittany Bromell (February 2024)

PRETRIAL RELEASE IN CRIMINAL DOMESTIC VIOLENCE CASES: ADMINISTRATION OF JUSTICE BULLETIN #2023/02

Brittany Bromell (November 2023)

Judicial Education Impact

APPELLATE TRAINING: NEW AND EMERGING LEGAL ISSUES

Coverage includes sessions on recent United States Supreme Court cases and criminal, civil, juvenile, and family law.

“The judges at the North Carolina Court of Appeals look forward to our annual New and Emerging Legal Issues CJE. Professor Cheryl Howell has lots of suggestions of timely and pertinent topics and she works with me, the Chief, and the committee members to tailor the content to our needs. I attend other CJE presentations throughout the year, but the Court of Appeals CJE with my colleagues is by far the most beneficial and relevant to my work. Thank you!”

—Valerie Zachary, Judge, NC Court of Appeals

CAPITAL CASE MANAGEMENT LAW AND DEATH PENALTY LITIGATION

Designed to help judges handle complex capital cases efficiently and correctly. It addresses issues such as case management, jury selection, experts and discovery, and capital sentencing hearings.

“[It’s] a must for all Superior Court judges who will preside over a capital case. From pretrial management, to jury selection, to penalty phase, the course walks a judge through the basics of a capital murder trial. An excellent program by the School of Government Judicial College.”

—Richard Gottlieb, Superior Court Judge, District 31

INCOMPETENCY AND ADULT GUARDIANSHIP HEARINGS FOR CLERKS

Topics include the use of limited guardianship, legal representation of the respondent, procedural and evidentiary issues, judicial and medical determination of incapacity, public guardianship, and restoration.

“I gained a lot of knowledge from this class that I use in my work. It had many speakers who each addressed different parts of the incompetency and guardianship process, and I got some really good in-depth information from each person. This has helped make me a well-rounded hearing officer. I particularly enjoyed hearing about what a guardian ad litem does and about the use of multidisciplinary evaluations.”

—Stacy Tollie, Assistant Clerk of Superior Court/Hearing Officer, Forsyth County

INVOLUNTARY COMMITMENT FOR MAGISTRATES

Covers topics including identifying information relevant to the commitment decision, skills for interviewing and eliciting information, trauma-informed interviewing, and more.

“You really get a chance to see the process from all sides through panel discussions, scenario presentations and petition exercises. It’s more than just a class for credits. It is intellectually stimulating, ethically challenging, and professionally rewarding.”

—Deanne Brown, Magistrate, Montgomery County

US SUPREME COURT SEMINAR

Attend oral argument at the US Supreme Court, attend a lecture on law and justice at the US Holocaust Memorial Museum, participate in a guided tour of the US Capitol, and view the Charters of Freedom at the National Archives.

“The US Supreme Court Seminar was, without question, one of the highlights of my nearly 40 years as an attorney and a judge. The materials we received to prepare for our visit and the speaker the night before added significant insight and depth to the experience. I will never hear or read a news story about the US Supreme Court again without recalling the dignity of the proceedings and the brilliance of the litigants and justices.”

—Turner Stephenson, Chief District Court Judge, District 7

WHAT LIFE IS LIKE IN DELINQUENCY OUT-OF-HOME SETTINGS

Tour out-of-home settings used in delinquency matters and have an opportunity to talk with staff. Visits include a youth development center and a juvenile detention center.

“Touring different facilities and talking with staff, faculty, and juveniles was incredibly impactful. This first-hand look into their daily lives helped me better understand the juvenile experience in each setting. I gained a new appreciation for those working with our juveniles, and traveling with other judges was a bonus! We had a great time exchanging stories and experiences from other districts. I highly recommend this training opportunity.”

—Sarah McPherson, District Court Judge, District 15



SCHOOL OF
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From the Director



We have had a busy and productive year, offering more courses to more participants than we have in my previous years as Judicial College director. Highlights include training for appellate judges on emerging legal issues, for Superior Court judges on capital cases, and for clerks on adult guardianship

hearings. We also offered a court leadership series for judicial district executive teams and an alumni seminar for districts that had previously attended our leadership program. Every year, we strive to provide a curriculum that meets the educational needs of judicial officials at all stages of their judicial careers. While there is always room for improvement, I think we came awfully close to hitting the mark.

Our partnership with the North Carolina Administrative Office of the Courts (AOC) remains strong. We collaborate with AOC leadership in planning courses and conferences. AOC Director Ryan Boyce serves on the Judicial College Advisory Committee, which provides feedback on the educational needs, desires, and interests of groups we serve. With the committee's input, we have broadened our instructor

base and have expanded course content. The AOC's ongoing support makes it possible for judicial officials to select from a robust curriculum of continuing education opportunities.

We were pleased to welcome two new faculty colleagues who brought extensive experience in criminal law to their roles. And we finally allowed our founding director, Jim Drennan, to retire after 50 years on the faculty. Jim was awarded the Order of the Long Leaf Pine in recognition of his many years of dedicated and excellent service. All of us have benefited from Jim's vision for judicial education and his unmatched knowledge of the courts. We are honored to carry on his legacy.

Our work with court officials across the state is challenging, meaningful, and important. We strive to earn our status as trusted teachers and advisors and know we are privileged to have the opportunity to do so.

We look forward to continued collaboration with our judicial branch partners over the coming year as together we seek to deliver on the constitutional promise of justice administered without favor, denial, or delay.

Shea Riggsbee Denning

Director, North Carolina Judicial College