

# **The Law of Impaired Driving and Related Implied Consent Offenses in North Carolina**

**2014**

**Shea Riggsbee Denning**



The School of Government at the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill works to improve the lives of North Carolinians by engaging in practical scholarship that helps public officials and citizens understand and improve state and local government. Established in 1931 as the Institute of Government, the School provides educational, advisory, and research services for state and local governments. The School of Government is also home to a nationally ranked graduate program in public administration and specialized centers focused on information technology and environmental finance.

As the largest university-based local government training, advisory, and research organization in the United States, the School of Government offers up to 200 courses, webinars, and specialized conferences for more than 12,000 public officials each year. In addition, faculty members annually publish approximately 50 books, manuals, reports, articles, bulletins, and other print and online content related to state and local government. Each day that the General Assembly is in session, the School produces the *Daily Bulletin Online*, which reports on the day's activities for members of the legislature and others who need to follow the course of legislation.

The Master of Public Administration Program is offered in two formats. The full-time, two-year residential program serves up to 60 students annually. In 2013 the School launched MPA@UNC, an online format designed for working professionals and others seeking flexibility while advancing their careers in public service. The School's MPA program consistently ranks among the best public administration graduate programs in the country, particularly in city management. With courses ranging from public policy analysis to ethics and management, the program educates leaders for local, state, and federal governments and nonprofit organizations.

Operating support for the School of Government's programs and activities comes from many sources, including state appropriations, local government membership dues, private contributions, publication sales, course fees, and service contracts. Visit [www.sog.unc.edu](http://www.sog.unc.edu) or call 919.966.5381 for more information on the School's courses, publications, programs, and services.

Michael R. Smith, DEAN

Thomas H. Thornburg, SENIOR ASSOCIATE DEAN

Frayda S. Bluestein, ASSOCIATE DEAN FOR FACULTY DEVELOPMENT

L. Ellen Bradley, ASSOCIATE DEAN FOR PROGRAMS AND MARKETING

Johnny Burleson, ASSOCIATE DEAN FOR DEVELOPMENT

Todd A. Nicolet, ASSOCIATE DEAN FOR OPERATIONS

Bradley G. Volk, ASSOCIATE DEAN FOR ADMINISTRATION

#### FACULTY

Whitney Afonso	Cheryl Daniels Howell	LaToya B. Powell
Trey Allen	Jeffrey A. Hughes	William C. Rivenbark
Gregory S. Allison	Willow S. Jacobson	Dale J. Roenigk
David N. Ammons	Robert P. Joyce	John Rubin
Ann M. Anderson	Diane M. Juffras	Jessica Smith
Maureen Berner	Dona G. Lewandowski	Meredith Smith
Mark F. Botts	Adam Lovelady	Carl W. Stenberg III
Michael Crowell	James M. Markham	John B. Stephens
Leisha DeHart-Davis	Christopher B. McLaughlin	Charles Szyszak
Shea Riggsbee Denning	Kara A. Millonzi	Shannon H. Tufts
Sara DePasquale	Jill D. Moore	Vaughn Mamlin Upshaw
James C. Drennan	Jonathan Q. Morgan	Aimee N. Wall
Richard D. Ducker	Ricardo S. Morse	Jeffrey B. Welty
Joseph S. Ferrell	C. Tyler Mulligan	Richard B. Whisnant
Alyson A. Grine	Kimberly L. Nelson	
Norma Houston	David W. Owens	

© 2014

School of Government

The University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill

Use of this publication for commercial purposes or without acknowledgment of its source is prohibited. Reproducing, distributing, or otherwise making available to a non-purchaser the entire publication, or a substantial portion of it, without express permission, is prohibited.

Printed in the United States of America

17 16 15 14 13 1 2 3 4 5

ISBN 978-1-56011-757-1

∞ This publication is printed on permanent, acid-free paper in compliance with the North Carolina General Statutes.

