

Current Developments in Criminal Law

February 21, 2025 / 1:30 p.m. – 3:00 p.m.

*Cosponsored by the UNC-Chapel Hill School of Government
&
The North Carolina Office of Indigent Defense Services*

School of Government faculty members, Phil Dixon, Jr. and Jeff Welty, will discuss state and federal appellate court decisions and other recent criminal law developments.

CLE Credit: 1.50 Hours of General CLE Credit

SPEAKERS

Phil Dixon, Jr., *Teaching Associate Professor; Director, Public Defense Education*

Phil Dixon primarily works with public defenders and defense lawyers. He joined the School of Government in 2017. Previously, he worked as a defense lawyer in eastern North Carolina for over eight years. During that time, he represented criminal defendants and juveniles charged with all types of crimes at the trial level. In 2023, he was named director of the School's Public Defense Education group. In collaboration with Indigent Defense Services, he works to provide training and consultation to defenders and other court system actors, as well as to research and write on criminal law and related issues. He earned a bachelor's degree from UNC-Chapel Hill and law degree with highest honors from North Carolina Central University School of Law.

Jeff Welty, *Professor of Public Law and Government; Senior Associate Dean for Faculty Affairs*

Jeffrey B. Welty is an expert in the area of criminal law and procedure. His research interests include the law of policing, search and seizure, digital evidence, and criminal pleadings.

Welty joined the School of Government in 2008. He founded and contributes regularly to the *North Carolina Criminal Law Blog*, an award-winning resource visited by approximately 100,000 users each month. He has written for, appeared on, or been quoted in *The New York Times*, *The Washington Post*, *TIME*, *Newsweek*, National Public Radio, Bloomberg News, *Lawyers' Weekly*, the *Raleigh News and Observer*, and many other media outlets. His books about capital punishment and digital evidence are widely-used legal references. Welty previously served as the director of the North Carolina Judicial College, which provides training and education to the state's judicial officials.

Welty completed a federal judicial clerkship and worked in private practice before coming to the School. He has taught police, prosecutors, and judges in the United States, Mexico, Canada, Nigeria, Ghana, and Zambia. From 2020 to 2021, he spent two years on leave from the School at the North Carolina Department of Justice, where he led the Special Prosecutions and Law Enforcement Section. Welty earned a J.D. from Duke University School of Law with highest honors.