



North Carolina Judicial College

COURSE OFFERINGS



SCHOOL OF GOVERNMENT
North Carolina Judicial College

2025



The North Carolina Judicial College, part of the UNC School of Government, was founded in 2005 to expand the education and training the School has provided judicial branch officials since its founding in 1931. Judicial College faculty and staff plan and provide educational programs for judicial officials, including trial and appellate court judges, magistrates, and clerks of court. These offerings include orientation programs for new officials, courses focused on discrete topics of interest, experiential learning opportunities, skills-based training, and leadership seminars for judicial district executive teams. We do much of our work in partnership with and with support from the North Carolina Administrative Office of the Courts.

The Judicial College is committed to providing premier instruction and programming to meet the needs of the officials charged with administering justice fairly and efficiently in service to our growing State. Our faculty are subject matter experts and trusted advisors. They are skilled in convening court officials and facilitating interactive educational events that allow judicial officials to learn from instructors and their colleagues and peers. Our courses give presiding officials the skills and knowledge to confidently and capably address the issues that come before them and equip them to serve as leaders in their courthouses and communities.

Table of Contents

Clerks and Assistant Clerks of Superior Court	1
District Court Judges	3
Magistrates	8
Superior Court Judges	10
Other Client Groups	12
Mixed Client Groups	13
Certifications	16
Continuing Education	18
Faculty Expertise	19



Clerks and Assistant Clerks of Superior Court

Core Classes

Orientation for New Clerks of Superior Court

This program provides orientation for new clerks, emphasizing their roles as managers, supervisors, leaders, financial investors, and judicial officials. *By invitation only*

TOPICS An overview of clerks' duties, the Conference of Clerks of Superior Court, the Administrative Office of the Courts (AOC), financial matters, personnel issues, and organizing an existing office

AUDIENCE New Clerks of Superior Court

SCHEDULE Every other year for 3–5 days

LEAD FACULTY Meredith Smith

SPONSOR Administrative Office of the Courts and Conference of Clerks of Superior Court

Contested Hearings for Clerks of Superior Court

This course is for clerks who want to feel more confident conducting contested hearings. It includes a lecture, small group work, and a mock hearing.

TOPICS The clerk's judicial authority, hearing procedures, contempt, common evidence problems, drafting an order, legal research and rendering a decision

AUDIENCE Clerks and Assistant Clerks of Superior Court

SCHEDULE Annually for 2 days

LEAD FACULTY Joseph Laizure

Domestic Violence for Clerks of Superior Court

This introductory training is for clerks with little or no formal training or specialized experience in fields related to domestic violence.

TOPICS The law and procedures governing domestic violence proceedings, dynamics of domestic violence, technology, and the clerk's role

AUDIENCE Clerks, Assistant Clerks, and Deputy Clerks of Superior Court

SCHEDULE Every other year for 1 day

LEAD FACULTY Brittany Bromell

Foreclosure Hearings for Clerks of Superior Court

This course for clerks covers issues that arise in connection with foreclosure hearings.

AUDIENCE Clerks and Assistant Clerks of Superior Court

SCHEDULE Annually for 2 days

LEAD FACULTY Meredith Smith

Introduction to Estates Administration

This course focuses on the fundamentals of estate administration for clerks new to estates.

TOPICS Essential terminology, the process of opening an estate, the clerk's role in reviewing and compiling inventories and accounts, and closing and settling an estate

AUDIENCE Clerks and Assistant Clerks of Superior Court

SCHEDULE Annually for 2 days

LEAD FACULTY Catherine Wilson

Partition for Clerks

This course covers the law of partitions and the clerk's judicial role in presiding over partition proceedings.

AUDIENCE Clerks and Assistant Clerks of Superior Court

SCHEDULE Every other year for 2 days

LEAD FACULTY Catherine Wilson

Trusts and Trust Proceedings for Clerks of Superior Court

This course focuses on the basics of trusts and common issues related to trusts that arise in proceedings before the clerk.

TOPICS Trust proceedings, testamentary trusts, the intersection of guardianship and trusts, and special needs trusts

AUDIENCE Clerks and Assistant Clerks of Superior Court

SCHEDULE Every other year for 1 day

LEAD FACULTY Catherine Wilson

Advanced Classes

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.

TOPICS Appellate standards of review, components of an order, evidence, making findings of fact and conclusions of law, attorney-drafted orders, and entry of an order

AUDIENCE Clerks and Assistant Clerks of Superior Court

SCHEDULE Every other year for 2 days

LEAD FACULTY Meredith Smith

Incompetency and Adult Guardianship Hearings

This course covers issues that arise in incompetency and guardianship proceedings. This is for clerks with experience in incompetency and guardianship proceedings or who have previously taken *Essential Skills for New Hearing Clerks: Incompetency Proceedings*, offered through the AOC.

TOPICS The use of limited guardianship, legal representation of the respondent, procedural and evidentiary issues, judicial and medical determination of incapacity, public guardianship, and restoration

AUDIENCE Clerks and Assistant Clerks of Superior Court

SCHEDULE Annually for 3 days

LEAD FACULTY Meredith Smith

Selected Proceedings Involving Minors Before the Clerk

This course covers selected proceedings and issues involving minors who come before the clerk.

TOPICS Legitimation, minor guardianship, the appointment of a guardian ad litem, and decedent's estates involving minor heirs

AUDIENCE Clerks and Assistant Clerks of Superior Court

SCHEDULE Every other year for 2 days

LEAD FACULTY Meredith Smith, Sara DePasquale

For more course offerings, see *Adult Protection Multidisciplinary Team Workshop; Fines and Fees Workshop; Train the Trainer; Getting Justice Done: A Judicial District Executive Seminar; Correctional Facilities Tours*; and *North Carolina Supreme Court Seminar*, under **Mixed Client Groups** (p. 13).

Leadership Classes

Building Coaching Skills to Tap Potential for Clerks

A successful supervisor can effectively coach and develop staff to take initiative, resolve conflict, develop productive working relationships, and reach their highest potential. While most supervisors can master the technical aspects of their job, the more challenging part is knowing how to help others develop and flourish, solve their problems, and have tough conversations when things are not going well. This interactive workshop allows participants to practice key skills.

TOPICS The differences between being a coach and a manager; how to develop a coach-like leadership mindset that will help create a more collaborative work environment; a framework for identifying the owner of a problem and skills for coaching conversations; and making the shift from being a "know-it-all" to a "learn-it-all" leader

AUDIENCE Clerks and Assistant Clerks of Superior Court

SCHEDULE Every other year for 1 day

Navigating Difficult Conversations for Clerks

Navigating difficult conversations is a core leadership skill. Healthy conflict allows us to express our ideas and learn more about others' perspectives to develop lasting solutions. Working through conflict can make us stronger, more resilient, and more accepting. This course helps participants find the opportunities for personal and professional growth presented by conflict. It focuses on real-time practice and application with feedback and coaching. Participants will leave already using skills that will effect positive changes in their workplace and community.