⊗ Printed on recycled paper

# Contents

Preface .....	xv
Chapter 1	
<b>Implied Consent Laws: Theory and Procedure</b> .....	3
<b>I. Introduction</b> .....	3
<b>II. Implied Consent Testing</b> .....	3
A. Implied Consent Rights .....	5
B. Administering a Chemical Analysis .....	6
1. Breath Tests .....	7
2. Refusal .....	8
3. Blood or Urine Tests .....	9
4. Alcohol Screening Tests .....	10
5. Pre-Arrest Testing .....	11
6. Affidavit and Revocation Report .....	11
<b>III. Theory of Implied Consent</b> .....	12
A. Implied Consent Testing and the Fourth Amendment .....	12
B. Statutory Right to Refuse .....	16
1. Compelled Testing after Refusal .....	17
2. <i>Missouri v. McNeely</i> and the Theory of Implied Consent .....	19
a. <i>State v. Butler</i> .....	20
b. <i>State v. Brooks</i> .....	20
3. Limitations of Consent-Based Justification .....	22
4. Fifth Amendment and Refusals .....	23

## Chapter 2

<b>Implied Consent Offenses . . . . .</b>	29
<b>I. Driving While Impaired . . . . .</b>	29
<b>A. Elements . . . . .</b>	29
<b>1. Drive . . . . .</b>	29
<b>2. Vehicle . . . . .</b>	30
<b>3. Street, Highway, or Public Vehicular Area . . . . .</b>	32
<b>a. Street, Highway . . . . .</b>	32
<b>b. Public Vehicular Area . . . . .</b>	32
<b>4. While Impaired . . . . .</b>	33
<b>a. Under the Influence of an Impairing Substance . . . . .</b>	33
<i>(i) Alcohol . . . . .</i>	34
<i>(ii) Controlled Substance under G.S. Chapter 90 . . . . .</i>	34
<i>(iii) Drug . . . . .</i>	34
<b>b. Proving Appreciable Impairment . . . . .</b>	35
<i>(i) Opinion Testimony . . . . .</i>	35
<i>(ii) Proving Impairment by Drugs . . . . .</i>	36
(A) Drug Recognition Expert Combined with Chemical Analysis . . . . .	36
(B) Opinion Testimony from Experienced Officer . . . . .	37
(C) Defendant's Admission Corroborated by Expert Testimony . . . . .	37
<b>c. Per Se Impairment . . . . .</b>	37
<i>(i) Alcohol Concentration . . . . .</i>	38
<i>(ii) Relevant Time after Driving . . . . .</i>	38
<i>(iii) Results Shall Be Deemed Sufficient . . . . .</i>	40
<i>(iv) Per Se Impairment Sufficient as a Matter of Law . . . . .</i>	40
<i>(v) Margin of Error . . . . .</i>	41
<i>(vi) Proving Per Se Impairment with a Chemical Analysis . . . . .</i>	41
(A) Confrontation Clause and Notice and Demand . . . . .	42
(1) CHEMICAL ANALYSIS OF BREATH IN DISTRICT COURT . . . . .	43
(2) CHEMICAL ANALYSIS OF BLOOD OR URINE IN DISTRICT OR SUPERIOR COURT . . . . .	44
(a) Remote Testimony . . . . .	44
(3) CHEMICAL ANALYSIS OF BLOOD OR URINE IN ADMINISTRATIVE HEARINGS . . . . .	44
(B) Proving Per Se Impairment Without a Chemical Analysis . . . . .	44
(C) Retrograde Extrapolation . . . . .	45
<b>d. Schedule I Controlled Substance . . . . .</b>	48
<b>B. Pleading Requirements . . . . .</b>	47
<b>C. Aiding and Abetting . . . . .</b>	49
<b>D. Punishment . . . . .</b>	51
<b>E. License Revocation . . . . .</b>	51
<b>II. Habitual Impaired Driving . . . . .</b>	52
<b>A. Offenses Involving Impaired Driving . . . . .</b>	52
<b>B. Prior Convictions . . . . .</b>	52
<b>1. Defined . . . . .</b>	52
<b>2. Time of Conviction . . . . .</b>	53
<b>C. Indictment . . . . .</b>	53
<b>D. Conviction . . . . .</b>	55

