



UNC
SCHOOL OF GOVERNMENT

North Carolina Judicial College

Special Topic Seminar: Child Custody

April 10-12, 2024

Room #2601

Wednesday, April 10

- 12:15 p.m. **Welcome**
- 12:30 p.m. **Scope of the Court's Authority in Child Custody Cases** [0.75 hrs CJE]
Cheryl Howell, UNC School of Government
- 1:15 p.m. **Determining Best Interests and Creating Parenting Plans: Small Group Discussions** [1.5 hrs CJE]
- 2:45 p.m. *Break*
- 3:00 p.m. **Panel Discussion with Peers and Specialists** [2.0 hrs CJE]
Shelby Benton, Family Law Specialist, Benton Family Law
Judge Jena Culler, District Court Judge, District 26
Judge Hathaway Pendergrass, District Court Judge, District 18
Kristen Hirsch, Custody Mediator, District 16
Carolyn Pender Roche, PhD, Next Step Psychology
- 5:00 p.m. *Adjourn*

Thursday, April 11

- 9:00 a.m. **The Impact of Contentious Litigation and Unnecessary Delay on Children and Families** [1.0 hrs CJE]
Carolyn Pender Roche, PhD, Next Step Psychology
- 10:00 a.m. **Jurisdiction Issues in Custody Cases** [1.0 hrs CJE]
Cheryl Howell, UNC School of Government
- 11:00 a.m. *Break*
- 11:15 a.m. **Grandparent Custody and Visitation: The Current State of the Law** [0.75 hrs CJE]
Chief Judge Beth Keever, retired, District 14
- 12:00 p.m. **Lunch (provided)**
- 1:00 p.m. **Resolving Third Party Claims: Small Group Discussions** [1.0 hrs CJE]
- 2:00 p.m. *Break*
- 2:15 p.m. **Panel Discussion with Peers and Specialists** [1.25 hrs CJE]
Chief Judge Beth Keever, retired, District 14
Judge Donna Stroud, Judge, NC Court of Appeals
Judge Michelle Fletcher, District Court Judge, District 24
Katie King, Family Law Specialist, Wake Family Law Group

Any breakfast or lunch provided as part of this program is paid for by the Administrative Office of the Courts. When claiming reimbursement for expenses for this program, the portion of the daily travel allowance allocated for these breakfasts or lunches may not be claimed.

Kari Marvin, Mediator, Custody Mediation Program, AOC

3:30 p.m. *Break*

3:45 p.m. **Determining Legal Parentage:What We Know About the Current State of the Law** [1.25hrs CJE]
Cheryl Howell, UNC School of Government

5:00 p.m. *Adjourn*

Friday, April 12

9:00 a.m. **Legal Tools for Management Strategies** [0.75 hrs CJE]
Cheryl Howell, UNC School of Government

9:45 a.m. **Panel Discussion Regarding the Management of Custody Cases** [1.25 hrs CJE]
Judge Samantha Cabe, Chief District Court Judge, District 18
Nancy Grace, Family Law Specialist, Wake Family Law Group
Judge Jonathon Sargeant, District Court Judge, District 9

11:00 a.m. *Break*

11:15 a.m. **Enforcement Issues** [1.5 hrs CJE]
Judge Jena Culler, District Court Judge, District 26
Cheryl Howell, UNC School of Government

12:45 p.m. *Adjourn*

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This program will have 14 hours of instruction for continuing judicial education credit under Rule II.C of Continuing Judicial Education. *Family Court hours total 14 hours.