AUDIENCE Clerks and Assistant Clerks of Superior Court

SCHEDULE Every other year for 1 day

Conferences

Assistant and Deputy Clerks of Superior Court Conference

SCHEDULE Annually for 4 days
LEAD FACULTY Meredith Smith
SPONSOR Administrative Office of the Courts

Clerks of Superior Court Conference

SCHEDULE Twice per year for 4–5 days
LEAD FACULTY Meredith Smith
SPONSOR Conference of Clerks of Superior Court



District Court Judges

Core Classes

Orientation for New District Court Judges

This course provides training and orientation for new district court judges. Participants focus on conducting criminal, civil, and juvenile court proceedings, including ethics issues and various substantive legal topics.
By invitation only
AUDIENCE New District Court Judges
SCHEDULE Annually for 2 weeks (*one week in December and one week in March*)
LEAD FACULTY Cheryl D. Howell, Brittany Bromell
SPONSOR Administrative Office of the Courts

Orientation for New Chief District Court Judges

This course is for judges new to the chief district court judge position and the position of senior resident superior court judge. These groups are combined for portions of the program and meet separately to consider position-specific issues. Part of the program is spent at the Judicial Center in Raleigh to learn more about services provided by the AOC.
By invitation only
TOPICS Administration of the court, including the role of the chief district and senior resident judge, scheduling, performance measures, facilities and court security, case management, human resources, and court leadership
AUDIENCE New Chief District Court Judges
SCHEDULE Every other year for 2–3 days
LEAD FACULTY Shea R. Denning
SPONSOR Administrative Office of the Courts

Family Law: Session 1

District court judges relatively new to domestic relations court will learn about the applicable law in a small-group, interactive setting.
TOPICS Equitable distribution, alimony, and agreements related to both
AUDIENCE District Court Judges
SCHEDULE Every other year for 3 days
LEAD FACULTY Cheryl D. Howell

Family Law: Session 2

District court judges relatively new to domestic relations court will learn about the applicable law in a small-group, interactive setting.
TOPICS Child custody and child support, agreements related to both
AUDIENCE District Court Judges
SCHEDULE Every other year for 3 days
LEAD FACULTY Cheryl D. Howell

Advanced Classes

Advanced Family Law

This course is intended for judges with experience presiding over child custody or equitable distribution cases. Participants will discuss cases in a small group, interactive setting.
The course will be offered every other year, with the focus of the course alternating between child custody cases and equitable distribution cases.
TOPICS Child custody: jurisdiction issues, the courts' scope of authority in custody cases, creating parenting plans, grandparent and other non-parent custody

claims, determining parentage, and enforcement of custody cases. Equitable Distribution: Marital and divisible property and debt classification, valuation methodologies, trial management techniques, and post-judgment issues
AUDIENCE District Court Judges
SCHEDULE Every other year for 3 days
LEAD FACULTY Cheryl D. Howell

For more offerings, see *Advanced Sentencing Law: Probation; Criminology for Court Officials; Fourth Amendment Issues; Decision-Making for District and Superior Court Judges; Managing Civil Trials; Presiding Over DWI Cases: What Magistrates and District Court Judges Need to Know; Fines and Fees Workshop; Sentencing Seminar; Train the Trainer; Getting Justice Done: A Judicial District Executive Seminar; Correctional Facilities Tours; and United States Supreme Court Seminar* under **Mixed Client Groups** (p. 13).

Juvenile Court Certification Classes

Introduction to Juvenile Court Proceedings

This introductory online course provides an overview of general concepts and framework that apply to juvenile proceedings under G.S. Chapter 7B: specifically, abuse, neglect, dependency; termination of parental rights; and delinquency.
TOPICS The concept of juvenile court, why and how juvenile proceedings are different, the importance of G.S. Chapter 7B for substantive and procedural law, the impact on constitutional rights of the parties, managing the juvenile courtroom, confidentiality of court and agency records in juvenile proceedings, and a discussion of who the juveniles are that appear in juvenile court
AUDIENCE District Court Judges
SCHEDULE Every other year for 2 days
LEAD FACULTY Sara DePasquale, Jacquelyn Greene
CERTIFICATION Required for Juvenile Court Certification
SPONSOR Administrative Office of the Courts

Abuse, Neglect, Dependency, and Termination of Parental Rights

This course focuses on Subchapter I of the Juvenile Code. It includes the purpose and substantive, and procedural components of an abuse, neglect, or dependency (A/N/D) action.

TOPICS The requirements for the various stages of an A/N/D case, starting with a mandated report resulting in the filing of a petition and ending with the termination of the court's jurisdiction; and the role of a termination of parental rights proceeding in an A/N/D action
AUDIENCE District Court Judges
SCHEDULE Every other year for 5 days
LEAD FACULTY Sara DePasquale
CERTIFICATION Required for Juvenile Court Certification
SPONSOR Administrative Office of the Courts

Child Development

District court judges who hear juvenile or child custody cases will learn about child development in a small-group, interactive setting.
TOPICS Normative child development: infancy to adolescence; developmental variations, including autism spectrum disorders, early onset behavior disorders, and common adolescent mental health conditions; the impacts of abuse, neglect, and trauma on child development, practical strategies to build a trauma-informed courtroom; and making developmentally appropriate judicial decisions
AUDIENCE District Court Judges
SCHEDULE Every other year for 3 days
LEAD FACULTY Jacquelyn Greene
CERTIFICATION Required for Juvenile Court Certification

Juvenile Delinquency

This course covers procedures that govern juvenile delinquency proceedings from pre-petition through post-adjudication.
TOPICS Intake and diversion, preliminary procedures, transfer and removal, adjudication, disposition, motions for review and violation hearings, how delinquency court might function in a trauma-informed manner, the role of the juvenile court counselor, and the collateral consequences of delinquency adjudication
AUDIENCE District Court Judges
SCHEDULE Every other year for 3 days
LEAD FACULTY Jacquelyn Greene
CERTIFICATION Required for Juvenile Court Certification
SPONSOR Administrative Office of the Courts

Understanding Substance Use Disorder

The course is designed for judges who hear juvenile or custody cases.
TOPICS Introduction to issues related to substance use, including the nature of substance use and the science behind it, treatment and services, confidentiality laws, and the laws in G.S. Chapters 7B and 50 that specifically address substance use

AUDIENCE District Court Judges
SCHEDULE Every other year for 3 days
LEAD FACULTY Sara DePasquale
CERTIFICATION Required for Juvenile Court Certification

Advanced Child Welfare Certification Classes

A Closer Look at Termination of Parental Rights

The course focuses on termination of parental rights proceedings, both when there is and is not an underlying abuse, neglect, or dependency proceeding. It highlights common procedural and substantive issues often present in these cases and requirements for court orders entered in these proceedings.

