

Public Law for the Public's Lawyers Speaker Biographies October 26, 2022

Speakers

Thursday, Oct 27

Update on Civil Cases Affecting State or Local Government in North Carolina

Roger Askew, Senior Deputy County Attorney, Wake County Attorney's Office.

Roger keeps up with civil cases relevant to government and makes presentations to various groups on this and related topics, including this event in the past and the NC Association of County Attorneys and NC Association of Defense Attorneys.

Issues in IT Procurement

Three presenters

James Tanzosch, Chief IT Procurement Officer, NC Dept of Information

Technology. Tanzosch joined the N.C. Department of Information Technology in

August 2022. He oversees the Statewide IT Procurement Office and leads the effort to streamline the state's IT procurement procedures.

He is responsible for developing the state's IT procurement strategy, aligning it with the overall state IT and business strategy. He also seeks to introduce enhanced e-procurement, contract management and supplier performance tools in collaboration with the N.C. Department of Administration's Division of Purchase and Contract.

Most recently, Tanzosch was purchasing director at North Carolina Central University from April 2020. He was also procurement services manager for the University of Northern Iowa and held various roles with John Deere.

Tanzosch has held leadership positions with the Iowa Public Procurement Association and attended the National Institute for Government Procurement Leadership Academy. He has a bachelor's degree from Grinnell College and a MBA from Iowa State University.

Lauren Clemmons, Special Deputy Attorney General, NC Dept of Justice.

Clemmons has spent 29 years of her career with the NC Department of Justice. Lauren has six years of state government IT procurement contract experience. For the past three years, she has advised the North Carolina Department of Information Technology on IT contracts. She reviews, edits, and negotiates IT contracts, which have included complex procurements for NCDHHS and NCDPI. She previously served for three years as a legal liaison for the Office of Information Technology where she also provided legal advice and guidance on IT contracts.

In addition to her work with IT procurement and contracts, she has represented state agencies in administrative, state, and federal courts in the areas of certificate of need law, environmental regulation, condemnation, constitutional law, educational law, voting rights, and personnel law. She also served as the State's attorney-regulator for the Tobacco Master Settlement Agreement.

Prior to joining the Department of Justice, Lauren worked in private practice and clerked for a federal judge. She is a 1988 graduate of Wake Forest University School of Law.

Sarah Cibik, Special Deputy Attorney General, NC Department of Justice. Cibik is a Special Deputy Attorney General at the NC Department of Justice in Raleigh. For the past three years Cibik has represented the NC Department of Information Technology's Statewide IT Procurement Office, providing advice on legal issues related to IT procurement contracts. As part of her representation of the Statewide IT Procurement Office, she assists NCDIT and multiple State agencies by reviewing, editing, and negotiating IT contracts. She also represents NCDIT in personnel litigation and advises NCDIT on employment matters.

Prior to serving in her current role, Sarah worked in the private sector representing Fortune Global 500 consumer products manufacturers in national tort litigation, litigating breach of contract claims, and advising commercial clients on regulatory and safety issues. She also has experience in family law and has worked as a volunteer to help victims of domestic violence obtain protective orders in Wake County.

Sarah grew up in Raleigh and graduated from Campbell University School of Law.

Legal Issues Associated with “First Amendment Audits”

Two presenters

Kristi Nickodem. Assistant Professor of Public Law and Government, School of Government, UNC Chapel Hill. Nickodem joined the School of Government in April 2021. Her work focuses on human services law, including organization and governance of local human services agencies, powers and duties of local agency directors, the confidentiality of social services information, and the administration of local child support enforcement programs. Immediately prior to joining the School, she practiced employment law at K&L Gates LLP, where she counseled employers on complex employee relations and compliance issues, conducted internal investigations, and defended clients in litigation. Prior to entering private practice, Nickodem worked with an international nonprofit organization as a case manager and employment specialist for newly resettled refugees in Greensboro, North Carolina.

Nickodem is a member of the North Carolina State Bar and earned a B.A. in English, *summa cum laude*, from the University of North Carolina at Greensboro. She earned a J.D. with high honors, Order of the Coif and Order of the Barristers, from the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill.

