

# NORTH CAROLINA Judicial COLLEGE

ANNUAL REPORT 2016-2017



Jeffrey B. Welty

## FROM THE DIRECTOR

IT HAS BEEN a year of growth and exciting new initiatives for the North Carolina Judicial College.

This spring, we conducted our first-ever needs assessment survey, asking judicial officials at all levels of the court system to tell us how we are doing and what additional programming they would like to see. The response rate was high, and comments were overwhelmingly positive. We will conduct a similar survey every two years going forward.

The survey confirmed a couple of important trends. One is a demand for more criminal law education programs for magistrates. Being on the front lines of the criminal justice system, magistrates make vital decisions about charges, search warrants, and pretrial release. For several years the Judicial College has offered seminars for magistrates on criminal procedure and impaired driving,

but this fall we introduced a new seminar on domestic violence cases as well as one-day regional trainings on recent developments in criminal law.

The second trend illuminated by the needs assessment is that judicial officials want more information in the areas of substance abuse, mental health, and forensic science. We're planning additional offerings in those subjects and are exploring partnerships with subject-matter experts.

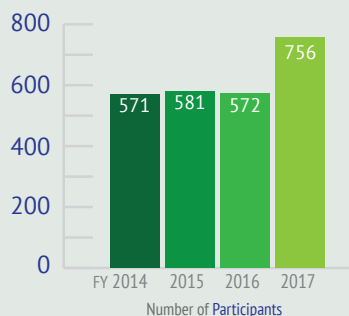
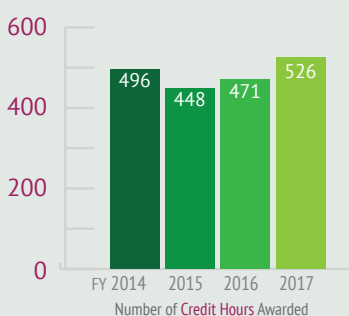
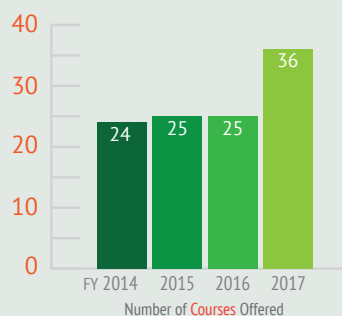
Another first for the Judicial College in 2017 was the production of a catalog presenting the full range of courses within our curriculum. The increasing depth and breadth of our offerings is inspiring. An electronic version of the catalog was sent to judicial officials earlier this year. It is also always available on our website and a hard copy can be picked up at a course or conference.

We are now developing a strategy for distance education, including regional training and online education and are in the middle of a pilot program called "office hours," which makes our criminal law faculty available for a monthly online audio conference. Whatever we do, court officials can be sure it will be responsive to their needs and in line with our values of accuracy and policy neutrality.

We always welcome feedback from the court officials we serve. So please visit us online at [judicialcollege.unc.edu](http://judicialcollege.unc.edu), shoot us an email to let us know how we are doing, or pick up the phone and call. We would love to hear from you.

Jeffrey B. Welty

## NC JUDICIAL COLLEGE At a Glance



PARTICIPANTS RATE THE USEFULNESS OF COURSES AT MORE THAN

# 96%

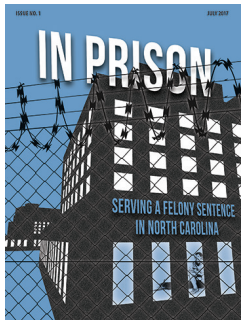
DURING THE PAST FOUR YEARS



UNC  
SCHOOL OF GOVERNMENT

## A New Medium for an Age-Old Topic

Jamie Markham Pens the School of Government's First Comic Book



*In Prison* comic book, Jamie Markham



IN OCTOBER 2017 the School of Government published its first comic book, *In Prison: Serving a Felony Sentence in North Carolina*, written by School of Government faculty member James Markham and North Carolina Department of Public Safety employee Shane Tharrington, with illustrations by Jason Whitley, a graphic designer at the UNC School of Pharmacy. This first-of-its-kind publication describes for inmates, victims, and their families how a felony sentence is served in North Carolina, following an inmate from the moment the sentence is pronounced to the day post-release supervision is completed, explaining where and how time will be served.