AUDIENCE District Court Judges
SCHEDULE Every 3 years for 2 days
LEAD FACULTY Sara DePasquale
CERTIFICATION Required for Advanced Child Welfare Certification

Dispositions in A/N/D Court: Structuring Court-Ordered Plans

This course focuses on the components of dispositional orders impacting respondent parents that are entered in an abuse, neglect, or dependency action. Judges will understand the respondents’ experiences in meeting expectations and learn how to enter orders that are designed to allow a parent to succeed so that reunification is more likely to be achieved. This multiday course requires judges to complete exercises in their home jurisdiction as well as participate in online programming and will take place over the course of one week. Attendees will complete a simulated experience in working a dispositional case plan.

AUDIENCE District Court Judges
SCHEDULE Every 3 years for 3 days
LEAD FACULTY Sara DePasquale
CERTIFICATION Required for Advanced Child Welfare Certification

Dual Juvenile System Involvement

This course will focus on the unique issues that arise when juveniles are involved in both the child welfare and juvenile justice systems.

TOPICS Prevalence of dual system involvement, legal issues that arise when a juvenile in foster care becomes involved in the juvenile justice system, legal issues that occur when a juvenile is in foster care because of a delinquency case, and best practices for managing dual system matters

AUDIENCE District Court Judges
SCHEDULE Every 4 years for 2 days
LEAD FACULTY Sara DePasquale, Jacquelyn Greene
CERTIFICATION Elective for Advanced Child Welfare Certification and Advanced Juvenile Justice Certification

Educational Issues for Systems-Involved Youth

This course explores the connection between juvenile court proceedings and the education system, with an emphasis on the educational rights of children.

TOPICS School enrollment and educational stability for children in foster care; special education; school discipline; the role of law enforcement in schools; the Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act (FERPA); and information sharing between juvenile court, social service agencies, the Department of Juvenile Justice, and schools

AUDIENCE District Court Judges
SCHEDULE Every 3 years for 2 days
LEAD FACULTY Sara DePasquale, Jacquelyn Greene
CERTIFICATION Required for Advanced Juvenile Justice Certification and Advanced Child Welfare Certification

Indian Child Welfare Act (ICWA)

This course focuses on the Indian Child Welfare Act, a federal law that applies to abuse, neglect, dependency, termination of parental rights, and adoption actions. Attendees will travel to Cherokee, North Carolina, to learn about ICWA and the Eastern Band of Cherokee Indians, the requirements of ICWA, and how the tribe addresses child welfare cases for their children. Participants will visit landmark sites including the tribal courthouse, the New Kituwah Academy, and the Museum of the Cherokee People.

AUDIENCE District Court Judges
SCHEDULE Every 3 years for 3 days
LEAD FACULTY Sara DePasquale
CERTIFICATION Elective for Advanced Child Welfare Certification

Interstate Compact on the Placement of Children (ICPC)

This online course addresses the law and regulations that apply to interstate issues related to the placement of juveniles in out-of-state foster and/or pre-adoptive homes when an out-of-home placement arises in an abuse, neglect, or dependency case.

TOPICS When the ICPC applies, how the ICPC process works, challenges with the ICPC, and North Carolina appellate opinions addressing the ICPC

AUDIENCE District Court Judges
SCHEDULE Every 4 years for 1 day

LEAD FACULTY Sara DePasquale
CERTIFICATION Elective for Advanced Child Welfare Certification

Mental Health Issues in Juvenile Court

This course focuses on children with mental health needs who are the subject of district court proceedings, including delinquency, abuse, neglect, dependency, and judicial review of a minor’s voluntary admission to a restricted psychiatric facility.

TOPICS Laws governing the proceedings that enable a court to enter orders addressing a child’s mental health needs; the procedure for determining a juvenile’s capacity to proceed in a delinquency action; common mental health issues experience by children who are the subject of these court proceedings; and the North Carolina behavioral health delivery system and services that are available within that system

AUDIENCE District Court Judges
SCHEDULE Every 3 years for 3 days
LEAD FACULTY Sara DePasquale, Jacquelyn Greene
CERTIFICATION Required for Advanced Juvenile Justice Certification and Advanced Child Welfare Certification

Advanced Juvenile Justice Certification Classes

Dispositions in Juvenile Justice

This course explores using dispositional alternatives in a delinquency case to effectively disrupt patterns of repeat offending among youth. The course will also include a hands-on activity to practice structuring an effective delinquency disposition.

TOPICS The risk, needs, and responsivity principle; best practices in probation supervision; and evidence-based interventions

AUDIENCE District Court Judges
SCHEDULE Every 4 years for 1 day
LEAD FACULTY Jacquelyn Greene
CERTIFICATION Elective for Advanced Juvenile Justice Certification

Dual Juvenile System Involvement

This course will focus on the unique issues that arise when juveniles are involved in both the child welfare and juvenile justice systems.

TOPICS Prevalence of dual system involvement, legal issues that arise when a juvenile who is in foster care becomes involved in the juvenile justice system, legal issues that occur when a juvenile is in foster care as a result of a delinquency case, and best practices for managing dual system matters

AUDIENCE District Court Judges
SCHEDULE Every 4 years for 2 days
LEAD FACULTY Sara DePasquale, Jacquelyn Greene
CERTIFICATION Elective for Advanced Child Welfare Certification and Advanced Juvenile Justice Certification

Educational Issues for Systems-Involved Youth

This course explores the connection between juvenile court proceedings and the education system, with an emphasis on the educational rights of children.

TOPICS School enrollment and educational stability for children in foster care; special education; school discipline; the role of law enforcement in schools; the Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act (FERPA); and information sharing between juvenile court, social service agencies, the Department of Juvenile Justice, and schools

AUDIENCE District Court Judges
SCHEDULE Every 3 years for 2 days
LEAD FACULTY Sara DePasquale, Jacquelyn Greene
CERTIFICATION Required for Advanced Juvenile Justice Certification and Advanced Child Welfare Certification

Interstate Compact for Juveniles

This course addresses the law and rules that govern interstate issues related to juvenile justice cases.

TOPICS Returning out-of-state runaways to their home state, returning out-of-state juveniles accused of acts of delinquency to the state where they are charged, and transferring supervision of a juvenile on probation to another state for supervision

AUDIENCE District Court Judges
SCHEDULE Every 4 years for 1 day
LEAD FACULTY Jacquelyn Greene
CERTIFICATION Elective for Advanced Juvenile Justice Certification

Juvenile Capacity to Proceed

This course covers the legal standards and procedures for determining juvenile capacity to proceed.

TOPICS Legal and clinical details of the law, including what the juvenile capacity standard means, how to understand juvenile capacity evaluations, when a juvenile is eligible for remediation services, what remediation services entail, and how a case may proceed following remediation

AUDIENCE District Court Judges
SCHEDULE Every 4 years for 1 day
LEAD FACULTY Jacquelyn Greene
CERTIFICATION Elective for Advanced Juvenile Justice Certification

Juvenile Transfer to Superior Court

This course focuses on the procedure that governs the transfer of delinquency cases to superior court for criminal processing. Participants can apply the material covered and discuss their questions with a panel of experienced judges.