<b>E. Sentencing</b> . . . . .	55
<b>F. License Revocation</b> . . . . .	56
<b>G. Vehicle Seizure and Forfeiture</b> . . . . .	56
<b>III. Homicide, Death, and Serious Injury by Vehicle</b> . . . . .	57
<b>A. Homicide Generally</b> . . . . .	57
<b>B. Second-Degree Murder</b> . . . . .	57
<i>1. Elements</i> . . . . .	57
<i>2. Sentencing</i> . . . . .	58
<i>3. License Revocation</i> . . . . .	59
<b>C. Involuntary Manslaughter</b> . . . . .	59
<i>1. Elements</i> . . . . .	59
<i>2. Sentencing</i> . . . . .	60
<i>3. License Revocation</i> . . . . .	60
<b>D. Death by Vehicle</b> . . . . .	60
<i>1. Felony Death by Vehicle</i> . . . . .	60
a. Elements . . . . .	60
b. Sentencing . . . . .	60
c. License Revocation . . . . .	61
<i>2. Aggravated Felony Death by Vehicle</i> . . . . .	61
a. Elements . . . . .	61
b. Sentencing . . . . .	62
c. License Revocation . . . . .	62
<i>3. Repeat Felony Death by Vehicle</i> . . . . .	62
a. Elements . . . . .	62
b. Sentencing . . . . .	63
c. License Revocation . . . . .	63
<i>4. Misdemeanor Death by Vehicle</i> . . . . .	63
a. Elements . . . . .	63
b. Sentencing . . . . .	63
c. License Revocation . . . . .	64
<i>5. Felony Serious Injury by Vehicle</i> . . . . .	64
a. Elements . . . . .	64
(i) <i>Serious Injury</i> . . . . .	64
(ii) <i>Proximate Cause</i> . . . . .	65
b. Sentencing . . . . .	65
c. License Revocation . . . . .	65
<i>6. Aggravated Felony Serious Injury by Vehicle</i> . . . . .	66
a. Elements . . . . .	66
b. Sentencing . . . . .	66
c. License Revocation . . . . .	66
<b>IV. Impaired Driving in a Commercial Motor Vehicle</b> . . . . .	67
<b>A. Elements</b> . . . . .	67
<i>1. Commercial Motor Vehicle</i> . . . . .	67
<i>2. Alcohol Concentration of 0.04 or More</i> . . . . .	68
<i>3. Relationship to Impaired Driving under G.S. 20-138.1</i> . . . . .	68
<b>B. Sentencing</b> . . . . .	69
<b>C. License Revocation</b> . . . . .	69

<b>V. Open Container Offenses . . . . .</b>	70
A. Misdemeanor Offense: G.S. 20-138.7(a) . . . . .	70
1. Elements . . . . .	70
2. Alcohol Screening Tests . . . . .	71
3. Sentencing . . . . .	71
4. License Revocation . . . . .	71
B. Infraction: G.S. 20-138.7(a1) . . . . .	71
1. Elements . . . . .	71
2. Sentencing . . . . .	72
3. Implied Consent Offense Procedures . . . . .	72
4. License Revocation . . . . .	72
<b>VI. Impaired Instruction . . . . .</b>	72
A. Elements . . . . .	72
B. Sentencing . . . . .	73
C. License Revocation . . . . .	73
<b>VII. Zero-Tolerance Offenses: Driving after Consuming by Person under 21, Driving School Bus/Child Care Vehicle after Consuming; Driving Commercial Motor Vehicle after Consuming . . . . .</b>	73
A. Generally . . . . .	73
B. Driving after Consuming by Person under 21 . . . . .	74
1. Elements . . . . .	74
2. Sentencing . . . . .	74
3. License Revocation . . . . .	74
C. Operating a Commercial Vehicle after Consuming Alcohol . . . . .	75
1. Elements . . . . .	75
2. Sentencing . . . . .	76
3. License Revocation . . . . .	76
D. Driving School Bus Vehicle/Child Care Vehicle/Ambulance/EMS Vehicle/Firefighting Vehicle/Law Enforcement Vehicle after Consuming . . . . .	76
1. Elements . . . . .	76
2. Alcohol Screening Test . . . . .	77
3. Sentencing . . . . .	77
4. License Revocation . . . . .	78
<b>VIII. Driving While License Revoked . . . . .</b>	78
A. Violation of a No-Alcohol Condition of a Limited Driving Privilege . . . . .	78
1. Sentencing . . . . .	79
2. License Revocation . . . . .	79
B. Driving in Violation of a Restriction Requiring Ignition Interlock . . . . .	79
1. Sentencing . . . . .	80
2. License Revocation . . . . .	81

