**PUBLIC LAW FOR THE PUBLIC’S LAWYERS**

**2019**

**SPEAKER BIOGRAPHIES**

**JEREMY RAY** [**Jeremy.Ray@ncleg.net**](mailto:Jeremy.Ray@ncleg.net)

Jeremy Ray has been a staff attorney with the Legislative Analysis Division of the North Carolina General Assembly since November 2016, where he concentrates on issues concerning administrative law and rulemaking, regulatory reform, insurance, and unemployment law. Prior to his work at the Division, Jeremy served as an Assistant District Attorney in Rockingham County, and as a Staff Attorney with the North Carolina Division of Employment Security. Jeremy earned his undergraduate degree in Criminal Justice from Western Carolina University, and his law degree from Elon University School of Law.

**AIMEE WALL** [**wall@sog.unc.edu**](mailto:wall@sog.unc.edu)

Aimee Wall joined the School of Government in 2001. Her work in the area of social services law focuses on agency organization and governance, confidentiality of social services information, adult protective services, and public assistance programs. In the animal control law field, she works with local governments on issues such as rabies control, dangerous dogs, and animal cruelty. She also coordinates educational programs for legislators and legislative staff. Until 2011, Wall worked primarily in the public health law field, where her research areas included confidentiality of health information, environmental health inspection and permitting programs, regulation of smoking in public places, and the responsibilities and authority of local boards of health. She has held the Thomas Willis Lambeth Distinguished Chair in Public Policy.

Prior to joining the School, she practiced health care law with Powell, Goldstein, Frazer and Murphy in Washington, DC, and served as a health policy analyst in the Office of the Secretary in the US Department of Health and Human Services. She is a member of the North Carolina State Bar and the District of Columbia Bar. Aimee earned a BA in English from the Ohio State University and a JD/MPH from the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill.

*Fields of Expertise Abuse, Neglect, and Exploitation (Adults), Animal Services, Confidentiality (Social Services), Consolidated Human Services Agencies, General Assembly, HIPAA Privacy Rule, Public Assistance Programs, Social Services Law (Boards and Directors, Public Assistance, Public Guardianship, Adult Services)*

**Shea Denning** [**Denning@sog.unc.edu**](mailto:Denning@sog.unc.edu)

Shea Riggsbee Denning is not only a UNC School of Government faculty member; she is a double Tar Heel. After earning an AB with distinction in journalism and mass communication from the University in 1994, and a JD with high honors from the UNC School of Law in 1997, she began her legal career by clerking for the Honorable Malcolm J. Howard, US District Judge for the Eastern District of North Carolina, in Greenville. She then practiced law in Atlanta with the firm of King & Spalding before returning to North Carolina to work as a research attorney and then as an assistant federal defender for the Eastern District of North Carolina. She joined the SOG faculty in 2003. Denning’s scholarship focuses on motor vehicle law and criminal law and procedure. She teaches and advises judges, magistrates, prosecutors, defense attorneys, and law enforcement officers. She has written extensively about North Carolina’s motor vehicle laws, including a book on the law of impaired driving. She is a regular contributor to the North Carolina Criminal Law blog and a co-coauthor of *Pulled Over: The Law of Traffic Stops and Offenses in North Carolina*.

*Fields of Expertise: Courts, Criminal Law and Procedure, Driver's License Revocations, Driving While Impaired, Motor Vehicle Law, Prosecutor Training*

**NanCY aSTRIKE** [**nancy.astrike@nc.gov**](mailto:nancy.astrike@nc.gov)

Nancy Astrike is the Diversity and Workforce Services Division Director within the Office of State Human Resources. The division is focused on providing statewide services for policy development and consultation in the areas of Diversity and Inclusion and Employee Relations. Most recently, Nancy worked on the implementation of Paid Parental Leave, Employment First initiatives, and the elimination of salary history information on the state application. In addition, the division also provides comprehensive HR services to approximately 20,000 employees in Local Government DSS and Public Health entities throughout the state.