- TOPICS Filing the petition through the appeal of a transfer order; various pathways for transfer and the situations in which they can be used; the law that governs the removal of cases from superior court to juvenile court for processing as delinquency matter
- AUDIENCE District Court Judges
- SCHEDULE Every 3 years for 1 day
- LEAD FACULTY Jacquelyn Greene
- CERTIFICATION Required for Advanced Juvenile Justice Certification

Mental Health Issues in Juvenile Court

This course focuses on children with mental health needs who are the subject of district court proceedings, including delinquency, abuse, neglect, dependency, and judicial review of a minor’s voluntary admission to a restricted psychiatric facility.

- TOPICS Laws governing the proceedings that enable a court to enter orders addressing a child’s mental health needs; the procedure for determining a juvenile’s capacity to proceed in a delinquency action; common mental health issues experience by children who are the subject of these court proceedings; and the North Carolina behavioral health delivery system and services that are available within that system
- AUDIENCE District Court Judges
- SCHEDULE Every 3 years for 3 days
- LEAD FACULTY Sara DePasquale, Jacquelyn Greene
- CERTIFICATION Required for Advanced Juvenile Justice Certification and Advanced Child Welfare Certification

What Life is Like in Delinquency Out-of-Home Settings

This course allows a small group of judges to visit out-of-home settings used in delinquency matters. Visits include a youth development center, a juvenile detention center, and a community-based setting. Participants tour facilities and engage with staff.

- AUDIENCE District Court Judges
- SCHEDULE Every other year for 1 day in each of three regions of the state
- LEAD FACULTY Jacquelyn Greene
- CERTIFICATION Required for Advanced Juvenile Justice Certification

Leadership Classes

Chief District Court Judge Leadership Training

This course allows chief district court judges to develop the leadership skills they need in their administrative and supervisory roles. Each year, the course focuses on a particular aspect of leadership, such as communication, team building, strategic planning, case management, and conflict management.

- AUDIENCE Chief District Court Judges
- SCHEDULE Annually for 3 days
- LEAD FACULTY Shea R. Denning

Conferences

District Court Judges’ Conference

- AUDIENCE District Court Judges and Emergency/Retired District Court Judges
- SCHEDULE Twice per year (summer and fall) for 3–4 days each
- LEAD FACULTY Cheryl D. Howell, Brittany Bromell
- SPONSORS Administrative Office of the Courts and North Carolina Association of District Court Judges



Magistrates

Core Classes

Basic School for Magistrates

- This course covers the elements of crimes, criminal procedure, small claims procedure, summary ejectment, contracts, ethics, and handling funds.
By invitation only
- AUDIENCE Newly Appointed Magistrates
- SCHEDULE Twice per year (once in winter and once in summer) for 2 weeks each (civil week and criminal week)
- LEAD FACULTY Melanie Crenshaw, Belal Elrahal
- SPONSOR Administrative Office of the Courts

Introduction to Small Claims

- This course is for magistrates who are, or soon will be, holding small claims court, whether as a backup civil magistrate or on a more regular basis. It provides a refresher on the legal principles often addressed in small claims cases and the rules of procedure. It is a skill-based course that offers students instruction and practice in correctly deciding small claims cases and acting as a judicial official in conducting small claims court.
- AUDIENCE Magistrates
- SCHEDULE Annually for 4 days
- LEAD FACULTY Melanie Crenshaw
- CERTIFICATION Required for Magistrate Civil Law Certification
- SPONSOR Administrative Office of the Courts

Regional Magistrate Trainings

These regional trainings are for magistrates who are unable to attend in-person training. District court judges may also benefit from attending. These trainings will include a combination of lectures, group discussions, and interactive exercises.

- TOPICS Setting conditions of pretrial release, domestic violence, driving while impaired, summary ejectment, and small claims procedure
- AUDIENCE Magistrates
- SCHEDULE Annually, for 1 day per region
- LEAD FACULTY Brittany Bromell

One-Day Civil Law Seminar for Magistrates

This program is for magistrates holding small claims court, those anticipating holding small claims court, and those interested in civil law topics. Some training sessions may be repeated from the fall magistrates’ conference.

- TOPICS Case law and legislative updates, involuntary commitment, domestic violence protective orders, small claims procedure, and summary ejectment
- AUDIENCE Magistrates
- SCHEDULE Annually for 1 day
- LEAD FACULTY Melanie Crenshaw
- CERTIFICATION Optional component for Magistrate Civil Law Certification
- SPONSOR Administrative Office of the Courts

One-Day Criminal Law Seminar for Magistrates

This program focuses on criminal law and procedure issues pertinent to magistrates. The course includes sessions on substantive criminal law topics and case law and legislative updates. Some training sessions may repeat the fall magistrates’ conference sessions.

- AUDIENCE Magistrates
- SCHEDULE Annually for 1 day
- LEAD FACULTY Belal Elrahal
- CERTIFICATION Optional component for Magistrate Criminal Law Certification
- SPONSOR Administrative Office of the Courts

Advanced Classes

Advanced Criminal Procedure for Magistrates

This course helps experienced magistrates improve their performance on important criminal procedure tasks such as determining probable cause, selecting processes, conducting initial appearances, and setting bonds.

AUDIENCE Magistrates

SCHEDULE Every other year for 2 days

LEAD FACULTY Belal Elrahal

CERTIFICATION Required for Magistrate Criminal Law Certification

Conducting Hearings and Entering Judgments for Magistrates

This course is for magistrates who want to become more comfortable conducting hearings and entering judgments in small claims court. It culminates in a mock trial exercise, during which magistrates apply the skills they have learned. *Introduction to Small Claims* is a prerequisite for this course.

TOPICS Courtroom decorum, legal research, judicial decision-making, procedural fairness, common evidence problems, and completing judgment forms

AUDIENCE Magistrates

SCHEDULE Every other year for 3 days

LEAD FACULTY Melanie Crenshaw

Domestic Violence for Magistrates

This course covers issues related to domestic violence including applicable sessions, criminal law and procedure.

AUDIENCE Magistrates

SCHEDULE Annually for 2 days

LEAD FACULTY Brittany Bromell

CERTIFICATION Required for Magistrate Criminal Law Certification and optional for Magistrate Civil Law Certification

Involuntary Commitment for Magistrates

This course is for magistrates who conduct hearings related to involuntary commitments.

TOPICS Identifying information relevant to the commitment decision, basic skills for interviewing and eliciting information, trauma-informed interviewing, learning about mental illnesses, how to work with hospital emergency departments, making legal determinations related to mental illness and dangerousness, and properly implementing the decision to initiate the involuntary commitment process

AUDIENCE Magistrates

SCHEDULE Annually for 2 days

LEAD FACULTY Mark F. Botts

CERTIFICATION Optional component for Magistrate Certification in Civil Law

Special Topics in Small Claims

This course focuses on a different topic every other year, allowing a “deep dive” into skill-building and substantive law for small claims magistrates at various stages in their careers. Participants receive hands-on instruction and practice.