## Chapter 3

<b>Initial Appearances, Confinement, and Access to Witnesses</b>	85
<b>I. Introduction</b>	85
<b>II. Civil License Revocations</b>	86
<b>A. Conditions Requiring Civil License Revocation</b>	87
<i>1. Driving in Violation of an Alcohol Restriction That Is Not an Implied Consent Offense</i>	88
<i>2. Driving in Violation of Ignition Interlock Restriction</i>	88
<b>B. Affidavit and Revocation Report (AOC-CVR-1A)</b>	89
<b>C. Procedure if Report Filed at Initial Appearance</b>	90
<i>1. Exception for Revoked Licenses</i>	91
<i>2. Revocation Order (AOC-CVR-2)</i>	91
<i>3. Surrender of Driver's License</i>	92
<i>4. Affidavit of No License or Lost License (AOC-CVR-8)</i>	92
<i>5. Driver's License Pick-Up Order</i>	93
<i>6. Revocation Period</i>	93
<b>D. Procedure if Report Filed with Clerk of Court When the Person Is Not Present</b>	93
<i>1. Minimum Period of Thirty or Forty-Five Days</i>	94
<i>2. Revocation Period if Pending Offense</i>	95
<b>E. Multiple Offenses</b>	95
<b>F. Contesting a License Revocation (AOC-CVR-05)</b>	95
<b>G. Return of License</b>	97
<b>H. Nature of Revocation</b>	97
<b>III. Impaired Driving Holds and <i>State v. Knoll</i></b>	99
<b>A. Denial of Access to Family and Friends in Implied Consent Cases</b>	100
<i>1. State v. Hill, 277 N.C. 547 (1971)</i>	100
<i>2. State v. Knoll, 322 N.C. 535 (1988)</i>	101
a. Defendant Knoll	101
b. Defendant Warren	101
c. Defendant Hicks	102
d. Knoll Court's Analysis	102
<i>3. Right to Dismissal Based Upon a Constitutional, versus Statutory, Claim</i>	104
<i>4. Prejudice: Proven or Presumed?</i>	104
<i>5. Knoll's Progeny</i>	106
<i>6. State v. Labinski, 188 N.C. App. 120 (2008)</i>	107
<i>7. Reconciling Hill, Knoll, and Their Progeny</i>	109
<b>IV. Procedural Requirements Governing Holds and Notice in Implied Consent Cases</b>	109
<b>A. Impaired Driving Holds</b>	110
<b>B. Procedures for Gaining Access to Witnesses</b>	111
<b>C. 2006 Procedures and Knoll</b>	112
<i>1. State v. Daniel, 208 N.C. App. 364 (2010)</i>	113
<i>2. State v. Kostick, ___ N.C. App. ___, 755 S.E.2d 411 (2014)</i>	114
<i>3. Implications for Future Cases</i>	114

## Chapter 4

<b>Motions and Motions Procedures in Implied Consent Cases .....</b>	119
<b>I. Introduction .....</b>	119
<b>II. Trial Procedures for Implied Consent Offenses .....</b>	119
A. Motor Vehicle Driver Privacy Protection Act of 2006 .....	120
B. Summary Rulings .....	121
C. Preliminary Determinations .....	121
D. Appeal .....	121
1. <i>Time Limitation</i> .....	122
2. <i>No Appeal after Jeopardy Attaches</i> .....	122
3. <i>Appeal Procedures</i> .....	124
4. <i>Standard of Review</i> .....	125
5. <i>No Appeal from Superior Court's Remand Order</i> .....	125
6. <i>Appeal from District Court's Final Order</i> .....	126
<b>III. Motions to Suppress .....</b>	126
<b>IV. Motions to Dismiss .....</b>	130
A. Grounds .....	130
1. <i>The Defendant Has Been Denied a Speedy Trial</i> .....	131
a. State Crime Lab Delays .....	131
b. Other Speedy Trial Claims .....	133
2. <i>The Defendant's Constitutional Rights Have Been Flagrantly Violated</i> .....	133
a. Right to Communicate with Counsel and Friends .....	133
i. <i>State v. Hill</i> .....	133
ii. <i>State v. Ferguson</i> .....	134
b. Dismissal and Refiling .....	135
B. Proper Remedies .....	137

