



2021 Summer Criminal Law Update

June 4, 2021 / 1:30 p.m. – 3:00 p.m.

*Cosponsored by the UNC-Chapel Hill School of Government
&
The North Carolina Office of Indigent Defense Services*

This webinar will cover recent criminal law decisions issued by the North Carolina appellate courts and U.S. Supreme Court and will highlight significant criminal law legislation enacted by the North Carolina General Assembly. School of Government criminal law experts John Rubin, Phil Dixon, Jonathan Holbrook, and Brittany Williams will discuss a wide range of issues in felony and misdemeanor cases in the North Carolina state courts. Webinar participants will be able to ask questions online, in real time. Additional information about the webinar is located at <https://www.sog.unc.edu/courses/criminal-law-webinars-case-and-legislative-updates>

CLE Credit: 1.50 Hours of General CLE Credit

SPEAKERS

John Rubin, *Albert Coates Professor of Public Law & Government*

John Rubin joined the School of Government in 1991, where he specializes in criminal law and public defense education. He has written several books, articles, and other resources on criminal law, including a book on The Law of Self-Defense in North Carolina and a guide to Relief from a Criminal Conviction, among other publications. He is also the editor of a seven-volume practice manual series on indigent defense. He regularly teaches and consults with judges, magistrates, prosecutors, public defenders, and other criminal justice officials. In 2004, John created the Public Defense Education program at the School of Government, supported by contract revenue, grants, registration fees and sales, and fundraising. As director of the program, he oversees the work of several lawyers and professional employees who develop and deliver a curriculum of annual training programs, a library of reference materials, online educational offerings, and consultation services. He helped establish and continues as a consultant to the North Carolina Office of Indigent Defense Services, the statewide agency responsible for overseeing and enhancing legal representation for indigent defendants and others entitled to counsel under North Carolina law.

He also directs the newly established Racial Equity Education Project within the School of Government's Judicial College. The Project's mission is to promote racial equity in North Carolina's justice system by developing actionable, community-informed education for court actors and criminal justice officials. In 2008, John was awarded a two-year distinguished professorship for faculty excellence. In 2012, he was named Albert Coates Distinguished Professor of Public Law and Government. He has served as the faculty director for UNC's honors study abroad program in London, teaches an honors undergraduate seminar on criminal law and justice at UNC, and beginning Summer 2022 will co-teach a Burch Field Research Seminar on criminal justice and health policy. Before joining the School of Government, John practiced law for nine years in Washington, D.C., and Los Angeles, California. He earned a J.D. from UNC-Chapel Hill in 1982 and a B.A. from the University of California at Berkeley in 1978.



Phil Dixon, Jr., *Defender Educator, Indigent Defense Education*

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 public defense 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.

Jonathan Holbrook, *Prosecutor Educator*

Jonathan Holbrook joined the School of Government in 2017 as the School's first-ever Prosecutor Educator. Jonathan previously worked as a prosecutor for nearly ten years, both in state court with the Wake County District Attorney's Office and in federal court with the U.S. Attorney's Office for the Eastern District of North Carolina. Jonathan earned his B.A. from Northwestern University, and his J.D. with Honors from UNC Chapel Hill School of Law. Jonathan writes and updates legal entries for NC PRO, the new online criminal procedure resource for prosecutors, as well as the NC Criminal Law Blog, and he provides assistance, consultation, and training to prosecutors on a wide variety of issues.

Brittany Williams, *Assistant Professor of Public Law and Government*

Brittany Williams joined the School of Government in July 2020. Prior to joining the School, she received her JD from the North Carolina Central University School of Law (summa cum laude), where she served as the Notes and Comments Editor for the North Carolina Central Law Review. Brittany is a member of the North Carolina State Bar.