Markham, who also authors the *North Carolina Sentencing Handbook* among other resources for attorneys and judicial officials, said, "It's helpful to present the same information different ways." Whitley's illustrations help flesh out Markham and Tharrington's narrative in explaining the procedural aspects of serving a felony prison sentence in NC. The comic images help translate the complicated inner workings of a criminal judgment into a real-world explanation of where and for how long a person is likely to be incarcerated. It also shows the types of work and programs an inmate might participate in and what sort of sentence reduction can be expected from such participation.

Two additional graphic novels are forthcoming—one about being on probation, and another about serving time in the county jail. Markham also uses other media to teach about sentencing corrections. He writes for the *NC Criminal Law Blog*, hosts a YouTube channel (*Sentencing Whiteboard*), and has more than 4,000 followers on Twitter (@jamie\_markham).

## Juvenile Reinvestment

LaToya Powell Works to Inform and Implement



LaToya Powell

FOR THE PAST two years, several School of Government faculty members assisted the North Carolina Commission on the Administration of Law and Justice as it debated issues surrounding raising the juvenile age.

LaToya Powell, a juvenile justice expert, presented to the Commission's Criminal

Justice Committee detailing previous efforts to raise the age of juvenile defenders. She also served on the Juvenile Age subcommittee, working on its report. Jessica Smith served as reporter for the Criminal Justice Committee.

The Commission's efforts culminated in the Juvenile Justice Reinvestment Act, which was included in the budget adopted this year, and in July 2017 Governor Roy Cooper signed a proclamation recognizing this law, a reform that will prevent nearly twelve thousand juveniles each year from being tried as adults.

Also included in the Juvenile Justice Reinvestment Act is a provision to develop school-justice partnerships statewide. These partnerships, which enable the school system, court system, law enforcement, and the district attorney's office to come together to create guidelines on school policing, have been a focus of Powell's teaching since 2016. The goal of school-justice partnerships is to reduce student arrests and thereby the number of school-based referrals to juvenile court.

For the past two years Powell has been traveling the state educating judicial officials and the Department of Public Safety on juvenile justice issues. She says the most rewarding part of these discussions has been "seeing collaboration between all stakeholders" who, recognizing "there is an issue," work together to come up with a solution. This landmark reform becomes effective December 1, 2019. Thereafter, Powell will continue to train practitioners in juvenile law. She and the School are poised to assist clients in implementing "Raise the Age."

# Clients and Their Careers before the Court System

## *Client Spotlight:* Chief District Court Judge Jacquelyn Lee, District 11

### Former Career: Classroom Teacher

Public service takes many forms—sometimes in the same person. Chief District Court Judge Jacquelyn “Jackie” Lee is one such person. She spent 18 years in a public classroom before entering the courtroom. Lee’s experience as a teacher helped her realize that those in public service “have to like people and be thinkers outside the box because solutions don’t come easy and they aren’t rote.”

In March 2017, Lee traveled to Washington, DC as part of the Judicial College’s inaugural Supreme Court Seminar for district court judges. This experience provided some of our state’s most experienced jurists an opportunity to consider the role of the nation’s highest court and the rule of law in our democracy and to reflect upon their own judicial role. Highlights of the trip included an opportunity to hear from the solicitor general and attend oral arguments at the US Supreme Court.

In addition to traveling to our nation’s capital, Lee also thought faculty member Jim Drennan’s Judicial District Executive Seminar was particularly powerful because of how it brought all the different court actors into context. “I can’t just make decisions based on district court,” Lee said. “We all like to stay on our own turf, but you just can’t do that.” She credits Drennan’s program with fostering greater communication and collaboration.



District court judges travel to Washington D.C. in March 2017

## *Client Spotlight:* Clerk of Superior Court Mark Pegram, Rockingham County Former Career: Policeman

Mark Pegram, clerk at Rockingham County, started his career in public service 35 years ago as a policeman. With a commitment to helping people, he spent two decades in law enforcement before becoming a clerk.

Pegram has participated in many Judicial College offerings, including a course by faculty member Willow Jacobson. Pegram’s office includes baby boomers as well as millennials, and Jacobson’s teaching helped him understand how to run a multi-generational office with a clearer view of employees’ different needs.