## Chapter 5

<b>Sentencing under G.S. 20-179 .....</b>	143
<b>I. Introduction .....</b>	143
<b>II. Sentencing Procedures .....</b>	146
A. Sentencing Hearing in District Court .....	146
B. Sentencing Hearing in Superior Court .....	146
C. Standard of Proof .....	147
D. Levels of Punishment .....	148
E. Duties of Prosecutor in District Court .....	149
F. Duties of Prosecutor in Superior Court .....	150
<b>III. Aggravating Factors .....</b>	151
A. Grossly Aggravating Factors .....	151
1. <i>Qualifying Prior Conviction for an Offense Involving Impaired Driving</i> .....	152
a. What Counts as a Conviction? .....	152

b. What Is the Date of a Prior Conviction? .....	154
c. Proof of Prior Convictions .....	155
<b>2. Driving While License Revoked for an Impaired Driving Revocation under G.S. 20-28.2(a)</b> .....	156
a. Conviction-Based Revocations .....	158
b. Civil License Revocations .....	158
c. Previous Impaired Driving Revocations .....	159
d. NC DMV Records .....	159
e. Double Punishment, but No Double Jeopardy .....	159
<b>3. Serious Injury to Another Person Caused by the Defendant's Impaired Driving at the Time of the Offense</b> .....	161
<b>4. Driving by the Defendant While a Child, Person with the Mental Capacity of a Child, or a Disabled Person Was in the Vehicle</b> .....	162
<b>B. Aggravating Factors</b> .....	163
1. Gross Impairment of the Defendant's Faculties While Driving or an Alcohol Concentration of 0.15 or More within a Relevant Time after the Driving .....	164
2. Especially Reckless or Dangerous Driving .....	164
3. Negligent Driving that Led to a Reportable Accident .....	165
4. Driving by the Defendant While His or Her Driver's License Was Revoked .....	165
5. A Specified Conviction Record .....	165
6. Conviction under G.S. 20-141.5 of Speeding by the Defendant While Fleeing or Attempting to Elude Apprehension .....	166
7. Conviction under G.S. 20-141 of Speeding by the Defendant by at Least 30 Miles per Hour Over the Legal Limit .....	166
8. Passing a Stopped School Bus in Violation of G.S. 20-217 .....	167
9. Any Other Factor that Aggravates the Seriousness of the Offense .....	167
<b>IV. Mitigating Factors</b> .....	167
A. List of Mitigating Factors by Reference to G.S. 20-179(e) Subdivisions .....	168
1. Slight Impairment of the Defendant's Faculties, Resulting Solely from Alcohol, and an Alcohol Concentration that Did Not Exceed 0.09 at any Relevant Time after the Driving .....	168
2. Slight Impairment of the Defendant's Faculties, Resulting Solely from Alcohol, with No Chemical Analysis Having Been Available to the Defendant .....	168
3. Driving at the Time of the Offense that Was Safe and Lawful Except for the Impairment of the Defendant's Faculties .....	168
4. A Safe Driving Record .....	168
5. Impairment of the Defendant's Faculties, Caused Primarily by a Lawfully Prescribed Drug for an Existing Medical Condition, and the Amount of Drug Taken Was within the Prescribed Dosage .....	170
6. Voluntary Submission to a Substance Abuse Assessment and to Treatment .....	170
6a. Completion of a Substance Abuse Assessment, Compliance with Its Recommendations, and 60 Days of Continuous Abstinence from Alcohol Consumption, as Proven by a Continuous Alcohol Monitoring (CAM) System .....	170
7. Any Other Factor that Mitigates the Seriousness of the Offense .....	171
<b>V. Levels of Punishment</b> .....	171
A. Aggravated Level One .....	171
B. Level One .....	172
1. Amendments Effective December 1, 2012 .....	173
C. Level Two .....	174
1. Amendments Effective October 1, 2013 .....	174
2. Amendments Effective December 1, 2012 .....	175

<b>D. Level Three</b> .....	175
<b>E. Level Four</b> .....	177
<b>F. Level Five</b> .....	178
<b>G. Aider and Abettor Punishment</b> .....	178
<b>VI. Probationary Sentences</b> .....	178
<b>A. Incidents of Probation</b> .....	178
<b>B. Continuous Alcohol Monitoring</b> .....	179
<b>C. Limits on Special Probation</b> .....	179
<b>D. Length of Probation</b> .....	180
<b>E. Substance Abuse Assessment</b> .....	180
<b>F. Limits on Use of Supervised Probation</b> .....	182
<b>VII. Appeal</b> .....	182
<b>A. Vacating of Sentence</b> .....	182
<b>B. Remand for Resentencing</b> .....	183
<b>C. Appeal from Resentencing</b> .....	183
<b>D. Due Process Considerations</b> .....	184
<b>E. Withdrawal of an Appeal Following Resentencing</b> .....	185
<b>VIII. Service of a Sentence: Jail or Prison, Jail Credit and Parole</b> .....	186
<b>A. Jail or Prison</b> .....	186
<i>1. Sentences Imposed on or after January 1, 2015</i> .....	186
<i>2. Sentences Imposed before January 1, 2015</i> .....	186
<b>B. Jail Credit</b> .....	187
<i>1. Time Served</i> .....	187
<i>2. Good Time Credit</i> .....	187
<b>C. Credit for Inpatient Treatment</b> .....	188
<b>D. Service on Weekends</b> .....	189
<b>E. Concurrent, Consolidated, and Consecutive Sentences</b> .....	190
<b>F. Parole</b> .....	192

