



SCHOOL OF GOVERNMENT

North Carolina Judicial College

ANNUAL REPORT 2017-2018



Jeffrey B. Welty

FROM THE DIRECTOR

WE LIVE IN a rapidly changing world. Some of those changes are technological, some are social, and some are political. Each affects the work of judicial officials. Whether they are magistrates determining whether a mean-spirited social media post rises to the level of cyberstalking, district court judges dealing with new family structures, or superior court and appellate judges adjudicating disputes between political branches, judicial officials are constantly breaking new ground.

The goal of the North Carolina Judicial College is to provide training and education that equips court officials to make the difficult decisions they face every day. Sometimes that means providing updates on new case law, and other times it involves showcasing pertinent scientific research. Like the broader world, the Judicial College is always evolving. We're offering more courses than ever and serving more participants than ever. Our faculty are

delivering content in new ways, including blogs, graphic novels, and YouTube videos. My colleagues amaze me every day, and I'm proud that this report showcases some of their incredible work.

In the coming months, we will send out a survey asking you what programming you value most highly and what topics you would like to see us address. Please complete the survey so that we can keep focusing on the areas where the need is greatest. If the survey doesn't cover issues that are important to you, please let us know that. We'd love to hear from you and look forward to adapting together to whatever the future brings.

Jeffrey B. Welty

NC JUDICIAL COLLEGE At a Glance

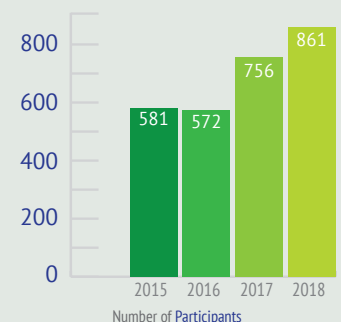
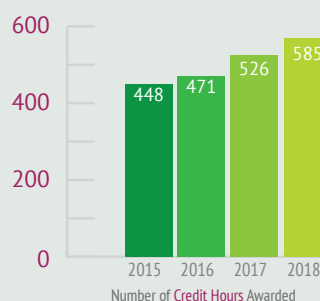
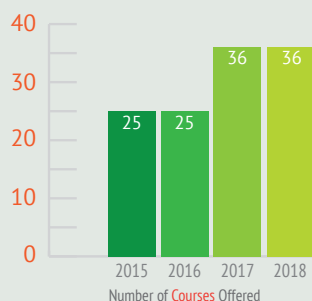
36 Courses offered

585 Credit hours

861 Participants served

4.82 (of 5)
Average rating of course usefulness

4.83 (of 5)
Average rating of material usefulness



Leadership Training for Judicial Districts



Cumberland County Courthouse

THE APRIL 2018 Judicial District Executive Seminar focused on helping key leaders across the state work together to improve the justice system in their region. Participants learned to identify their leadership styles, cope with the increasing stresses and demands being placed on the courts, anticipate the trends that will affect the courts in the future, and explore the nature of shared decision-making in a complex environment such as the courts.

Officeholders from North Carolina's Twelfth Judicial District (Cumberland County) have come to this course for several years and credit it with improving the way they work as a team. The current group includes Senior Resident Superior Court Judge Jim Ammons, Chief District Court Judge Robert Stiehl, District Attorney Billy West, Public Defender Bernie Condlin, and Clerk of Superior Court Lisa Scales. The training, said Stiehl, "taught us to understand the personality traits of our coworkers, structure our collective approach to problem-solving, and better communicate with each other regarding common critical issues." It also helps them work in a group where no single person is in charge.

West said this group meets monthly in a session affectionately called "JDAM" for Judicial Division Administrative Meeting. It is one of the best things to come out of their Judicial College training. "We were only getting together when things had gotten so bad that we needed to get together," West said. "But now we're being more proactive and dealing with issues. JDAM is one of the first places I am going to talk about something I am considering doing."

Stiehl also credits the team dynamic as one reason why the Twelfth Judicial District is able to successfully operate despite having only one courthouse. Space issues being a major pressure on court proceedings, the group works with county commissioners to address the issue of overcrowding in courtrooms. The team has also developed some interesting projects to be implemented in the coming months, such as the use of video conferencing for emergency protective orders, saving a 24-mile, round-trip drive between Fort Bragg and Fayetteville; a misdemeanor-diversion program for 16- and 17-year-olds; and an initiative to identify and treat mental illness among those confined to local jails.

"I'm thankful for the UNC School of Government and the courses they provide for the deputies, assistants, and clerks of Superior Court," said Scales. "Education is a powerful tool and most appreciated by my office."