TOPICS Anticipating, preventing, and resolving common procedural issues in small claims court; evaluating evidence in terms of relevance, significance, validity, and reliability at trial; developing personalized checklists, scripts, and standardized practices to improve consistency and confidence in conducting court; understanding, identifying and skillfully responding to the needs and expectations of litigants and attorneys; and entering judgment

AUDIENCE Magistrates

SCHEDULE Annually for 2 days

LEAD FACULTY Melanie Crenshaw

CERTIFICATION Required for Magistrate Civil Law Certification

SPONSOR Administrative Office of the Courts

Judicial Decision-Making for Magistrates

This course offers an intensive exploration of magistrates' judicial decision-making. The focus is improving participants' abilities to correctly make legal decisions and identify and guard against improper influences. This seminar is highly interactive.

AUDIENCE Magistrates

SCHEDULE Every year for 2 days

LEAD FACULTY Melanie Crenshaw

CERTIFICATION Required for Magistrate Civil and Criminal Law Certification

For more course offerings, see *Presiding Over DWI Cases: What Magistrates and District Court Judges Need to Know; Train the Trainer;* and *North Carolina Supreme Court Seminar*. Find more information under **Mixed Client Groups** (p. 13).

Conferences

Magistrates' Conference

SCHEDULE Twice per year (in the spring and fall) for 3–4 days each

LEAD FACULTY Melanie Crenshaw, Belal Elrahal

SPONSORS Administrative Office of the Courts and North Carolina Magistrates' Association



Superior Court Judges

Core Classes

Orientation for New Superior Court Judges

This orientation course is for new superior court judges. *By invitation only*

TOPICS Transitioning from the bar to the bench, conducting criminal court, sentencing, evidence, litigation by self-represented persons, motions for appropriate relief, the code of judicial conduct, and civil procedure

AUDIENCE New Superior Court Judges

SCHEDULE Annually for 1 week

LEAD FACULTY Shea R. Denning, Joseph Laizure

SPONSOR Administrative Office of the Courts

Orientation for New Senior Resident Superior Court Judges

This course is for judges new to the senior resident superior court judge position and judges new to the chief district court judge position. These groups are combined for portions of the program and meet separately to consider position-specific issues. Part of the program is spent at the Judicial Center in Raleigh to learn more about services provided by the Administrative Office of the Courts.

By invitation only

TOPICS The role of the chief district and senior resident judge, scheduling, performance measures, facilities and court security, case management, human resources, and court leadership

AUDIENCE New Senior Resident Superior Court Judges

SCHEDULE Odd-numbered years in winter for 2–3 days

LEAD FACULTY Shea R. Denning

SPONSOR Administrative Office of the Courts

Local Government Law Essentials for Judges

This course will allow superior court judges to learn about local government authority, public records law, personnel records, confidentiality of health records, land use and zoning appeals, and local government liability.

AUDIENCE Superior Court Judges

SCHEDULE Every 5 years for 1 day

LEAD FACULTY Shea R. Denning

Advanced Classes

Advanced Criminal Evidence for Superior Court Judges

This course focuses on North Carolina law, except where federal law governs (Sixth Amendment confrontation rights, for example). It emphasizes helping judges develop skills to decide evidence issues accurately and expediently.

TOPICS Hearsay, confrontation, experts, child witnesses, impeachment, character and habit, Rule 404(b), evidentiary issues in self-defense cases, and authentication of digital and video evidence

AUDIENCE Superior Court Judges

SCHEDULE Every 3 years for 3 days

LEAD FACULTY Daniel Spiegel

Advanced Criminal Procedure for Superior Court Judges

This course covers many of the challenging procedural issues in criminal trials.

TOPICS Responding to discovery violations, capacity, double jeopardy, closing the courtroom, jury misconduct, DWI procedure, and probation revocations

AUDIENCE Superior Court Judges

SCHEDULE Every 5 years for 4 days

LEAD FACULTY James M. Markham

Advanced Issues in Sex Offender Registration and Monitoring

This course provides a comprehensive overview of the legal framework governing sex offender registration, including statutory requirements, judicial determinations, and constitutional considerations.

AUDIENCE Superior Court Judges

SCHEDULE Every 5 years for 2 days

LEAD FACULTY James M. Markham

The Use of Judicial Authority

This program explores law and practice related to the control of the courtroom and cases.

TOPICS The discipline of lawyers, sanctions, gatekeeper orders, self-represented litigants, and contempt

AUDIENCE Superior Court Judges

SCHEDULE Every 5 years for 3 days

LEAD FACULTY Shea R. Denning

Capital Case Law and Death Penalty Litigation

Capital cases are among the most difficult for judges to handle. The stakes are high, and the legal issues presented in death penalty trials are often complex. The public, the media, and the appellate courts closely scrutinize these cases. This course helps judges handle these cases efficiently and correctly.

TOPICS Case management, jury selection, experts and discovery, and capital sentencing hearings

AUDIENCE Superior Court Judges

SCHEDULE Every 5 years for 2 days

LEAD FACULTY Jeffrey B. Welty

Medical Malpractice for Superior Court Judges

This course covers the issues that set medical negligence cases apart from other civil matters. It addresses both legal theories and practical considerations important to managing these cases.

TOPICS Requests for extension of time to file a complaint—Rule 9(j), theories of the case, Rule 9(j) pleading issues, discovery scheduling orders and case management issues, Rule 702 restrictions on expert testimony, Chapter 90 restrictions on expert testimony, proximate cause and causation issues, discovery issues, jury instructions, and damages

AUDIENCE Superior Court Judges

SCHEDULE Every 5 years for 1 day

LEAD FACULTY Joseph Laizure

Post-Conviction Proceedings for Superior Court Judges

This course teaches judges how to rule effectively and appropriately on issues that arise after a criminal conviction.

TOPICS Procedural issues related to motions for appropriate relief, substantive claims such as ineffective assistance of counsel and sentencing errors, post-conviction sex offender registration proceedings, habeas corpus, and expunctions and certificates of relief

AUDIENCE Superior Court Judges

SCHEDULE Every 5 years for 1 day

LEAD FACULTY Joseph L. Hyde

For more course offerings, see *Advanced Sentencing Law: Probation; Criminology for Court Officials; Fourth Amendment Issues; Judicial Decision-Making for District Court Judges and Superior Court Judges; Managing Civil Trials; Fines and Fees Workshop; Sentencing Seminar; Train the Trainer; Getting Justice Done: A Judicial District Executive Seminar; Correctional Facilities Tours; and United States Supreme Court Seminar* under **Mixed Client Groups** (p. 13).

Leadership Classes

Senior Resident Superior Court Judge Leadership Training

This course helps senior resident superior court judges develop the leadership skills they need in their administrative and supervisory roles. Each offering focuses on a particular aspect of leadership, such as communication, strategic planning, case management, and managing conflict.