## Chapter 6

<b>Refusal Revocations, Limited Driving Privileges, and License Restoration</b> ..	209
<b>I. Introduction</b> .....	209
<b>II. Revocation for Willfully Refusing a Chemical Test</b> .....	209
<b>A. NC DMV Hearing</b> .....	210
<b>B. Right to Hearing in Superior Court</b> .....	211
<b>C. Revocation for Willful Refusal by Person under 21</b> .....	211
<b>III. Commercial Driver's License Disqualifications</b> .....	212
<b>IV. Limited Driving Privileges</b> .....	213
<b>A. Generally</b> .....	213
<b>B. Willful Refusal Privilege</b> .....	213
<i>1. Eligibility Requirements</i> .....	214

<b>2. Application and Hearing</b>	215
<b>3. Permissible Driving</b>	215
a. Driving for Work-Related Purposes in Willful Refusal Cases	215
<i>i. Driving for Work during Nonstandard Hours</i>	216
b. Maintenance of Household Driving in Willful Refusal Cases	216
c. Alcohol Restriction in Willful Refusal Cases	216
d. Ignition Interlock	217
e. Form Order	217
<b>C. Civil License Revocation Privilege</b>	217
1. Revocations for Minimum Periods of 30 or 45 Days	217
2. Indefinite Civil License Revocation	218
3. Application for Privilege	218
4. Authorized Driving	218
a. Driving for Work-Related Purposes	219
<i>i. Driving for Work during Nonstandard Hours</i>	219
b. Alcohol Restriction	220
c. Form Petition and Order	220
<b>D. Privilege Following DWI Conviction</b>	220
1. Generally	220
2. Application for Privilege	220
3. Eligibility	221
a. Person Convicted of DWI in North Carolina	221
b. Drivers under 21 Not Eligible	221
c. DWI Convictions in Another State or in Federal Court	221
4. Revocations Extended Pursuant to G.S. 20-17.6	224
5. Authorized Driving	224
a. Driving for Work-Related Purposes	224
<i>i. Driving for Work during Nonstandard Hours</i>	225
b. Alcohol Restriction	225
c. Form Petition and Order	225
6. High-Risk Drivers	225
a. Limited Driving Privilege Requirements for High-Risk Drivers	226
b. Form Order	226
c. Exception for Employer-Owned Motor Vehicles	226
<b>E. Privilege Following Driving after Consuming Conviction</b>	226
1. Eligibility Requirements	227
<b>F. Privilege Following Second or Subsequent Open Container Conviction</b>	227
<b>V. License Restoration</b>	228
<b>A. Generally</b>	228
<b>B. Alcohol Concentration Restrictions</b>	228
1. 0.04 Restriction	229
2. 0.00 Restriction	229
3. Chemical Testing and Duration of Restriction	230
4. Reports of Violation	230
5. NC DMV Action and Hearing on Reported Alcohol Concentration Violation	230
<b>C. Ignition Interlock Restriction</b>	231

<b>D. Conditional Restoration after Specified Number of Years</b>	233
1. <i>Four-Year Revocations</i>	233
<b>E. Permanent Revocation</b>	233
1. <i>Restoration after Three Years</i>	234
2. <i>Restoration after Twenty-Four Months</i>	234
<b>F. Conditional Restoration Following Conviction of Habitual Impaired Driving</b>	235
<b>G. Conditional Restoration Following Impaired Driving and a Fatality</b>	235

