

## **Public Law for the Public's Lawyers**

### **Speaker Information**

#### **Whitney Afonso, UNC School of Government**

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Whitney Afonso joined the School of Government in 2012. She was named Albert and Gladys Hall Coates Distinguished Term Assistant Professor for 2015–2017. Prior to that time, she taught at the University of Georgia, Department of Public Administration and Policy; and Texas A&M University's Bush School of Government and Public Administration. Her research into how the choice of revenue streams by state and local governments affect government and citizen behavior has been presented at the annual conferences for the National Tax Association, Association for Budgeting and Financial Management, American Society for Public Administration, and the Association for Public Policy Analysis and Management. Afonso earned a BA in political science from Vanderbilt University, and an MA in economics and PhD in public administration and policy from the University of Georgia.

#### **Cindy Avrette, NCGA Research Division**

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Cindy is an attorney in the NC General Assembly's Research Division. Her assignment areas include tax, budget, finance, and economic development.

#### **James Blackburn, Blackburn Seminars, LLC**

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#### **Frayda S. Bluestein, UNC School of Government**

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Frayda Bluestein joined the School of Government (then the Institute of Government) in 1991. Prior to that time, she worked in private law practice, focusing primarily on municipal and land use law, and for one year in the Legislative Drafting Division of the North Carolina General Assembly. Her publications include books and articles about local government structure and authority, public contracting, conflicts of interest and transparency laws. She is a frequent contributor to the School's Coates' Canons Local Government Law Blog, writing on topics including North Carolina local government authority, annexation, public records, open meetings, conflicts of interest, and First Amendment issues affecting local government. She was awarded the School of Government's two-year professorship for outstanding junior faculty achievement in 1998, the two-year professorship for teaching excellence in 2004, and the David

M. Lawrence Distinguished Professorship in 2014. Bluestein earned a BA from the University of California at Berkeley and a JD from the University of California at Davis.

**Regina M. Carelli, UNC Department of Psychology and Neuroscience**

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Dr. Carelli studies the behavioral neurophysiology of brain reward processing. Her research examines how the brain processes information about rewards, and how that information is used to guide goal-directed actions.

**Michelle S. Cofield, NC Central School of Law**

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Michelle Cofield is the Assistant Dean for Career Services. Cofield came to the law school from the North Carolina Bar Association Foundation where she worked with the Public Service and Pro Bono Department for nearly 15 years. For five years, she served as the statewide coordinator of the signature program 4ALL. She was that managing attorney for NC LEAP. She also served as the staff liaison for several committees including the Latino Affairs and Minorities in the Professions committees where she coordinated law student outreach programs among other things. She received her Juris Doctor and Bachelor of Arts (Journalism) degrees from the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill.

**Michael Crowell, Tharrington Smith, LLP**

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Michael Crowell can't figure out what he wants to do. After graduating from UNC and from Harvard Law School he started his career at the UNC School (nee Institute) of Government; went into private practice for twenty plus years with Tharrington Smith, LLP, in Raleigh; returned to the School of Government in 2007; and now is back at Tharrington Smith. He was director of bill drafting for the General Assembly for one session a long time ago and was executive director of the Commission for the Future of Justice and the Courts in North Carolina in the mid-1990s. He also served two terms, though not consecutive, as lieutenant governor of Idaho.

**Brenda D. Gibson, NC Central School of Law**

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Brenda D. Gibson is the Director of Legal Writing at North Carolina Central University School of Law and an Assistant Professor of Law. Professor Gibson received her Bachelor of Arts in Political Science from North Carolina State University and her Juris Doctor cum laude from NCCU School of Law.

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Mark Holland is the supervisor of the Records Analysis Unit in the Government Records Section of the State Archives. He received his Bachelor's Degree in History from the University of North Carolina at Asheville in 2006 and began working for the Archives in 2010.

**Joshua Lawson, NC State Board of Elections**

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Josh Lawson is general counsel to the North Carolina State Board of Elections. His professional experiences range from commercial litigation and appeals to public affairs and crisis communications. A former White House appointee, Josh attended Duke University School of Law (LL.M.), the University of North Carolina School of Law (J.D.), George Washington University (M.P.S.), and UCLA (B.A.).

**Margaret Lemos, Duke Law School**

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Margaret H. Lemos is a scholar of constitutional law, legal institutions, and procedure. Her scholarship focuses on the institutions of law interpretation and enforcement and their effects on substantive rights. She writes in four related fields: federalism; administrative law, including the relationship between courts and agencies; statutory interpretation; and civil procedure. Her articles have been published in the *Supreme Court Review* as well as in the Harvard, New York University, Texas, Minnesota, Vanderbilt, and Notre Dame law reviews.

Lemos came to Duke Law in 2011 from the Benjamin N. Cardozo School of Law, where she was an associate professor. Prior to joining the Cardozo faculty, Lemos was a Furman Fellow and program coordinator at New York University School of Law, a Bristow Fellow at the Office of the Solicitor General, and a law clerk for Judge Kermit V. Lipez of the U.S. Court of Appeals for the First Circuit, and for U.S. Supreme Court Justice John Paul Stevens. She graduated summa cum laude from New York University School of Law, where she was senior notes editor of the *New York University Law Review*. Lemos was awarded Duke's Distinguished Teaching Award in 2013, and students at Cardozo voted her the "best first-year teacher" in 2010 and in 2011.

**William F. ("Bill") Patterson, NCGA Research Division**

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Bill joined the legislative staff in 2009 after an extensive career in administrative, criminal and civil litigation in Washington, D.C., Philadelphia, and Greensboro. His primary subject area assignments include Civil Procedure, Courts, Landlord/Tenant, Real Property, Torts, and Workers Compensation.

**George E. McCue, NC State Board of Elections**

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George McCue is agency counsel to the North Carolina State Board of Elections and has served the agency since 2011. He is also the agency's rulemaking coordinator. He holds a law degree from University of Wisconsin – Madison and an undergraduate degree, *magna cum laude*, from Ball State University. Before becoming an attorney, George spent several years in the newspaper industry, wearing the hats of copy editor, informational graphics specialist, and illustrator.

**Christopher B. McLaughlin, UNC School of Government**

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Chris McLaughlin joined the School of Government in 2008. He was named Albert and Gladys Hall Coates Distinguished Term Assistant Professor for 2012–2014. Previously, he practiced law with Wilmer Hale in Boston and Verrill Dana in Portland, Maine. Most recently, he served as adjunct professor and assistant dean for student affairs at Duke Law School. McLaughlin is a magna cum laude graduate of the University of Pennsylvania's Wharton School of Business and Duke Law School, where he was also Order of the Coif. He is a member of the North Carolina, Massachusetts, and Maine state bars.

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Susan joined the legislative staff in 1996. Her subject area assignments include criminal, juvenile delinquency, motor vehicle, and alcoholic beverage control law.

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Jonathan Tart is an analyst in the Fiscal Research Division. His subject area assignments include corporate income tax, franchise tax, and personal income tax.

**Richard B. Whisnant, UNC School of Government**

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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.