



SCHOOL OF  
GOVERNMENT

North Carolina  
Judicial College

2024–2025

# Annual Report

## Faculty and Staff Updates

### WELCOME



#### Joseph Laizure

Joseph joined the faculty in December 2024 to work in the areas of civil procedure, civil trials, and contested hearings. He serves as a primary faculty contact for superior court judges.



#### Catherine Wilson

Catherine joined the faculty in June 2025 to work in the areas of estate administration, trusts, and special proceedings involving real property. She serves as a primary faculty contact for clerks of superior court.

### CONGRATULATIONS



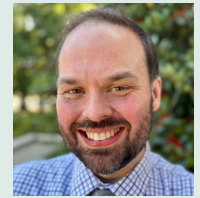
#### Melanie Crenshaw

AWARDED  
Albert and Gladys  
Coates Term  
Professorship



#### Shea R. Denning

AWARDED  
James E.  
Holshouser  
Distinguished  
Professorship



#### Timothy Heinle

AWARDED  
Albert and Gladys  
Coates Term  
Professorship

## By the Numbers

49

Continuing  
education  
courses offered

2,222

Students  
attended  
programs

4.81

★★★★★  
Average course  
usefulness rating

706.75

Hours of  
continuing education  
credit offered

## New Publications



**Driver's License Revocations, Restorations, and Limited Driving Privileges in North Carolina** | Shea R. Denning (August 2024)

**Juvenile Delinquency Procedure in North Carolina** | Jacquelyn Greene (August 2024)

**North Carolina Trial Judges' Bench Book, District Court, Family Law, 2024 Edition** | Cheryl D. Howell, Jan S. Simmons, Danielle Ward (April 2025)

### BULLETINS

**Aggregation of Multiple Financial Crimes under G.S. 15A-1340.16F** | Joseph L. Hyde (January 2025)

**Infant Safe Surrender in North Carolina: Significant Changes in 2024** | Sara DePasquale (October 2024)

**Double Jeopardy in North Carolina** | Joseph L. Hyde (June 2025)

**Transfer and Removal: Movement of Cases Between Juvenile Court and Superior Court** | Jacquelyn Greene (August 2024)

# Judicial Education Impact

## Advanced Criminal Procedure for Superior Court Judges

This course covers many challenging procedural issues in criminal trials, including responding to discovery violations, closing the courtroom, jury misconduct, and probation revocations.

*"The course was fantastic. I learned things that are useful to me on the bench. I especially enjoyed the sessions on double jeopardy, competency, and unrepresented defendants."*

**Patrick Nadolski**, Senior Resident Superior Court Judge, District 28



## Conducting Hearings and Entering Judgment for Magistrates

This new course helps magistrates become more comfortable conducting hearings and entering judgments in small claims court. Attendees participate in a mock trial exercise where they apply their learned skills.

*"This class was hands down my favorite class that I have taken at the School of Government. I enjoyed every element from evidence with*

*Timothy Heinle to Melanie Crenshaw teaching us to break down a court of appeals' opinion. The mock trials were a lot of fun, and getting feedback from Melanie and my peers was very beneficial. I recommend this course to all magistrates, whether you have been doing small claims for years or are just starting."*

**Kelly Raynor**, Magistrate, Lenoir County

## Getting Justice Done Seminar

North Carolina's court system has experienced its fair share of challenges and change over the past few years. This seminar helps develop and strengthen leadership teams to develop strategies to address identified priorities and concerns, including issues related to case management, the implementation of eCourts, and other developments. Judicial districts attend the course as a group, including the senior resident superior court judge, chief district court judge, district attorney, clerks of superior court, and the chief public defender.

*"This program gave us insight into how our colleagues receive information; what and how much information they need to make decisions, and why they might make different decisions. After coming together and getting to know each other more personally, we will be better at working together, especially as we implement eCourts. This seminar creates an atmosphere where we are vulnerable, we let our guards down, and we realize that every other member of our group truly has the best interests of our citizens as a top priority. Although we work in different silos within the courthouse, it was a great reminder that we*



## Certifications

### 2024-25 ADVANCED JUVENILE JUSTICE CERTIFICATION

**Aretha Blake**  
District 26

**John C. Chandler**  
District 15

**Thomas Davis**  
District 31

**Faith Fickling-Alvarez**  
District 26

**Pauline Hankins**  
District 15

**Joy Jones**  
District 12

**Sarah McPherson**  
District 15

serve the same common goal of the efficient administration of justice. This course was a refreshing reminder that we must work together to achieve our goals.

