



School Mourns Passing of Wright

The School of Government's Master of Public Administration (MPA) Program lost a monumental scholar, mentor, and friend with the death of Deil Wright on June 30, 2009. A legend in the fields of public administration and political science, Wright, professor emeritus of political science, was viewed as one of the fathers of the MPA Program. He was beloved by his students, and he mentored

hundreds of MPA alumni throughout their careers.

Wright joined the UNC at Chapel Hill Department of Political Science in 1967. A prolific researcher and writer, he authored many books, including three editions of *Understanding Intergovernmental Relations* and more than one hundred published articles. In 1983, Wright was named Alumni Distinguished Professor of Political Science, and in 2002 he was named Professor Emeritus.

Wright served as director of the MPA Program from 1973 to 1979. MPA alumni have honored him by endowing both a lecture series and a scholarship. Memorial contributions may be made to the Wright MPA Scholarship Fund. To learn more, visit www.mpa.unc.edu, or contact Jean Coble at 919.962.0426.



Professor Emeritus Deil Wright

Vinroots Support School with \$1 Million Pledge

Richard and Judy Vinroot of Charlotte have pledged \$1 million to the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill in honor of Richard's friend and mentor, Robert W. Bradshaw Jr. The pledge, which will support faculty and students in UNC at Chapel Hill's School of Government, is the largest-ever commitment by an individual to the school.

"Judy and Richard Vinroot have shown extraordinary generosity and thoughtfulness in creating this new professorship and fellowship," said Michael R. Smith, dean of the School. "This historic gift will support two important aspects of our work: the faculty who teach and advise government officials every day, and the graduate students who become public service leaders in local and state government, as well as in federal agencies and nonprofit organizations in North Carolina and throughout the country. The Vinroots are known for their support of good government and an ever-stronger North Carolina. This gift is clear evidence of their dedication."

Part of the commitment, \$666,000, will be matched by the state's Distinguished Professors Endowment Trust Fund to create the \$1 million Robert W. Bradshaw Jr. Distinguished Professorship. It will support a faculty member who teaches, advises, and

publishes in local and state government fields such as local government law and finance, courts and criminal justice, health and human services, taxation, and public employment.

The remaining \$334,000 will establish the Robert W. Bradshaw Jr.



Judy and Richard Vinroot

Public Administration Fellowship. It will provide aid to a worthy student or students in the Master of Public Administration (MPA) Program, covering tuition and expenses for both years of the two-year program. “The fellowship will help us attract the highest-quality students interested in public service,” Smith said. “This will be the premier fellowship for the MPA Program at Carolina. Private support for the MPA Program has become more and more important, and this pledge comes at a wonderful time.”

Bradshaw, a graduate of the Duke University Law School, served as the chair of the Republican Party of North Carolina from 1985 to 1987. “Bob Bradshaw spent many years encouraging good people to enter public service, and then mentoring them once they did so,” Richard Vinroot said. “Wonderful examples of this are former Governor Jim Martin and Ninth District Congressman Alex

McMillan, both of whom are among Bob’s protégés.

“I’m grateful for what Bob did for me personally, but more so for what he’s done for everyone in North Carolina throughout his professional life. Accordingly, Judy and I can think of no better way to honor Bob than at the School of Government, where public service is the essence of their mission.”

A native of Charlotte, Richard Vinroot attended UNC at Chapel Hill on a Morehead Scholarship, served as class president in his junior and senior years, and played basketball for Coach Dean Smith. He graduated in 1963 with a degree in business administration and went on to earn a law degree from UNC at Chapel Hill in 1966. After law school, Vinroot served in Vietnam and received a Bronze Star. He returned to Charlotte and joined the law firm of Robinson Bradshaw & Hinson, where he now is a senior partner, specializing in commercial litigation.

Vinroot also has extensive experience in public service. He served on the Charlotte City Council from 1983 to 1991 and as mayor of Charlotte from 1991 to 1995. He was the Republican candidate for governor of North Carolina in 2000.

Judy (Allen) Vinroot is a native of Fort Lauderdale, Florida, who graduated from UNC at Chapel Hill with a degree in education in 1965. At the university, she was a class officer and a cheerleader and was active in numerous campus activities. She earned a master’s degree in adult literacy at Appalachian State University and has taught in the Charlotte-Mecklenburg Public Schools and at Central Piedmont Community College, also in Charlotte. She currently serves on the Board of Directors of the UNC Alumni Association.

For information about giving opportunities, contact Ann Simpson, associate dean for development and communications, at 919.966.9780 or simpson@sog.unc.edu.

School Initiates Blogs for Information, Education, Conversation

For many years, the School of Government has used its website and listservs to share information and expand resources beyond the classroom. Demand for additional online resources has grown over the past year, as local government travel budgets have shrunk. In response, the School has created more than forty new Web-based training opportunities for public officials and several blogs. The blogs not only provide timely information in an easy-to-read format, but also encourage virtual conversations about issues that are important to North Carolina local governments.

