



Current Developments in Criminal Law

February 20, 2026 / 1:30 p.m. – 3:00 p.m.

*Co-sponsored by the UNC-Chapel Hill School of Government &
The North Carolina Office of Indigent Defense Services*

School of Government faculty members, Phil Dixon, Jr., and Danny Spiegel, will discuss state and federal appellate court decisions and other recent criminal law developments.

CLE Credit: 1.50 Hours of General CLE Credit

SPEAKERS

Phil Dixon, Jr., *Teaching Associate Professor; Director, Public Defense Education*

Phil Dixon primarily works with public defenders and defense lawyers. He joined the School of Government in 2017. Previously, he worked as a defense lawyer in eastern North Carolina for over eight years. During that time, he represented criminal defendants and juveniles charged with all types of crimes at the trial level. In 2023, he was named director of the School's Public Defense Education group. In collaboration with Indigent Defense Services, he works to provide training and consultation to defenders and other court system actors, as well as to research and write on criminal law and related issues. He earned a bachelor's degree from UNC-Chapel Hill and law degree with highest honors from North Carolina Central University School of Law.

Danny Spiegel, *Assistant Professor of Criminal Law, Procedure, and Evidence*

Daniel Spiegel is an assistant professor at the School of Government, specializing in criminal law, procedure, and evidence. He joined the School's courts faculty in January 2024. Spiegel serves as a criminal law expert and teaches and consults with court actors on criminal justice issues, with an emphasis on public defense. Previously, he practiced criminal law in North Carolina for 13 years, serving as an assistant public defender in Mecklenburg and Hoke Counties, assistant appellate defender statewide, and assistant district attorney and policy counsel in Durham County. Spiegel earned a bachelor's degree from Johns Hopkins University, a Master of Music from The Juilliard School, and a J.D. cum laude from Harvard University.