Recent Publications



Abuse, Neglect, Dependency, and Termination of Parental Rights Proceedings in North Carolina
by Sara DePasquale and Jan S. Simmons (2017)

A useful and reliable reference for district court judges, social services attorneys, parents' attorneys, and guardian ad litem attorney advocates



In Prison: Serving a Felony Sentence in North Carolina
by Jamie Markham, Shane Tharrington, and Jason Whitley (2017)

The first in a series of graphic novels on the prison and parole system in North Carolina, following an inmate from a felony sentence to post-release supervision



Pulled Over: The Law of Traffic Stops and Offenses in North Carolina
by Shea Riggsbee Denning, Christopher Tyner, and Jeffrey B. Welty (2017)

An accessible resource for judges, attorneys, law enforcement officers, and the public



North Carolina Gun Law Quick Reference
by Jeffrey B. Welty (2018)

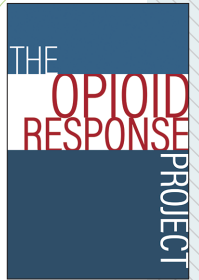
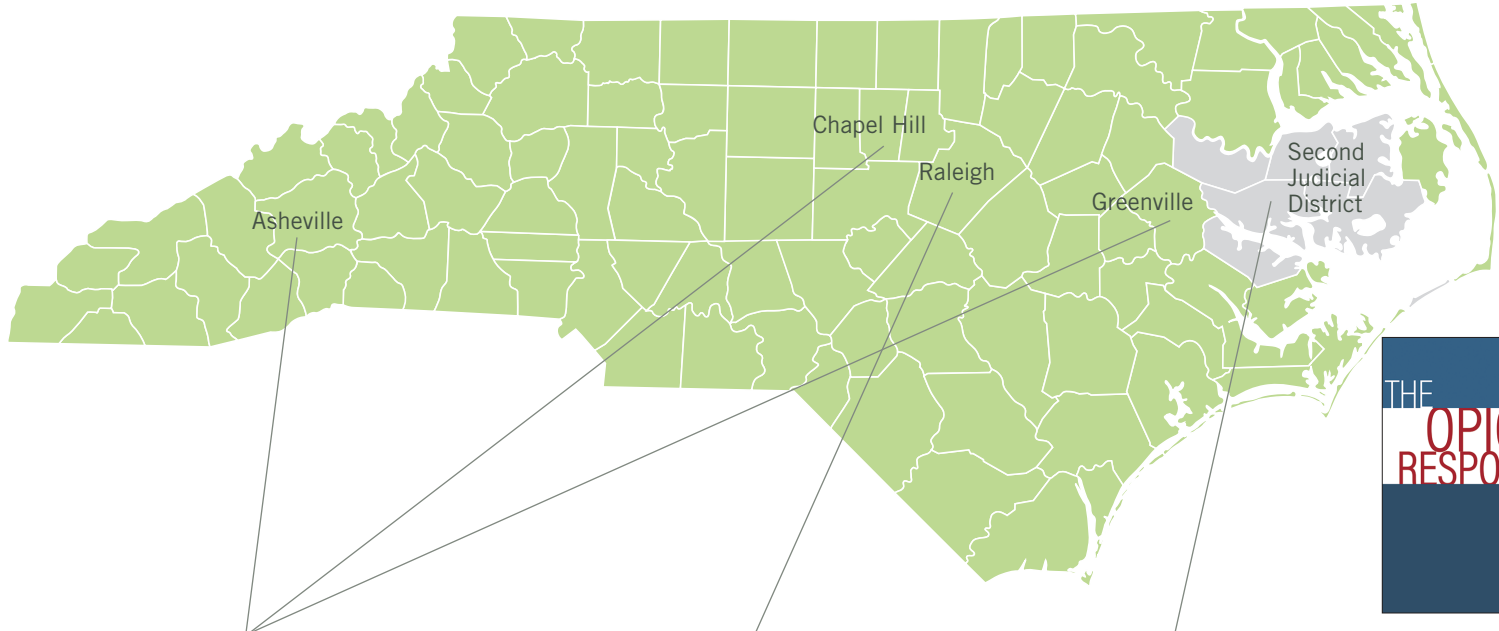
A summary of the most important provisions of state and federal law pertaining to firearms, covering the places where guns are prohibited and safe storage requirements

Reaching All 100 Counties and More

THE JUDICIAL COLLEGE reaches all 100 counties in the state through courses, one-on-one advising, publications, blogs, listservs, and other resources. This past year, course participants alone represented 94 counties.