Pegram has benefited from courses through the Judicial College and the colleagues he’s met through his involvement with the School—“a network of people I can call to run things by,” he said.

## *Client Spotlight:* Magistrate Reginald Tyson, Chatham County Former Career: Probation/ Parole Officer

Chatham County Magistrate Reginald “Reggie” Tyson knew from the beginning that he would work in public service. As a child Tyson wanted to become a lawyer. He spent 20 years working in the field of criminal justice, including service as a probation/parole officer for the NC Department of Correction.

Tyson described the training at Judicial College, saying it “gives you the tools to help when you might not know what else to do.”

What Tyson said he finds most rewarding is serving others. “I work in the county I grew up in,” he said. “I like being able to come back to my own community and be a role model to those coming up behind me.”

***“The School of Government does an absolutely great job. I can’t imagine being a judge without having the School of Government there.”***

***—Judge Jacquelyn Lee***



## Notes from the Dean



Dean Michael R. Smith

WE HAVE BEEN providing judicial education for many decades, and we could not do it without our partner, the Administrative Office of the Courts (AOC). This past year has been one with many milestones for our state's court system, including half a century of the General Court of Justice, the AOC, and District Court. Additionally, in 2017, we celebrate 50 years of the Court of Appeals and 240 years of the Superior Court.

This year also saw the final report from the North Carolina Commission on the Administration of Law and Justice appointed by Chief Justice Mark Martin. Chief Justice Martin appointed faculty member Jessica Smith to this commission and in September, gave her the Amicus Curiae Award. The award, bestowing her with the title of "Friend of the Court," recognizes Smith for her outstanding service to the Judicial Branch of NC.

As we celebrate these milestones, Jeff Welty and his colleagues continue to be focused on the needs of our court officials. Jeff, along with Judge Marion Warren, see training as critical to the professional development of all members of the courts, from magistrates to judges at the highest level. As partners and as customers for our services, we are incorporating greater input from the AOC into the School's training.

This past year, Jeff approached the question of training needs more systematically by deploying a survey to court officials asking about their needs. We're continuing to delve deeper in addressing the responses directly from court officials, in addition to continued conversations with Judge Warren.

The North Carolina Judicial College is one of the School's top strategic priorities, and we've already made strides in strengthening what we offer. We're offering

a new course on domestic violence for magistrates, made possible by collaboration between a new staff member, Elizabeth Watkins Price, judicial curriculum development specialist; and lead faculty member, Dona Lewandowski. We'll continue to look for opportunities to collaborate and respond to the feedback from our clients and our partners.

We would be remiss if we did not take a moment to acknowledge a few milestones that happened this year. Called "encyclopedic" by his peers and widely respected by all, Bob Farb leaves a legacy after 41 years of service here at the School. A UNC alumnus, Bob has given a great deal to his alma mater and to the state of North Carolina. We are grateful for his contributions and wish him the best in his retirement.

We also want to congratulate Jim Drennan on receiving the Karen Thorson Award from the National Association of State Judicial Educators in September 2016 for both "his influence on judicial education" and "his indelible impression on the court community." Jim has brought clear judgment and consistent integrity to his work of improving the North Carolina judicial system and has mentored and inspired his colleagues at the School of Government to be better at this work than we would have been without his guidance.

We are so fortunate to have these educators and leaders as part of the Judicial College. I'm excited about what the future holds for judicial education at the School of Government and am grateful for the contributions of all of our partners.

*Michael Smith*



Bob Farb



Jim Drennan

### NORTH CAROLINA JUDICIAL COLLEGE FACULTY

Jeffrey B. Welty, Director

Ann M. Anderson  
Shea Riggsbee Denning  
Sara DePasquale  
James C. Drennan  
Cheryl D. Howell  
Dona G. Lewandowski  
James M. Markham  
LaToya B. Powell  
John Rubin  
Jessica Smith  
Meredith Smith



UNC  
SCHOOL OF GOVERNMENT

THE UNIVERSITY  
of NORTH CAROLINA  
at CHAPEL HILL

KNAPP-SANDERS BUILDING  
CAMPUS BOX 3330  
CHAPEL HILL, NC 27599-3330

NONPROFIT  
U.S. POSTAGE  
PAID  
UNC – CHAPEL HILL

Change Service Requested