AUDIENCE Senior Resident Superior Court Judges

SCHEDULE Every other year for 2 days

LEAD FACULTY Shea R. Denning

Conferences

Superior Court Judges’ Conference

AUDIENCE Superior Court Judges and Emergency/Retired Superior Court Judges

SCHEDULE Twice per year (in summer and fall) for 3 days

LEAD FACULTY Shea R. Denning, Joseph Laizure

SPONSORS Administrative Office of the Courts and the North Carolina Conference of Superior Court Judges



Other Client Groups

Appellate Training: New and Emerging Legal Issues

This course focuses on new and emerging legal issues likely to come before the North Carolina Court of Appeals. Coverage varies yearly but typically includes sessions on recent supreme court cases, criminal law, civil law, juvenile law, and family law.

AUDIENCE Court of Appeals Judges

SCHEDULE Annually for 1 day

LEAD FACULTY Cheryl D. Howell

Judicial College Webinars for Law Enforcement

These webinars focus on various issues relevant to law enforcement. Past webinars have addressed early warning systems, policing protests, and media and public access to body-worn cameras.

AUDIENCE Law Enforcement Officers and Staff

SCHEDULE 2–3 webinars per year for 1 day each

LEAD FACULTY Jeffrey B. Welty

SPONSOR North Carolina Association of Chiefs of Police

Orientation for Court of Appeals Research Assistants

This course is for new court of appeals research assistants. It covers criminal law, appellate jurisdiction, sentencing, and family law.

AUDIENCE New Court of Appeals Research Assistants

SCHEDULE Annually for 2 days

LEAD FACULTY Brittany Bromell

SPONSOR Administrative Office of the Courts and the North Carolina Court of Appeals

Practical Skills for New Prosecutors

This course provides legal and practical training for new prosecutors through classroom lectures and skills exercises.

By invitation only

TOPICS Prosecuting domestic violence cases, handling DWI cases, working with law enforcement officers, sentencing, and chemical tests for alcohol

AUDIENCE New Prosecutors

SCHEDULE Annually for 5 days

LEAD FACULTY Joseph L. Hyde

SPONSOR Administrative Office of the Courts and North Carolina Conference of District Attorneys

Special Topic for New Prosecutors

In this course, participants attend lectures on evidence issues relevant to prosecutors and then choose between two tracks with specialized lectures on either sentencing or motions for appropriate relief (MARs).

TOPICS Capacity to proceed, digital evidence, character evidence, sentencing, and MARs

AUDIENCE Prosecutors

SCHEDULE Annually for 2–3 days

LEAD FACULTY Joseph L. Hyde



Mixed Client Groups

Core Classes

Advanced Sentencing Law: Probation

There are over 80,000 people on probation in North Carolina. As a result, probationary sentences and probation violations are a big part of the daily work of the state court system. This course helps judges manage that workload by crafting lawful and effective probationary sentences to achieve their intended result. Judges can avoid common sentencing errors and better understand how Community Corrections (Probation) administers their judgments.

AUDIENCE District and Superior Court Judges

SCHEDULE Every 5 years for 1 day

LEAD FACULTY James M. Markham

Criminology for Court Officials

What punishments work to reduce crime and improve outcomes for criminal defendants? What factors drive our prison population? What is North Carolina doing to reduce recidivism, and which interventions work best here? This criminology program for judges and other court officials will discuss these and other issues.

AUDIENCE Judges and Prosecutors

SCHEDULE Every 5 years for 1 day

LEAD FACULTY James M. Markham

Fourth Amendment Issues

This course helps judges develop skills to rule on Fourth Amendment issues presented in suppression motions.

TOPICS Warrantless searches, vehicle stops, searches of probationers and parolees, and Fourth Amendment issues in impaired driving cases

AUDIENCE District and Superior Court Judges

SCHEDULE Every 2 years for 1 day

LEAD FACULTY Jeffrey B. Welty

Decision-Making for District and Superior Court Judges

This course offers an intensive exploration of judicial decision-making by district and superior court judges. It addresses unique aspects of the legal decision-making process, how it helps achieve fair and neutral outcomes, and what decision-making tools can ensure better judicial decisions. Participants will engage in both group discussions and practical exercises.

AUDIENCE District and Superior Court Judges

SCHEDULE Every other year for 2 days

LEAD FACULTY Shea R. Denning

Managing Civil Trials

This course covers issues that arise in jury and non-jury civil litigation.

TOPICS Legal and practical issues associated with managing jurors, lawyers, and witnesses; making evidentiary rulings; resolving pretrial and end-of-trial motions; and managing discovery disputes

AUDIENCE District and Superior Court Judges

SCHEDULE Every 5 years for 3 days

LEAD FACULTY Joseph Laizure

Presiding Over DWI Cases: What Magistrates and District Court Judges Need to Know

This course is for magistrates and district court judges who want to learn more about the physiology of alcohol and drugs, the incidence and investigation of impaired driving, and the law of impaired driving. The first two days of the course are for magistrates and district court judges. The last day relates solely to the work of district court judges and includes a trip to the state's residential substance abuse treatment program for men in Goldsboro.

AUDIENCE Magistrates and District Court Judges

SCHEDULE Every other year for 3 days

LEAD FACULTY Belal Elrahal

CERTIFICATION Required for Magistrate Criminal Law Certification

Workshops and Seminars

Adult Protection Multidisciplinary Team Workshop

This workshop will bring together diverse stakeholders from around North Carolina to begin forming and developing adult protection multidisciplinary teams (MDTs). Each team may send up to six people to participate.

AUDIENCE Clerks of Superior Court, County Department of Social Services Employees, District Attorneys, Law Enforcement

SCHEDULE Every 3 years for 2 days

LEAD FACULTY Meredith Smith

SPONSOR Growing Practical Solutions for North Carolina (GPSNC)

Fines and Fees Workshop

This workshop focuses on issues related to criminal monetary obligations. Given how money-related issues impact different groups in the courthouse, this class allows different stakeholders within districts—judges, prosecutors, clerks, and defense attorneys—to gather as teams and incorporate discussion of their local processes.

By invitation only

AUDIENCE Superior Court Judges, District Court Judges, Clerks of Superior Court, Prosecutors, Public Defenders, County Commissioners, Private Attorneys

SCHEDULE Every 6 years for 2 days

LEAD FACULTY James M. Markham

Sentencing Seminar

This seminar is in conjunction with a UNC School of Law seminar on sentencing practices in North Carolina. It focuses on the discretionary aspects of sentencing and uses a case discussion format. Participants examine previous cases presented by judges and prosecutors, and consider how they would have sentenced the defendants.

By invitation only

AUDIENCE Superior Court Judges, District Court Judges, Prosecutors, Defense Attorneys, Probation/Parole Officers, UNC School of Law students

SCHEDULE Annually for 2 days each over 3 weekends

LEAD FACULTY James M. Markham

SPONSOR UNC School of Law

Train the Trainer

This course prepares practitioners to be instructors. It covers principles of adult education and strategies for active learning and student engagement. Participants apply the principles and practices to prepare an instructional module to deliver to colleagues at a future educational offering.