Kristina Wilson. Assistant Professor of Public Law and Government, School of Government, UNC Chapel Hill. Wilson joined the School of Government in September 2021. Her work focuses on local government structure and authority, board procedures, and public records and transparency issues. Prior to joining the School, Wilson was a civil litigation associate at Yates, McLamb & Weyher LLP where her practice included medical malpractice defense, general liability defense, employment disputes, and constitutional matters in both federal and state court. She also worked for the U.S. Department of Justice in its Access to Justice Office addressing civil constitutional issues including nuisance ordinances and public housing and a proposed civil right to counsel. Prior to law school, Wilson worked as a communications associate for the Center for Global Development, an international development think tank in Washington, D.C.

Wilson earned 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*. Wilson earned undergraduate degrees in English and Spanish *cum laude* from Georgetown University. She is a member of the North Carolina State Bar.

Friday, October 28

Public Attorney Work as “Emotional Labor”

Dr. Leisha Dehart-Davis. Albert and Gladys Coates Distinguished Term Professor of Public Administration and Government, School of Government, UNC Chapel Hill. DeHart-Davis directs the Local Government Workplaces Initiative, which conducts organizational research for improving city and county workplaces. Her expertise includes human resource management, organizational change and development, and public administration generally. DeHart-Davis is a National Academy of Public Administration Fellow and recipient of the 2019 Gary Cornia Distinguished Lecturer given by the Romney Institute of Brigham Young University. Professor DeHart-Davis is also a [UNC Thorp Faculty Engaged Scholar](#).

She has published two books, the award-winning *Creating Effective Rules in Public Sector Organizations* and *Understanding Gender Imbalance in Public Sector Leadership*. Her research has also been published in the *Journal of Public Administration Research and Theory*, *Public Administration Review*, *International Public Management Journal*, *Administration and Society*, and *Review of Public Personnel Administration*. She is president of the Public Management Research Association. DeHart-Davis holds a Ph.D. in public policy from the Georgia Institute of Technology.

Current Issues in Government and Personal Cybersecurity

Dr. Shannon H. Tufts. Professor, School of Government, UNC Chapel Hill. Director, Center for Public Technology. Tufts designed and implemented the first local government Certified Government Chief Information Officers (CGCIO) program in the nation in 2004 and continues to run multiple CIO certification programs across the US for local and state government IT professionals. Dr. Tufts' areas of expertise include the intersection of law and technology in the public sector, cybersecurity, cloud computing, social media, and strategic IT investments, as well as CIO leadership and development. Tufts earned a B.A. from UNC–Chapel Hill, an M.P.A. from UNC–Charlotte, and a Ph.D. in public administration with a concentration in public sector information systems from North Carolina State University.

Legislative Process 101

Two presenters

Jeff Cherry, Principal Staff Attorney, Legislative Drafting Division, NC General Assembly. Jeff joined the Legislative Drafting Division of the Legislative Services Office in 2007, following a 14-year career in private law practice and the nonprofit sector. As a Principal Staff Attorney in the Division, Jeff works with members of the General Assembly to draft legislation in the areas of Environmental, Agriculture, Fisheries, Wildlife, Energy, and Building Codes. He also serves as a member of the Budget Development team for the North Carolina House of Representatives coordinating the preparation of annual appropriations bills for that chamber as well as NER Team Leader supporting the Fiscal Research Division in the preparation of the portions of the annual Budget and related appropriations bills pertaining to Agriculture, Environment, and Natural and Cultural Resources.

Jeff received his undergraduate training in Physics and Mathematics at North Carolina State University, and received his law degree from Harvard Law School and a master's in Public Policy from Harvard's Kennedy School of Government.

Kara McCraw, Staff Attorney, Legislative Analysis Division, NC General Assembly. Kara McCraw has been a Staff Attorney with the Legislative Analysis Division of the General Assembly since 2006. Her current areas of focus include education and constitutional law, and she staffs House and Senate Education Committees as well as a House Judiciary Committee. Kara completed both her undergraduate and law degree at the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill.

Emerging Issues in North Carolina Criminal Law and Procedure

Jeff Welty, Professor of Public Law and Government, School of Government, UNC Chapel Hill. Welty joined the School of Government in 2008 and works in the area of criminal law and procedure. His research interests include the law of policing, search and seizure, digital evidence, and criminal pleadings.