Nancy has twenty-eight years of human resources experience in state government, beginning in an analyst position and developing the skills and experience necessary to prepare her for more strategic and policy focused positions. Before beginning her career with the state of North Carolina, Nancy worked in the non-profit sector and with the Town of Cary.

Nancy holds an undergraduate degree from the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill and Master of Public Administration degree from North Carolina State University. In addition, she has a certificate in Human Resource Management from Duke University Office of Continuing Education, is a Certified Public Manager (CPM), and a certified mediator working in the statewide mediation program.

Away from work, Nancy enjoys serving as a Guardian ad Litem in Durham County, volunteering at the non-profit *Art for Hospice* and other community organizations and working diligently in her garden.

**LARS NANCE** [**lars.nance@nc.gov**](mailto:lars.nance@nc.gov)

Lars is a native North Carolinian and is celebrating more than forty years as a double Tar Heel and more than thirty years as a lawyer with the State. As a UNC undergraduate, Lars was a varsity fencer, selected to train for the Olympics in the modern pentathlon, Phi Beta Kappa and the Chair of the UNC Residence Hall Association. After law school, Lars moved to Brooklyn and as a Senior District Attorney for Sex Crimes and then Racketeering prosecuted over 100 trials including 50 jury trials. Lars’ cases including prosecuting Gambino Capo Carmine Lombardozzi and Belam Gaming. Lars returned to North Carolina and worked for three private firms where he specialized in Chapter 11 Bankruptcy, airplane landing slot litigation, representing municipalities in civil litigation and defending federal criminal drug cases. Lars left private practice and headed the State Agencies group in the North Carolina Attorney General’s Office for almost twenty- eight years. Lars litigated some of the first State cases in various employment areas to reach the courts including: The Equal Pay Act, the Americans With Disabilities Act, Edwards v. UNC (meaning of promotion), GERA, NC Commissioner of Banks v. Western Sky and Sanders v. OSP (the Temp case). Currently, Lars works as the General Counsel for the Office of State Human Resources under the Office of the Governor.

**ANN ANDERSON** [**anderson@sog.unc.edu**](mailto:anderson@sog.unc.edu)

Ann Anderson joined the School of Government faculty in 2007. Prior to that, she was an associate for six years with the law firm of Kennedy Covington in Raleigh and Durham, where she specialized in real-estate litigation and quasi-judicial proceedings. Anderson earned a BA in history with highest distinction from the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill and a law degree with honors from the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill School of Law, where she was a member of the *North Carolina Law Review*.

*Fields of Expertise: Civil Procedure, Courts, Judicial Authority, Judicial Education, Pattern Jury Instructions*

**BLY HALL** [**Bly.Hall@ncleg.net**](mailto:Bly.Hall@ncleg.net)

Bly Hall is a native-born North Carolinian who graduated from Bryn Mawr College and from the UNC School of Law (Chapel Hll). She subsequently clerked for two years at the Supreme Court of North Carolina for Justice Henry E. Frye. After that, she went to work for the Attorney General as Assistant Revisor and Codifier of Statutes and staff attorney for the General Statutes Commission, with various other duties over the years. In 2011, the General Statutes Commission and the responsibility for the General Statutes were transferred from the Attorney General to the General Assembly. Since that time, Ms. Hall has been a member of the Bill Drafting Division, still serving the functions of Codifier and staff attorney for the General Statutes Commission

**DAVID UNWIN** [**David.Unwin@ncleg.net**](mailto:David.Unwin@ncleg.net)

David Unwin grew up in Dallas, Texas and is a graduate of Georgetown University and Duke University School of Law. He is a Staff Attorney to the North Carolina General Statutes Commission and the Legislative Drafting Division of the North Carolina General Assembly. He lives in Raleigh, North Carolina with his wife and two sons.