“Coates’ Canons: NC Local Government Law Blog” disseminates information about a broad range of legal issues affecting local governments and other public agencies in North Carolina. Named for Institute of Government founder Albert Coates, the

The screenshot shows the homepage of the "COATES' CANONS: NC LOCAL GOVERNMENT LAW BLOG". The page has a blue header with the UNC logo and navigation links like "Home", "ABOUT THIS BLOG", "ABOUT THE AUTHORS", and "SUBSCRIBE". The date "FRIDAY, AUGUST 14, 2009" is displayed in the top right. The main content area features a "GET UPDATES BY EMAIL" section with a form for entering an email address and "Subscribe" and "Unsubscribe" buttons. Below this is a "BLOG TOPICS" sidebar listing various subjects like "Board Structure & Procedures", "Community & Economic Development", and "Ethics & Conflicts". The main text area contains three article teasers: "Motions to Reconsider - A Follow-up" by David Lawrence, "A New Difficulty in Redistricting?" by Robert Joyce, and "Electronic Participation in Meetings - Part 1" by Prayda Blanton. A "RELATED TOPICS" sidebar on the left lists "construction" and "contracts". On the right, there are sections for "LINKS" (School of Government SOG Local Govt. Law website) and "RECENT POSTS" (listing the same three articles). At the bottom right, a "RECENT COMMENTS" section shows a comment about "Flaring Bell on Electronic Participation in Meetings - Part 1".

blog serves as a forum for discussion and provides a lasting resource for people in government and community groups and citizens across the state.

The primary focus of the blog is legal issues, but it serves as a rich source of information for a variety of public officials—elected officials, managers, department heads, attorneys, and other public employees—as well as for people who interact with local governments and other public agencies.

Created and maintained by eleven School faculty members who have expertise in a wide range of subjects, the blog features posts that vary in style, length, and content. Recent posts have addressed topics such as electronic participation in meetings, HUB (historically underutilized businesses) certification, local police-power ordinances, utility debt collection, and smoking laws.

Mecklenburg County Attorney Marvin Bethune says, “To be able to get weekly mini-sessions about different topics is great—for experienced people like me as well as brand new local government attorneys. As the

county attorney for Mecklenburg, I have to deal with a wide range of topics. This blog promises to provide new information as well as reminders about things I’ve already learned.”

Assistant Professor Jeff Welty launched the North Carolina Criminal Law Blog in January 2009. This blog, which had nearly fifty thousand hits in its first seven months, includes posts about current criminal law issues, answers to recurrent questions that Welty receives from the field, and interesting theories about criminal law on which he has stumbled. Guest bloggers are invited to post articles, and anyone with an interest in the criminal justice system may join the conversation. Recent posts have included “Another Take on the *Gates Case*”; “You Can’t Tell Just from the Smell,” a posting by guest blogger and Assistant Professor Shea Denning about the odor of alcohol and impaired-driving charges; and a summary of S 920, the new probation reform bill.

The Delinquency Defense Law Forum, an indigent defense education

blog administered by Civil Defender Educator Whitney Fairbanks, serves as a forum for the discussion of North Carolina juvenile delinquency law and defense. Topics include interrogation, procedure, schools, and more. Early posts include “Policing the Schools,” “*Melendez-Diaz* and Juvenile Adjudications” and “*In re W.R.*” Fairbanks initiated the blog to be more responsive and flexible in dealing with new information, case law, and statutory changes. “With this technology,” she says, “I can disseminate information quickly and give juvenile defenders more resources for their work in a short time frame, without waiting to publish a bulletin or teach a course.”

Visit these School blogs:

- Coates’ Canons: NC Local Government Law Blog: sogweb.sog.unc.edu/blogs/localgovt
- North Carolina Criminal Law Blog: sogweb.sog.unc.edu/blogs/ncclaw
- Delinquency Defense Law Forum: sogweb.sog.unc.edu/blogs/indigent



**NEED HELP
TO ATTEND
AN SOG COURSE?**

LGFCU Scholarships Are Available!

The Local Government Federal Credit Union (LGFCU) offers a special scholarship program to help nurture the career development of its members who are employed in local government in North Carolina.

Members who plan to attend a class, a conference, or a seminar at the School of Government may apply for scholarships to cover the cost of tuition.

Awards are made three times each year, or until funds are expended. Applications are accepted throughout the year, with deadlines of December 1, April 1, and August 1. For more information and a copy of the application, call 1.800.344.4846, e-mail info@lgfcu.org, or visit <https://www.lgfcu.org/pages/application.php>.