Welty founded and contributes regularly to the *North Carolina Criminal Law Blog*, an award-winning resource visited by approximately 100,000 users each month. He has written for, appeared on, or been quoted in the *New York Times*, the *Washington Post*, *TIME*, *Newsweek*, National Public Radio, Bloomberg News, *Lawyers' Weekly*, the *Raleigh News and Observer*, and many other media outlets. His books about capital punishment and digital evidence are widely-used legal references. He previously served as the director of the North Carolina Judicial College, which provides training and education to the state's judicial officials.

Welty completed a federal judicial clerkship and worked in private practice before coming to the School. From 2020 to 2021, he spent two years on leave from the School at the North Carolina Department of Justice, where he led the Special Prosecutions and

Law Enforcement Section. Welty earned a J.D. at Duke University School of Law, where he served as executive editor of the *Duke Law Journal* and graduated in 1999 with highest honors.

Thursday, November 3

Ethics Issues

Brian Oten, Director for Ethics and Special Programs, North Carolina State Bar.

That role includes being ethics counsel, executive director of the Board of Legal Specialization and executive director of the Board of Paralegal Certification. He has also been Deputy Counsel for the State Bar. He is an Adjunct Professor at Campbell University School of Law and has served as an Adjunct Professor in the Research, Reasoning, Writing and Advocacy Program at UNC School of Law. Oten is a 2005 graduate of the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill School of Law, where he was the managing editor of the First Amendment Law Review. Oten also completed his undergraduate education at UNC-Chapel Hill, where he obtained a B.A. with academic distinction in Political Science. After law school, Oten served as law clerk to Associate Justice Edward T. Brady of the Supreme Court of North Carolina and then to Judge Lacy H. Thornburg of the Federal District Court, Western District of North Carolina.

Public Records and Open Meetings Law Refresher

Kristina Wilson. Assistant Professor of Public Law and Government, School of Government, UNC Chapel Hill. Wilson joined the School of Government in September 2021. Her work focuses on local government structure and authority, board procedures, and public records and transparency issues. Prior to joining the School, Wilson was a civil litigation associate at Yates, McLamb & Weyher LLP where her practice included medical malpractice defense, general liability defense, employment disputes, and constitutional matters in both federal and state court. She also worked for the U.S. Department of Justice in its Access to Justice Office addressing civil constitutional issues including nuisance ordinances and public housing and a proposed civil right to counsel. Prior to law school, Wilson worked as a communications associate for the Center for Global Development, an international development think tank in Washington, D.C.

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Issues in Rulemaking

Two presenters

Brian Liebman, Rules Review Commission Counsel, NC Office of Administrative Hearings. Liebman joined the Commission in November 2021. Previously, he was a law clerk and special deputy commissioner at the NC Industrial Commission. Liebman earned his JD from UNC School of Law, where he was comments editor and staff member at the North Carolina Law Review. He holds a BA from NC State.

Anna Baird Choi, Partner, Hedrick Gardner Kincheloe & Garofalo. Choi has been in private law practice for more than 25 years. Her specialties include administrative and occupational licensing law. She holds a JD from Campbell University's Norman Adrian Wiggins School of Law and a BA from UNC Chapel Hill.

NC Legislative Developments in Criminal and Civil Law

Three presenters.

Robert Ryan, Staff Attorney, Legislative Analysis Division, NC General Assembly. Robert joined the General Assembly in 2020. Previously he was an associate at Cleary Gottlieb Steen & Hamilton LLP, and an Assistant District Attorney at the New York County District Attorney's Office. Robert earned his J.D. *magna cum laude* from St. John's University School of Law in 2010, and his B.S. *summa cum laude* from St. John's University in 2006.

Billy Godwin, Staff Attorney, Legislative Analysis Division, NC General Assembly. Billy has been at the General Assembly since 2016. He has a J.D. from Campbell University (1986) and BS in Political Science from East Carolina University (1983). Prior to the General Assembly, Billy was a U.S. Navy Judge Advocate, an Assistant Attorney General in the NC Department of Justice, and in private practice for over 20 years.

Chris Saunders, Staff Attorney, Legislative Analysis Division, NC General Assembly. Chris joined the General Assembly in 2012. Chris earned his LL.M. in Food and Agriculture Law from the University of Arkansas (2012), his J.D. from the University of North Carolina School of Law (2011), where he was staff to the NC Journal of Law & Technology, and two B.S. degrees *cum laude* from NC State University (2007 and 2008). He has also worked at the NC Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services.