**sHAWN MIDDLEBROOKS** **[Shawn.Middlebrooks@ncleg.net](mailto:Shawn.Middlebrooks@ncleg.net)**

Shawn Middlebrooks is an attorney and legislative analyst with the North Carolina General Assembly's Legislative Analysis Division, where his focus areas include *Criminal Law*and *Procedure*and *State Government*. Prior to joining the General Assembly, Shawn served as a prosecutor in both Mecklenburg County and Wake County, North Carolina. He also served as Assistant General Counsel to the North Carolina Department of Environmental Quality where he focused on contract and procurement matters and the North Carolina Department of Natural and Cultural Resources where his focus included *Labor and Employment law*and *administrative rulemaking*. Shawn graduated with *honors*from North Carolina Central University School of Law in 2011 and served as Staff Editor on the *N.C. Central Law Review*. Shawn is also a graduate of Hampden-Sydney College, Class of 2008.

**TESHANEE Williams** [**twilliams@sog.unc.edu**](mailto:twilliams@sog.unc.edu)

Teshanee Williams is a Carolina Postdoctoral Program for Faculty Diversity Scholar and she will be with the School of Government for the next two academic years. Teshanee received her PhD in Public Administration from North Carolina State University, where she was an active researcher and instructor. Her past professional experiences include working as a research analyst for the North Carolina State Auditor’s Office and the Office of Partnership and Economic Development at North Carolina State University. Her research interests include the application of mixed-method approaches for inquiries related to strategic alliances between the public sector and nonprofits, as well as, public participation in decision-making processes. Her career goal is to produce research that helps to bridge the divide between theory and practice. As a postdoctoral research fellow at the School of Government, Teshanee will focus on continuing her research on managing for effective, efficient, and equitable policy outcomes through public sector and nonprofit partnerships.

**Richard whisnant** [**richard\_whisnant@unc.edu**](mailto:richard_whisnant@unc.edu)

Richard Whisnant joined the Institute of Government in 1998. Prior to that, he was general counsel with the NC Department of Environment, Health, and Natural Resources. He had previously practiced environmental law with Robinson Bradshaw & Hinson in Charlotte, North Carolina, and was a clerk for the Hon. Sam J. Ervin III on the US Court of Appeals for the Fourth Circuit. Whisnant earned a BA from the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill and an MPP and JD from Harvard University.

*Fields of Expertise: Administrative Law, Environmental Finance Center, Environmental Protection, Natural Resources Management, Soil and Water Conservation, Solid Waste Management (Legal), Water Resources*

**PHIL DIXON** [**pdixon@sog.unc.edu**](mailto:pdixon@sog.unc.edu)

Phil Dixon joined the School of Government in 2017. Previously he worked for eight years as an attorney in Pitt and surrounding eastern North Carolina counties, focusing primarily on criminal defense and related matters. Dixon served as assigned counsel to indigent clients throughout his career, and represented adult and juvenile clients charged with all types of crimes at the trial level. He earned a BA from the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill and a JD with highest honors from North Carolina Central University. He works with the indigent education group at the School to provide training and consultation to public defenders and defense lawyers, as well as to research and write about criminal law issues.

*Fields of Expertise: Cannabis/hemp, Criminal Law and Procedure, Evidence, Expunction, Indigent Defense Education, Public Defender Training, Sex Offender Registration*

**Brad Fowler** [**Brad.D.Fowler@nccourts.org**](mailto:Brad.D.Fowler@nccourts.org)

In more than twenty years of public service, Brad has been fortunate to have been involved in working to improve organizations that provide vital services. After working for the American Red Cross for seven years (in three different states), Brad joined the North Carolina Administrative Office of the Courts in 2001. Throughout his career, Brad has championed the use of data-driven decisions that have resulted in measurable improvements to the organizations he serves.

