



ANNUAL REPORT 2019–2020

UPDATES FROM OUR FACULTY



WELCOME Brittany Williams

Joined faculty in July 2020 to work with all judicial officials in criminal law



WELCOME BACK Thomas H. Thornburg

Rejoined faculty to work with magistrates on criminal law after serving as senior associate dean



CONGRATULATIONS Shea Riggsbee Denning

Named Judicial College director in February 2020



THANK YOU James M. Markham

Became primary contact for curriculum and programming for Superior Court Judges

BY THE NUMBERS

42

Continuing education
courses offered

1,604

Students attending
programs

4.81



Average course
usefulness rating

325.75

Hours of continuing
education credit offered

NEW PROJECTS

Certification Program
for Magistrates

**The North Carolina Elder
Protection Network**

Connecting. Informing. Supporting.

RESPONDING TO THE COVID-19 PANDEMIC

CREATED

Legal Updates from the Judicial College seminars to inform judicial officials and advocates of legal developments during the pandemic

ADAPTED

Small Claims I and II to a weekly online format to ensure complete delivery of material during initial months of stay-at-home order

CONVENED

Chief district court judges on a weekly basis

TRANSITIONED

District court judges', superior court judges', magistrates', and clerks' of superior court conferences to a virtual format

PUBLISHED

Online resource hub for courts responding to COVID-19



VIRTUAL COURSES

Adapting courts to a virtual format

Legal Issues in Adult Guardianship

*Abuse, Neglect, Dependency,
and Termination of Parental
Rights Hearings*

Juvenile Mental Health

Managing Family Financial Cases

FROM OUR CLIENTS

Phyllis Gorham

Senior Resident Superior Court Judge, District 5

“I have attended courses sponsored by other states and organizations and I am proud to say that the quality of instruction at the Judicial College is exceptional. The Judicial College is not just about taking courses to fulfill continuing education requirements, but it's about training, application, and leadership development. I am honored to be a part of this collaborative effort between the judiciary and the Judicial College to bring about fairness in the courts. It has been an invaluable asset to me over the course of my years on the bench.

As a member of the board of directors of the North Carolina Superior Court Judges Conference and a senior resident superior court judge, I have been privy to resources that have expanded my leadership skills. Thank you for your dedication and expertise to the judiciary.”

Ryan Kokajko

Magistrate, District Court, Guilford County

“The Judicial Colleges print materials are second to none. Not a day goes by that I am not consulting one of them for reference or guidance. Furthermore, their open-door policy allows us to have an open line of communication to a subject matter expert when needed.

The Judicial College has also provided me and my colleagues with an educational environment for structured classroom learning but with an intimate class size—allowing for group discussions and knowledge sharing. This is key when discussing in-depth and nuanced topics.”

OTHER ACCOMPLISHMENTS AT A GLANCE

RAISE THE AGE TRAINING SERIES

Jacquelyn Green offered a series of programs to 1,342 participants explaining recent changes to the Juvenile Justice Reinvestment Act, known commonly as "Raise the Age."



SUPREME COURT SEMINAR

20 judges traveled to the nation's capital to hear oral arguments before the U.S. Supreme Court, tour the National Museum of African American History and Culture, and attend a lecture at the United States Holocaust Memorial Museum.



NC PRO EXTENDED



NC PROSECUTORS' RESOURCE ONLINE

Content on ncpro.sog.unc.edu was expanded to provide registered users with access to the charging language found in *Arrest Warrant and Indictment Forms*.

JUDICIAL DISTRICT EXECUTIVE SEMINAR



Alamance, Buncombe, Guilford, and Wake Counties completed the *Judicial District Executive Seminar*, with participation from chief magistrates, chief public defenders, district attorneys, chief district court judges, and senior resident superior court judges from each district.

NEW PUBLICATIONS

ARREST WARRANT AND INDICTMENT FORMS, 2019 EDITION

Jeffrey B. Welty and Christopher Tyner



PUBLIC DEFENSE EDUCATION COVID-19 TOOLKIT

Featuring three new bulletins from Ian A. Mance and John Rubin



William (Tripp) F. Helms III

Chief District Court Judge, District 20B

"The Judicial College has given me the opportunity to experience and learn about the larger context and impact of my work in the justice system. I've attended arguments in the United States Supreme Court, the ultimate judicial authority to which our own rulings are accountable. I've visited juvenile detention facilities as part of my Juvenile Court Certification, where I gained a better understanding of their programs to support and rehabilitate youth offenders as well as first-hand knowledge of the conditions of that environment. My Judicial College educational opportunities have deepened my appreciation of my role in the world outside the courthouse and of my place within our larger system of justice."

Ken Raper

Clerk of Superior Court, Carteret County

"As a clerk of superior court, I was very familiar with the School's value and its providing qualified and accredited instruction to law enforcement officers, magistrates, clerks of superior court, judges, and other judicial officials.

For the past three years I have attended many training sessions at the School of Government. In addition to new clerks training, I have also consulted with many staff members regarding estate and guardianship issues. Their support and legal advice have helped me in resolving and bringing closure to many issues clerks of superior court face on a daily basis."



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FROM THE DIRECTOR SHEA RIGGSBEE DENNING

My tenure as North Carolina Judicial College director started on a high note, as I accompanied a group of experienced district court judges to Washington, D.C., at the beginning of March for a long-planned U.S. Supreme Court Seminar. We attended oral arguments before the Supreme Court, toured the National Museum of African American History and Culture, visited the United States Holocaust Memorial Museum, and ended our trip with a question and answer session with Senator Richard Burr—who delivered dire warnings to our group about COVID-19. The next week, the accuracy of those predictions became clear.

In the wake of the pandemic, the Judicial College rushed to change the nature of its work to meet the evolving needs of court officials and advocates. We offered biweekly Legal Updates from the Judicial College and our faculty served on and advised the chief justice's COVID-19 task force. The College held weekly virtual meetings for chief district court judges, and our faculty partnered with the Administrative Office of the Courts to offer virtual summer conferences for district and superior court judges. We also launched new initiatives and programs—including a new certification

program for magistrates and two new leadership courses for elected and assistant clerks.

As you know, the pandemic is not the only challenge our nation is confronting. The killing of George Floyd raised national consciousness about the disparate treatment of and outcomes for people of color. We know that as a School and Judicial College, we must do more to ensure that the people we serve have the knowledge and skills necessary to identify, examine, and address structural inequity. We are thankful for and will work to implement many of the ideas you shared about efforts we should undertake to accomplish this objective. We are committed to working with our judicial system partners to develop more robust and sustained education in this important area.

In tough times, I am privileged to find inspiration in the people I am lucky enough to serve. Your dedication, intelligence, ingenuity, and kindness not only improve the lives of North Carolinians but also make our work fulfilling and worthwhile. We are proud to be your partner.



Shea Riggsbee Denning