## Chapter 7

<b>Vehicle Seizure and Forfeiture</b>	255
<b>I. Introduction</b>	255
<b>II. Key Terms</b>	256
A. Motor Vehicle	256
B. Offenses Involving Impaired Driving	257
1. <i>Impaired Driving License Revocations</i>	257
2. <i>Driving without a Valid Driver's License</i>	258
3. <i>Driving While Not Covered by Automobile Liability Policy</i>	258
4. <i>Motor Vehicle Owner</i>	259
<b>III. Seizure and Impoundment</b>	259
A. Affidavit of Impoundment	259
B. Exceptions to Seizure	259
C. Executing an Order of Seizure	260
D. Custody of Motor Vehicle	260
E. Retrieval of Personal Property	261
F. Notification of Impoundment	261
G. Motor Vehicles Involved in Accidents	261
<b>IV. Release of Vehicles Pending Trial</b>	262
A. Permanent Release to a Defendant-Owner	262
B. Permanent Release to an Innocent Owner	263
C. Temporary Release to Motor Vehicle Owner Other than Defendant	265
D. Permanent Release to Lienholder	266
<b>V. Expedited Sale</b>	266
A. Sentencing	267
1. <i>Restitution</i>	267
2. <i>Registration Forfeiture</i>	267
<b>VI. Forfeiture</b>	268
A. Trial Priority	268
B. Forfeiture Hearing	269
1. <i>Release to Innocent Motor Vehicle Owner</i>	270
2. <i>Release to Lienholder</i>	270
3. <i>Towing and Storage Charges</i>	271
4. <i>Release of Impounded Motor Vehicles</i>	271

<b>VII. Sale and Proceeds .....</b>	272
<b>A. Sale .....</b>	272
<b>B. Sale Proceeds .....</b>	272
<b>C. Appeals .....</b>	273

Chapter 8

<b>Collateral Estoppel and <i>Corpus Delicti</i> .....</b>	277
<b>I. Collateral Estoppel .....</b>	277
<b>A. Prior Ruling Bars Reconsideration .....</b>	278
<b>B. No Collateral Estoppel Bar .....</b>	279
<b>C. Open Questions .....</b>	280
<b>II. <i>Corpus Delicti</i> .....</b>	280

# Tables

<b>Table 5.1</b>	<b>Punishment for Covered Offenses Committed on or after October 1, 2013 . . . . .</b>	195
<b>Table 5.2</b>	<b>Punishment for Covered Offenses Committed on or after December 1, 2012, and before October 1, 2013 . . . . .</b>	196
<b>Table 5.3</b>	<b>Punishment for Covered Offenses Committed on or after December 1, 2011, and before December 1, 2012 . . . . .</b>	197
<b>Table 5.4</b>	<b>Punishment for Covered Offenses Committed on or after December 1, 2007, and before December 1, 2011 . . . . .</b>	198
<b>Table 6.1</b>	<b>Limited Driving Privileges for Implied Consent Offense Revocations . . . . .</b>	237
<b>Table 6.2</b>	<b>License Revocations for Convictions of Implied Consent Offenses and Restoration Conditions . . . . .</b>	247

# Preface

This book builds upon the foundation of an earlier publication by my colleagues, the late Ben F. Loeb, Jr. and James C. Drennan, *Motor Vehicle Law and The Law of Impaired Driving in North Carolina*. It is not, however, a new edition of that work, as this book focuses exclusively on the law of impaired driving and related implied consent offenses. This book does not cover other rules of the road, driver's license law, or motor vehicle liability insurance—topics that were addressed in Loeb and Drennan's earlier work.

My colleagues James Drennan, Robert Farb, and James Markham helped with the book by reading chapters and providing substantive feedback. The book is better as a result. Matt Osborne of the Administrative Office of the Courts also took time out of his busy schedule to read draft chapters. I'm grateful for his keen eye and his deep understanding of the law governing civil license revocations and vehicle forfeitures. Christopher Tyner performed a detailed cite-check of the entire book, and Melissa Twomey edited the work. Both of them improved the work technically and substantively. I welcome comments about this publication's scope, organization, or content. Comments may be sent to me at denning@sog.unc.edu.

This book is dedicated to my colleague and mentor James "Jim" Drennan, who retired this year after spending forty years on the faculty of the School of Government. I work in just one of the many legal fields that Jim covered during his time here. Jim's intellect and knowledge are vast, and I am lucky that he has shared so much of what he knows about motor vehicle law with me. What I appreciate even more, however, is the opportunity to observe a true role model. Jim's interactions with everyone—clients, colleagues, friends, and strangers—reflected the ideals of integrity, kindness, and humility. Jim has led and continues to lead a balanced, engaged, and meaningful life, and I am honored to travel in his wake.

Shea Riggsbee Denning  
Chapel Hill  
December 2014