AUDIENCE Superior Court Judges, District Court Judges, Clerks of Superior Court, Magistrates

SCHEDULE Every 6 years for 2 days

LEAD FACULTY Shea R. Denning

Leadership Classes

Getting Justice Done: A Judicial District Executive Seminar

North Carolina's court system has experienced its fair share of challenges and change over the past few years. Pandemic-related protocols and delays, retirements, the implementation of eCourts, and other events have pressured the system and the people who lead and manage it. This court leadership seminar helps develop and strengthen leadership teams. It helps teams develop strategies to address identified priorities and concerns, including issues related to case management, the implementation of eCourts, and other developments.

AUDIENCE Executive Judicial Leadership Team in a District (Senior Resident Superior Court Judge, Chief District Court Judge, Clerk of Superior Court, District Attorney, Chief Public Defender)

SCHEDULE Annually for 6 days (two 3-day sessions)

LEAD FACULTY Shea R. Denning

Experiential Learning Seminars

Correctional Facilities Tours

This program gives court officials a better understanding of how the Division of Adult Correction administers judgments. Participants tour correctional facilities to gain a firsthand view of the typical places that house criminal defendants. The course includes time for relevant legal instruction and a question-and-answer period.

AUDIENCE Superior Court Judges, District Court Judges, Clerks of Superior Court, Prosecutors, Defense Attorneys

SCHEDULE Every other year for 2 days

LEAD FACULTY James M. Markham

North Carolina Supreme Court Seminar

This seminar helps orient magistrates and clerks to the larger system of justice in which they play a role. Participants will learn about the history, structure, and role of state government’s judicial, executive, and legislative branches and consider how their roles fit into the larger system of governance. Participants will attend oral arguments at the North Carolina Supreme Court and participate in other related activities as schedules permit, including visiting the General Assembly and the Supreme Court Historical Society.

AUDIENCE Clerks and Assistant Clerks of Superior Court, Magistrates

SCHEDULE Every 3–4 years for 3 days

LEAD FACULTY Shea R. Denning

United States Supreme Court Seminar

This seminar offers 20 judges the opportunity to travel to Washington, D.C., to visit the institution at the fore of the nation’s judicial system: the United States Supreme Court. Participants will hear oral arguments at the court and have an opportunity to be sworn into the Supreme Court. The group will also participate in a lecture on law and justice at the U.S. Holocaust Memorial Museum, tour the Charters of Freedom at the National Archives, and visit other institutions.

AUDIENCE District and Superior Court Judges

SCHEDULE Every 3 years for 4 days

LEAD FACULTY Shea R. Denning

Certifications

Juvenile Court Certification

Juvenile certification training requires that a district court judge:

1	Complete a core curriculum approved by the AOC which includes the following required courses: • <i>Introduction to Juvenile Court Proceedings</i> • <i>Abuse, Neglect, Dependency and Termination of Parental Rights</i> • <i>Child Development for District Court Judges</i> • <i>Juvenile Delinquency</i> • <i>Understanding Substance Use Disorders</i>
2	At any time after completing the first of the five courses, but no later than 12 months after completing the final course, the judge must preside over • At least 100 juvenile hearings (adjudication or disposition hearings, including termination of parental rights or other contested matters) or • Fifty percent of the juvenile hearings in a district
3	At completion, the chief district court judge must certify to the AOC that the judge has met these requirements.

To maintain Juvenile Court Certification, a judge must complete six hours of continuing judicial education in each biennium at designated juvenile courses offered by the North Carolina Judicial College or at designated juvenile sessions at the district court judges’ conferences.

Advanced Child Welfare Certification

Advanced certification in child welfare requires that a district court judge:

1	Acquire and maintain Juvenile Court Certification.
2	Complete a core advanced certification curriculum approved by the AOC and offered through the North Carolina Judicial College, which includes the following required courses: • <i>Educational Issues for Systems-Involved Youth</i> • <i>Mental Health Issues in Juvenile Court</i> • <i>Dispositions in A/N/D Court: Structuring Court-Ordered Plans</i> • <i>A Closer Look at Termination of Parental Rights</i>
3	Complete two child welfare elective courses offered through the North Carolina Judicial College, which include the following: • <i>Indian Child Welfare Act (ICWA)</i> • <i>Interstate Compact on the Placement of Children (ICPC)</i> • <i>Dual Juvenile System Involvement</i> • Other electives as designed and administered by the North Carolina Judicial College
4	Continue to preside over abuse, neglect, dependency, and/or termination of parental rights matters. The chief district court judge must certify to the AOC that the judge meets this requirement.

To maintain Advanced Child Welfare Certification, a judge must complete six hours of continuing judicial education in each biennium at designated juvenile courses offered by the North Carolina Judicial College or at designated juvenile sessions at the district court judges’ conferences.

Advanced Juvenile Justice Certification

Advanced certification in juvenile justice requires that a district court judge:

1	Acquire and maintain Juvenile Court Certification.
2	Complete a core advanced certification curriculum approved by the AOC and offered through the North Carolina Judicial College, which includes the following required courses: - Educational Issues for Systems-Involved Youth - Mental Health Issues in Juvenile Court - Juvenile Transfer to Superior Court - What Life is Like in Delinquency Out-of-Home Settings
3	Complete two juvenile justice elective courses offered through the North Carolina Judicial College; which include the following: - Dispositions in Juvenile Justice - Interstate Compact for Juveniles - Juvenile Capacity to Proceed - Dual Juvenile System Involvement - Other electives as designed and administered by the North Carolina Judicial College
4	Continue to preside over juvenile delinquency matters. The chief district court judge must certify to the AOC that the judge meets this requirement.

To maintain Advanced Certification in Juvenile Justice, a judge must complete six hours of continuing judicial education in each biennium at designated juvenile courses offered by the North Carolina Judicial College or at designated juvenile sessions at the district court judges' conferences.

Magistrate Certification

The Judicial College offers magistrates the opportunity to become certified upon completing a specific combination of courses, seminars, and sessions offered by the Judicial College. Two types of certifications are available, one in criminal law and the other in civil law. Magistrates may be certified in either civil or criminal law or both. Participation in the certification program is entirely optional. The program aims to acknowledge and document the commitment and accomplishments

of magistrates who pursue a focused course of study in these areas. There is no time limit within which participants must complete these requirements. Not all courses are available annually. Judicial College courses previously attended are eligible for credit if they fall into the categories set below. However, no credit is available for viewing recordings of online trainings after the date they were offered live.

Note: Sessions on topics taken during Basic School for Magistrates do not count towards the certification requirements.

Magistrate Civil Law Certification components	
1	Judicial Decision-Making
2	Introduction to Small Claims
3	Special Topic Seminar in Small Claims
4	One-Day Civil Law Seminar or six hours of small claims, involuntary commitment, or domestic violence protective order sessions at the magistrates fall and/or spring conferences
5	Either Involuntary Commitment for Magistrates or Domestic Violence for Magistrates

Magistrate Criminal Law Certification components	
1	Judicial Decision-Making
2	Advanced Criminal Procedure
3	Presiding Over DWI Cases: What Magistrates and District Court Judges Need to Know
4	Domestic Violence for Magistrates
5	One-Day Criminal Law Seminar or six hours of criminal law sessions at the magistrates fall and/or spring conferences

Each November, the Judicial College notifies magistrates that they may file a request for certification. For more information about Magistrate Certification, visit go.unc.edu/magcert.