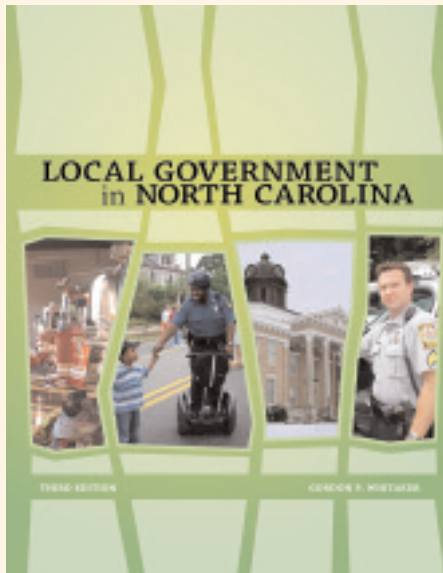
School Offers New Online Publications

Every year, the School of Government adds more than fifty books, periodicals, and other reference works related to state and local govern-

ment to its catalog of publications. Increasingly, the School is offering some of those publications in digital format. This often is a good option for academic works that have a limited audience, tightly focused topics, and a need for timely updates.

Decisions about publishing books in hard copy or digital format are based

primarily on which format will better meet the needs of the potential reader. For instance, *NC Crimes: A Guidebook on the Elements of Crime*, is considered an essential reference book for law enforcement officers, magistrates, prosecutors, public defenders, defense lawyers, and judges in North Carolina. It now is also offered on a searchable CD, which



is particularly helpful to police officers who can access information via the laptops in their cars while in the field.

Recent online publications include an e-textbook, bulletins, and an e-book. *Local Government in North Carolina*, third edition, by Professor Gordon Whitaker, is designed as a supplemental resource for tenth-grade civics and economics courses, though it is applicable for younger students and for adults who would like an easy-to-comprehend overview of how North Carolina cities, towns, and counties are organized and what they do. In the past, the book has been used in orienting new city council members and county commissioners who need a broad overview of how local government works.

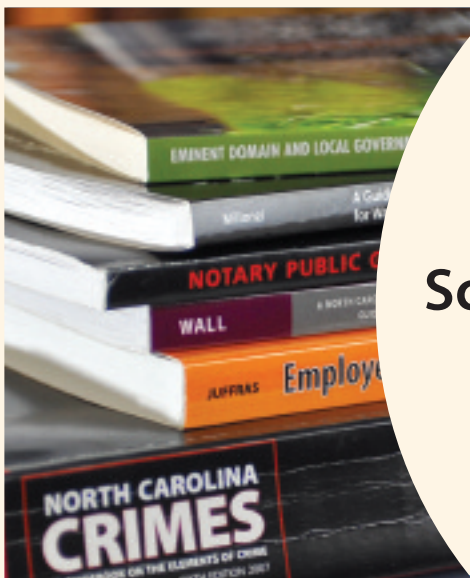
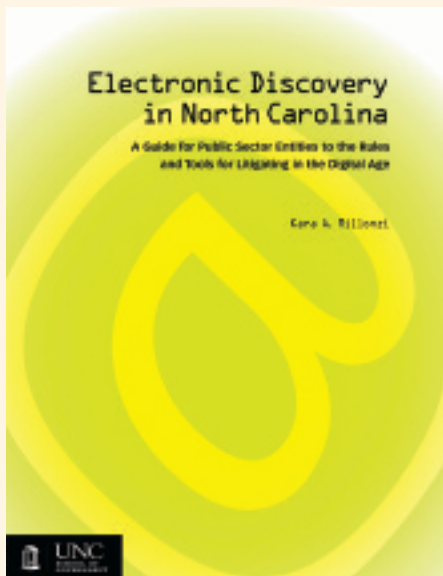
In addition to the comprehensive information in the publication itself, the new e-book contains links to online resources for the most current data that readers might need. “Publishing this version as an e-book meant we could get the content delivered more quickly than if we had gone through a traditional printing process,” says Whitaker, “and we will be able to update our content more readily.”

The book is a joint venture of the School and the North Carolina City & County Management Association. The most recent edition has been designed exclusively for online viewing and distribution. Because the book is funded by the International City/County Manage-

ment Association Fund for Professional Development, teachers and students can access the text online at any time and print individual pages or chapters as needed, at no charge.

The School’s twenty-one bulletins, which cover topics as varied as administration of justice and school law, now are offered online as free, downloadable PDF documents. The most recent bulletin to move to a digital-only format is *School Law Bulletin*. For almost forty years, *School Law Bulletin* has kept North Carolina attorneys and school administrators better informed about issues and trends in school law, featuring articles with in-depth legal analysis. The bulletin’s popular Clearinghouse summaries of recent legal developments will be available through an online, searchable database that is currently under development.

Faculty member Kara Millonzi has written a new e-book titled *Electronic Discovery in North Carolina: A Guide for Public Sector Entities to the Rules and Tools for Litigating in the Digital Age*, which addresses differences between electronic information and paper documents. The book explores current rules governing the discovery of electronic information in federal and state courts and includes an analysis of the effectiveness of rules related to e-discovery. A complete catalog of School of Government print and online publications can be found at www.sog.unc.edu.



To access **updates** and **supplements** for **School of Government** publications, visit www.sog.unc.edu/pubs/updates