



**2026 Annual New Clerks Institute Agenda  
UNC School of Government  
Wednesday, July 8, 2026**

- 8:45-9:00**      **Welcome and Course Overview**  
**Kristina Wilson**, Assistant Professor of Public Law and Government, UNC School of Government
- 9:00-11:00**      **Laws That Affect the Clerk**  
**Kristina Wilson**  
*This session will provide an overview of important laws with which all clerks must be familiar, including the open meetings law, the public records law, laws regarding the administration and filing of oaths of office, legal restrictions on multiple office holding, and various statutory public notice requirements.*
- 11:00-11:15**      **Break**
- 11:15-12:15**      **Introduction to Board Procedures (City Edition)**  
**Baxter Wells**, Assistant General Counsel, N.C. League of Municipalities  
*What is the difference between a resolution and an ordinance? How does a city council conduct its business? This session will cover the kinds of business conducted by municipal governing bodies, and how they get the job done. We will explore types of meetings, how to establish a quorum, filling vacancies, and how to determine whether a vote has passed.*
- 12:15-1:15**      **Lunch**
- 1:15-2:15**      **Introduction to Board Procedures (County Edition)**  
**Kristina Wilson**  
*This session will explore board procedures from the county perspective. Students will learn how governing boards of counties accomplish their work, including training on quorum, voting, filling vacancies, and running meetings.*
- 2:15-2:30**      **Break**
- 2:30-3:15**      **Laws That Affect the Clerk cont'd**
- 3:15-4:15**      **The Ins and Outs of Minutes and Agendas**  
**Kristina Wilson**  
*Taking minutes and preparing agendas are two of a clerk's most significant professional responsibilities. This session will cover best practices and common pitfalls regarding these tasks.*
- 4:15-4:45**      **Decoding Certification and Q & A**

**Kristina Wilson**

*This session will allow clerks to pose questions on any relevant topic either from the agenda or from their current working lives. This course will also introduce methods for certification and explain the general options and process.*

**4:45 Institute Adjourns**

**Instructor Biographies**

**Baxter Wells** was born and raised in North Carolina. He graduated from NC State and spent a few years in law enforcement in Fayetteville and Durham. After attending NC Central University for law school, Baxter moved back to Raleigh and clerked for Justice Morgan of the North Carolina Supreme Court. Following the clerkship, Baxter joined the Raleigh City Attorney’s office where he handled real estate matters and IT contracts, and assisted the City’s Parks and Recreation department. Now Baxter works for the NC League of Municipalities as Assistant General Counsel, where he focuses on appellate advocacy, in-house contract advising, and member services. He currently lives in east Raleigh with his wife, Courtney, and their four-legged life of the party, Brigadoon. Baxter enjoys hiking, camping, gardening, video and board games, and attending live music whenever he can.

**Kristina Wilson** joined the School of Government in September of 2021, and her work focuses on local government structure and authority, board procedures, and public records and transparency issues. Prior to joining the School, Kristina practiced as a Civil Litigation Associate at Yates, McLamb & Weyher LLP in the areas of medical malpractice and general civil liability defense. Kristina received her J.D. *cum laude* from Wake Forest University School of Law where she was a published member and Executive Online Editor of the *Wake Forest Law Review*. Kristina earned undergraduate degrees in English and Spanish *cum laude* from Georgetown University. She is a member of the North Carolina State Bar.

**Credit for Successful Completion of New Clerks Institute**

The International Institute of Municipal Clerks (IIMC) has designated the School of Government of The University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill as the official education provider for municipal and county clerks in North Carolina. By participating in the School's clerk-focused programs, clerks can earn credit towards the IIMC's designations of Certified Municipal Clerk (CMC) or Master Municipal Clerk (MMC). The School also works cooperatively with the North Carolina Association of Municipal Clerks (NCAMC) and North Carolina Association of County Clerks (NCACC) to offer programs through which clerks who have obtained certification through the NCAMC or NCACC can earn continuing education credit.

Clerks who have joined the IIMC and who successfully complete the 2022 New Clerks Institute will earn three (3.25) CMC points. Clerks who have obtained certifications from the NCAMC or NCACC and who successfully complete the 2022 New Clerks Institute will receive six (6.5) hours of continuing education credit. To receive points/credit, the student must attend all sessions as shown by the School's electronic attendance monitoring system and must complete and submit an on-line evaluation form for that event.