

58th School Attorneys Conference
School of Government
Original date: January 31, 2025
Postponed to March 27, 2025

8:55	Welcome	
9:00	State Board Update Allison Schafer General Counsel, State Board of Education	.75 CLE
9:45	Lessons from Helene: Insurance and FEMA Claims Chris Campbell Campbell Shatley, Asheville	1 CLE
10:45	break	
11:00	The Developing Law on Social Media Kristi Nickodem School of Government	1.25 CLE
12:15	lunch	
1.15	Generative AI: Ethical Implications for Attorneys Chris McLaughlin and Kristi Nickodem School of Government	1 Ethics CLE
2:15	break	
2:30	Cannabis and North Carolina Law Phil Dixon School of Government	.75 CLE
3:15	Top 10 School Law Developments of the Last 40 Years Brian Shaw Poyner Spruill, Raleigh	.75 CLE
4:00	Adjourn	

Speaker Bios

Chris Campell has been representing and training school boards, community college trustees, and their employees for over 23 years. With Dean Shatley he co-founded the firm of Campbell Shatley in Asheville in 2009 and the client base has grown to more than 40 public entities across North Carolina, with a focus in western North Carolina.

Allison Schafer served as a law clerk in the federal court for the Eastern District of North Carolina, became an associate and then a partner at Tharrington Smith in Raleigh, and long served as legal counsel and director of policy at the North Carolina School Boards Association. She is now the general counsel at the North Carolina State Board of Education.

Kristi A. Nickodem's work at the School of Government focuses on human services law. In addition, she explores local governments' use of technology, including legal issues associated with social media and artificial intelligence. She is a member of the UNC Generative AI Committee and the University's Faculty Information Technology Advisory Committee. In 2024, Nickodem received the Taylor Writing Award for her publication "[Responding to First Amendment 'Audits' in the Local Government Context](#)" (co-authored with Kristina Wilson).

Chris McLaughlin's work at the School of Government focuses on local government tax and finance as well as ethics for government attorneys. He has authored books on property tax collection, tax foreclosures, and occupancy taxes and has published over 200 blog posts on a wide variety of tax and ethics issues.

Phil Dixon's work at the School of Government focuses on public defenders and defense lawyers. Before joining the School, he worked for over eight years as a defense lawyer in eastern North Carolina. During that time, he represented criminal defendants and juveniles charged with all types of crimes at the trial level. At the School, he provides training and consultation to defenders and other court system actors and he researches and writes on criminal law and related issues.

Brian Shaw is a partner at Poyner Spruill in Raleigh. He has extensive education law experience, providing counsel to public school systems throughout North Carolina. He is a recent recipient of the Ann Majestic Distinguished Service Award from the Education Law Section of the North Carolina Bar Association.