*This program gave our executive team agency. The external barriers to working together for a common good are gone. We now understand the “why” behind other members of the group’s decisions, past and future.”*

**Nathaniel Poovey**, Senior Resident Superior Court Judge, Catawba County, District 19

## Indian Child Welfare Act Seminar (ICWA)

This seminar focuses on ICWA, a federal law that applies to abuse, neglect, dependency, termination of parental rights, and adoption actions. Judges travel to Cherokee, NC, to learn about ICWA and the Eastern Band of Cherokee Indians and how the tribe addresses child welfare cases. They visit the tribal courthouse, the New Kituwah Academy, and the Museum of the Cherokee People.

*“Prior to attending the seminar, I expected to obtain a more thorough understanding*



*of ICWA. While I certainly did gain a better understanding of ICWA, I left the conference feeling inspired. The work they are doing to preserve a culture, protect a community of people, and preserve a history is incredible. My biggest takeaway was just how hard the people we met work daily to preserve the language, culture, and traditions of the Eastern Band of Cherokee Indians. Each time I begin a new A/N/D case and start making the ICWA inquiry, I will feel so much more about why this inquiry is important. It will be more than simply checking a box; it will be about inquiring into whether I have an Indian child before me whose culture and heritage needs to be valued and protected by ensuring we are compliant with the steps/procedures set out in ICWA.”*

**Christine Strader**, District Court Judge, District 22

## Drafting Orders for Clerks

This course is for clerks with experience presiding over hearings. It covers issues related to drafting orders in estate, trust, and power of attorney proceedings.

*“I enjoyed this class so much. The best part of the class was getting into groups to prepare an actual order and critiquing the orders prepared by others. The next week, I had a foreclosure hearing. I asked the attorney to prepare the necessary order. The attorney omitted key factual findings, which I flagged. I may not have included that information if I had not just attended this class, where I learned about the necessary components in orders. I highly recommend this class to all clerks, assistant clerks, and hearing officers who prepare orders. You will not be disappointed.”*

**Shirley F. Hurdle**, Assistant Clerk of Superior Court, Pasquotank County

## 2024 MAGISTRATE CERTIFICATIONS

### CRIMINAL LAW

**Tara M. Honesty**  
Edgecombe County

**Penny Lytle**  
Mecklenburg County

### CIVIL LAW/SMALL CLAIMS

**Deanne G. Brown**  
Montgomery County

**Leslie M. Bruner**  
Scotland County

**Greg T. Dail**  
Chowan County

**Joseph G. Faulkner**  
Stanly County

**Mary Sue Harrell**  
Wilson County

**Tara M. Honesty**  
Edgecombe County

**Bryson B. Jenkins**  
Jones County

**James G. McAteer Jr.**  
Gaston County

**Althea Williams**  
Mecklenburg County



**SCHOOL OF  
GOVERNMENT**

**THE UNIVERSITY  
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## From the Director

I am pleased to share this report highlighting the work of the North Carolina Judicial College over the past year. We accomplished a great deal, publishing practical legal

scholarship in books, manuals, bulletins, and blog posts, administering orientation programs for record numbers of newly elected trial court judges, newly elected clerks of superior court, and newly appointed magistrates, and conducting courses that helped officials build skills through practice and enabled them to explore discrete topics in depth.

We were also pleased to participate in awarding certifications to several officials. Seven district court judges are among the first group to ever receive the new Advanced Juvenile Justice Certification, and eleven magistrates were certified this year, nine in civil law and two in criminal law.

We added two faculty members to our team: Joseph Laizure, whose expertise in civil procedure and the conduct of civil hearings and trials supports the work of superior court judges and other judicial officials, and Catherine Wilson, whose expertise in decedents' estates and trusts supports the work of clerks of superior court and other judicial officials. Their teaching and scholarship will help us equip

court officials with the knowledge required to apply complex procedural rules and law in civil cases and estate and trust proceedings.

A couple of months ago, our faculty and staff gathered to discuss our plans for future growth and development. We began with a "Mission Moment," where each person shared a story about a time when their work felt especially meaningful. A thread of commitment and dedication wove through and connected each person's reflection to the next. My colleagues described the pride they felt in partnering with court officials to ensure the administration of justice through activities as varied as organizing an observation of juvenile tribal court in Cherokee, NC, unpacking the intricacies of sentencing law, and helping judicial officials draft proper orders.

Thank you to the court officials and our partners at the Administrative Office of the Courts for allowing us to serve as instructors, program planners, and trusted advisors for the judicial branch. We enter the coming year energized and inspired to build upon our strong foundation.

### **Shea Riggsbee Denning**

James E. Holshouser Distinguished Professor  
Director, North Carolina Judicial College