Continuing Education

Continuing Judicial Education (CJE)

The Rules of Continuing Judicial Education apply to North Carolina District Court, Superior Court, and Court of Appeals judges, and to the chief justice and associate justices of the North Carolina Supreme Court. The rules also apply to retired judges and justices qualified as emergency or recalled judges or justices. Every judge in the trial division must attend an orientation for new judges provided by the School of Government and Administrative Office of the Courts within the first year after appointment or election. This attendance counts toward the hours of instruction required for the biennium in which the course occurs.

- In each biennium, judges and justices of the trial and appellate division must attend at least 30 hours of instruction in one or more approved continuing legal or judicial education programs, effective with the biennium beginning July 1, 2025, and ending June 30, 2027.
- At least 15 of the 30 hours required must be designed especially for judges and attended exclusively or primarily by judges. All superior court judges are expected to attend the scheduled superior court judges' conferences. All district court judges are expected to attend the scheduled district court judges' conferences. For district court judges designated as family court judges, at least 24 of the 30 required hours must be continuing judicial education courses designed especially for family court.
- Judges participating as teachers, lecturers, discussion leaders, or panelists in an approved program receive five hours of credit for each hour of actual presentation time. Presentation of the same material on subsequent occasions accrues credit for the actual presentation time only.

The AOC maintains all continuing judicial education records for judges.

Magistrate Continuing Education Training (G.S. 7A-177)

Within six months of taking the oath of office, a magistrate must complete an introductory training course of at least 40 hours in the civil and criminal duties of a magistrate. The School of Government offers Basic School for Magistrates twice yearly to allow new magistrates to satisfy this requirement. Annually, magistrates must satisfactorily complete at least 12 hours of training in civil and criminal duties of a magistrate, which must include, but is not limited to, the following subjects:

- Setting conditions of pretrial release
- Impaired driving laws
- Issuing criminal processes
- Issuing search warrants
- Technology
- Orders of protection
- Summary ejectment laws

The AOC maintains magistrate continuing education records. As of August 2022, attorney magistrates who meet the annual AOC Magistrates Continuing Education Credit requirements are exempt from NC State Bar attorney continuing legal education (CLE) requirements.

Faculty Expertise



Mark F. Botts
Associate Professor of Public Law and Government
botts@sog.unc.edu

EXPERTISE Mental health law, including involuntary commitment procedures; legal responsibilities of area boards; client rights (especially confidentiality)



Brittany Bromell
Assistant Professor of Public Law and Government
bwilliams@sog.unc.edu

EXPERTISE Criminal law and procedure; domestic violence; computer crimes; first appearances; pretrial release

Faculty contact for district court judges and magistrates



Melanie Crenshaw
Albert and Gladys Coates Term Assistant Professor of Public Law and Government
mcrenshaw@sog.unc.edu

EXPERTISE Civil law; landlord/tenant; small claims
Faculty contact for magistrates



Shea R. Denning
James E. Holshouser Distinguished Professor of Public Law and Government; Director, North Carolina Judicial College
denning@sog.unc.edu

EXPERTISE Criminal law and procedure; Judicial authority, administration and leadership; court system and structure

Faculty contact for chief district court judges and superior court judges



Sara DePasquale
Professor of Public Law and Government
sara@sog.unc.edu

EXPERTISE Child welfare law (abuse, neglect, dependency; termination of parental rights; emancipation); adoptions of minors; Indian Child Welfare Act; judicial waiver of parental consent legitimation

Faculty contact for district court judges, parent attorneys, and social services attorneys



Phil Dixon Jr.
Teaching Associate Professor of Public Law and Government; Director, Public Defense Education
dixon@sog.unc.edu

EXPERTISE Cannabis/hemp and drug crimes; criminal law and procedure; firearms law; post-conviction; right to counsel; sex offenders; search and seizure; Public Defense Education

Faculty contact for public defenders



Belal Elrahal
Assistant Professor of Public Law and Government
elrahal@sog.unc.edu

EXPERTISE Motor vehicle law, including legal aspects of driving while impaired and driver's license revocations

Faculty contact for magistrates



Jacquelyn Greene
Associate Professor of Public Law and Government
greene@sog.unc.edu

EXPERTISE Confidentiality (delinquency); juvenile delinquency; juvenile justice; juvenile transfer; Raise the Age

Faculty contact for district court judges



Timothy Heinle
Albert and Gladys Coates Term Teaching Assistant Professor of Public Law and Government
heinle@sog.unc.edu

EXPERTISE Incompetency and guardianship; juvenile abuse, neglect, and dependency; social services law (child welfare, protective services); termination of parental rights; evidence

Faculty contact for civil defenders and adult guardian ad litem (GALs)



Cheryl D. Howell
Albert Coates Distinguished Professor of Public Law and Government
howell@sog.unc.edu

EXPERTISE Civil Law; family law; contempt; civil domestic violence; judicial education

Faculty contact for district court judges and court of appeals judges



Joseph L. Hyde
Assistant Professor of Public Law and Government
jhyde@sog.unc.edu

EXPERTISE Criminal law and procedure; criminal pleadings; evidence; appellate procedure; double jeopardy; MARs; self-defense

Faculty contact for prosecutors



Joseph Laizure
Assistant Professor of Public Law and Government
jlaizure@email.unc.edu

EXPERTISE Civil procedure; Civil trials; Contested hearings

Faculty contact for superior court judges



James M. Markham
Professor of Public Law and Government
markham@sog.unc.edu

EXPERTISE Criminal sentencing; community corrections; corrections; habitual offenses; jails and prisons; sex offenders

Faculty contact for superior court judges



John Rubin
Albert Coates Distinguished Professor of Public Law and Government
rubin@sog.unc.edu

EXPERTISE Capacity to proceed; collateral consequences; expunctions; mental health defenses; right to counsel; self defense



Meredith Smith
Associate Professor of Public Law and Government
meredith.smith@sog.unc.edu

EXPERTISE Abuse, neglect, and exploitation (adults); Elder abuse; foreclosures; guardianship; incompetency; powers of attorney; special proceedings

Faculty contact for clerks of superior court



Daniel Spiegel
Assistant Professor of Public Law and Government
spiegel@sog.unc.edu

EXPERTISE Criminal law and procedure; evidence; drug crimes

Faculty contact for public defenders



Jeffrey B. Welty
Professor of Public Law and Government; Senior Associate Dean for Faculty Affairs
welty@sog.unc.edu

EXPERTISE Criminal law and procedure; cybercrime/ computer crime; firearms law; habitual offenses; search and seizure law; policing



Catherine Wilson
Assistant Professor of Public Law and Government
cwilson@sog.unc.edu

EXPERTISE Decedents' estate administration; estate proceedings; trusts; trust proceedings; special proceedings involving real property

Faculty contact for clerks of superior court



judicialcollege.unc.edu



SCHOOL OF GOVERNMENT
North Carolina Judicial College