From 2001 – 2009, Brad was the Assistant Administrator of the Guardian ad Litem Program. During his first full year on the job, fiscal year 2002, he led efforts that produced notable results: in a single year, the Program recruited the largest number of advocates in the Program’s nineteen year history and fielded the second highest number of advocates actively serving children through the Program (reversing a six-year downward trend in number of families served by volunteers). In each fiscal year 2003 – 2009, former records were surpassed for the number of community advocates serving in any fiscal year.

In 2009, Brad moved to the Research and Planning Division. In that division, Brad has been responsible for developing and updating staffing resource allocation models across the Judicial Branch. He designed the vacancy management system used by the Judicial Branch. These quantitative decision-making tools based on workload were used to determine which vacancies were authorized to be filled during the period of budget constraints. Successfully designing and implementing the Judicial Branch’s vacancy management system required technical skills coupled with diplomacy, as this system impacts more than 5,000 positions and the 535 elected officials who are their hiring authorities across the state.

Brad’s current role includes leading a team of system analysts as they develop written standard business process documents in conjunction with an eCourts Advisory Committee. These documents will serve as the basis for configuration of an integrated case management system for the North Carolina trial courts.

Brad holds a Master of Public Administration from the University of Georgia and a Bachelor of Arts in Political Science from the University of Tennessee.

**Trey allen** [**tallen@sog.unc.edu**](mailto:tallen@sog.unc.edu)

Trey Allen joined the School of Government in 2013. He researches and writes about the general regulatory and enforcement powers of local governments, local government liability, and board procedures. He also teaches and advises extensively on those topics. Allen has authored books, book chapters, and articles on issues involving his subject areas, and he contributes to the School’s blog *Coates’ Canons: NC Local Government Law*. (Lists of Allen’s publications and blog posts can be found under the corresponding tabs on this page.) In 2019 he received the Margaret Taylor Writing Award for his book *Local Government Immunity to Lawsuits in North Carolina*.

On the programming side, Allen plays a major role in planning and coordinating the School’s many educational offerings for clerks to municipal and county governing boards. Annually these programs include the Clerks Certification Institute, the New Clerks Institute, a three-day academy for experienced clerks, educational sessions for conferences of the NC Association of Municipal Clerks and NC Association of County Clerks, and several regional academies conducted around the State in cooperation with the NCAMC and NCACC.

Allen previously worked as an attorney at Tharrington Smith LLP in Raleigh, where he represented local school boards. Prior to that he served as a law clerk for Justice Paul M. Newby of the North Carolina Supreme Court and as a judge advocate in the United States Marine Corps. Allen earned a bachelor's degree from the University of North Carolina at Pembroke and a law degree from the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill, where he was a published staff member of the *North Carolina Law Review*.

*Fields of Expertise: Local Government Law, General Ordinance Authority, Ordinance Enforcement, Local Government Liability, Governmental Immunity, Local Government Board Procedures, Open Meetings Law, Public Records Law, Public Notices, Municipal and County Clerks.*

**JASON MORAN-BATES** [**Jason.Moran-bates@ncleg.net**](mailto:Jason.Moran-bates@ncleg.net)

After graduating from the University of North Carolina School of Law, Jason Moran-Bates practiced as a civil litigator.  In 2016, he joined the Legislative Analysis Division of the General Assembly as a health law specialist.

**NICOLE P. MCLAUGHLIN** [**NMclaughlin@ncbar.gov**](mailto:Jason.Moran-bates@ncleg.net)

Nichole P. McLaughlin has been employed as a staff attorney with the North Carolina State Bar since June 2004. Originally from New Jersey, she graduated from Drew University with a B.A. in English. She obtained her J.D. from Seton Hall University School of Law. As Assistant Ethics Counsel, she gives informal ethics advice to lawyers about their own future conduct via telephone or email, prepares formal ethics opinions and advises the Ethics Committee. Nichole is also the Judicial District Bar Liaison, a role created to improve communication between the State Bar and judicial district bars. Prior to joining the Bar, she was in private practice for five years with Donaldson & Black, P.A. in Greensboro and handled asbestos workers’ comp cases.