A Visit to the U.S. Supreme Court

Faculty member Jessica Smith led a group of North Carolina Superior Court judges to Washington, D.C. The group heard oral arguments and met with Justice Clarence Thomas, who talked about being a judge and reflected on judicial selection processes. The group also met with U.S. Senator Thom Tillis and was given a private tour of the U.S. Capitol.



Training Magistrates around the State

In response to feedback from magistrates, the Judicial College ran a daylong seminar on domestic violence and brought one-day courses on criminal law and civil law to Asheville, Chapel Hill, and Greenville. Upcoming regional trainings for magistrates include courses on criminal law and small claims.

“This was fantastic. It is the first time I’ve ever heard anyone really articulate the situation magistrates experience when dealing with domestic violence (and actually, all other matters).”

—Participant, 2018 Criminal Law Seminar for Magistrates, Chapel Hill



Exploring Probation and Corrections

In March 2018, faculty members Jamie Markham and Shea Riggsbee Denning loaded up a passenger van with district court judges and drove them over to the offices of Community Corrections on Yonkers Road in Raleigh. At probation headquarters the judges met with, heard from, and questioned the people who set, write, and administer probation policy as well as supervise probationers.

Courts and Local Governments Address the Opioid Crisis—Together

The Judicial College is uniquely positioned to connect North Carolina’s judicial districts with other statewide government resources. An example: North Carolina’s Second Judicial District (Beaufort, Hyde, Martin, Tyrell and Washington counties) will receive funding to address the opioid epidemic in their region as part of a new School of Government initiative supported by Blue Cross Blue Shield of North Carolina. This intensive two-year collaborative learning model will provide direct support to ten communities interested in innovative policy and responses to their local opioid crises.

Faculty News and Notes



Meet a New Member

Jacquelyn Greene, Assistant Professor of Public Law and Government

Greene joined the North Carolina Judicial College in September to focus on juvenile justice, bringing 20 years of experience in juvenile delinquency law as a practitioner, policy maker, and trainer. Previously, she worked for New York-based consultancy firm Policy Research Associates. She also served as executive director of the New York State Governor's Commission on Youth, Public Safety, and Justice; director of juvenile justice policy at the New York State Division of Criminal Justice Services; and counsel to the committees on children and families and social services for the New York State Assembly. Her recent research centers on juvenile justice system improvement and behavioral health interventions for at-risk youth.



Faculty Member Receives Top UNC Honor

Faculty member Jamie Markham received the Thomas Willis Lambeth Distinguished Chair in Public Policy, which honors faculty members who have made contributions to the area of public policy, at UNC-Chapel Hill. The selection committee was impressed with Markham's work on North Carolina's Justice Reinvestment Act, his mobile application on structured sentencing, his YouTube channel for whiteboard-style lectures on sentencing law, and his innovative graphic novel series explaining how criminal sentences are served in North Carolina.



Consulting on Criminal Records Clearance

Faculty member John Rubin served as advisor in 2017 during creation of the Clean Slate Clearinghouse, an online resource providing access to state statutory information related to criminal record clearance policies in all 50 states and U.S. territories. The Council of State Governments Justice Center, with funding from the U.S. Department of Labor's Employment and Training Administration and the U.S. Department of Justice's Bureau of Justice Assistance, launched the new site to help support juvenile and adult criminal record clearance around the country. Rubin serves on an advisory board of 32 legal professionals who bring their expertise to bear on criminal record clearance processes and will serve on the research and data subcommittee for the Clearinghouse in 2018.



A Friend of the Court

Faculty member Jessica Smith received the Amicus Curiae Award from North Carolina Chief Justice Mark Martin. The award recognizes Smith for her outstanding service to the North Carolina Judicial Branch. In 2015, Smith was appointed reporter for the Criminal Investigation and Adjudication Committee of Martin's North Carolina Commission on the Administration of Law and Justice. Smith has described her efforts on the commission as the most important work she has done in her nearly two-decades-long career at the School of Government.

NORTH CAROLINA JUDICIAL COLLEGE FACULTY

Jeffrey B. Welty, Director

Ann M. Anderson

Shea Riggsbee Denning

Sara DePasquale

James C. Drennan

Jacquelyn Greene

Cheryl D. Howell

Dona G. Lewandowski

James M. Markham

John Rubin

Jessica Smith

Meredith Smith

Elizabeth Watkins-Price,
Judicial Curriculum
Development Specialist

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