

Public Law for the Public's Lawyers Speaker Biographies

Speakers

North Carolina Civil Case Update

Roger A. Askew, Senior Deputy County Attorney, Wake County Attorney's Office. Roger keeps up with civil cases relevant to government and makes presentations to various groups on this and related topics, including this event in the past and the NC Association of County Attorneys and NC Association of Defense Attorneys.

Emerging Issues in Criminal Law (focused on cases)

Shea Riggsbee Denning is Robert W. Bradshaw Jr. Distinguished Professor of Public Law and Government at the School of Government, and Director, North Carolina Judicial College

After earning an AB with distinction in journalism and mass communication from the University in 1994, and a JD with high honors from the UNC School of Law in 1997, she began her legal career by clerking for the Honorable Malcolm J. Howard, US District Judge for the Eastern District of North Carolina, in Greenville. She then practiced law in Atlanta with the firm of King & Spalding before returning to North Carolina to work as a research attorney and then as an assistant federal defender for the Eastern District of North Carolina. She joined the SOG faculty in 2003. Denning's scholarship focuses on motor vehicle law and criminal law and procedure. She teaches and advises judges, magistrates, prosecutors, defense attorneys, and law enforcement officers. She has written extensively about North Carolina's motor vehicle laws, including a book on the law of impaired driving. She is a regular contributor to the North Carolina Criminal Law blog and a co-coauthor of *Pulled Over: The Law of Traffic Stops and Offenses in North Carolina*.

First Amendment Rights for Attorneys and Public Employees

Chris McLaughlin joined the School of Government faculty in 2008. Previously, he practiced law with Wilmer Hale in Boston and Verrill Dana in Portland, Maine. He was also 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. His expertise at the School includes public lawyer ethics, taxation, and public records.

Cybersecurity for Lawyers

Dr. Shannon Tufts is associate professor and director of the Center for Public Technology at the School of Government. Shannon designed and implemented the first local government Chief Information Officers Certification program in the nation and continues to run CIO certification programs for local and state government IT professionals. She created a National Certified Government Chief Information Officer

program in 2007, in order to serve the growing needs of public sector IT professionals across the nation. Tufts has taught numerous courses on public sector information systems across the United States. Shannon earned a BA from UNC-Chapel Hill, an MPA from UNC-Charlotte, and a PhD in public administration with a concentration in public sector information systems from North Carolina State University.

COVID-19: Applications of Public Health and Emergency Management Law in North Carolina

Jill Moore is associate professor of public law and government at the School of Government. She joined the Institute of Government in 1997, following a judicial clerkship with the Honorable Willis P. Whichard, Supreme Court of North Carolina. At the School of Government, Moore regularly offers or participates in educational conferences for local health directors, public health nurse supervisors, local health department employees, and others with an interest in public health law. Along with faculty member Aimee Wall, she maintains [a website devoted to North Carolina public health law](#). Moore earned a BSPH, MPH, and JD from the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill. Her areas of expertise include communicable disease control and how health services are organized.

Virginia Niehaus serves as Director of Regulatory and Legal Affairs for the NC Department of Health and Human Services, Division of Public Health. In this role, she works on public health policy development through legislation and rulemaking and consults on implementation and enforcement of public health statutes and rules. She serves as Rulemaking Coordinator to the North Carolina Commission for Public Health and is a member of the North Carolina Local Health Department Accreditation Board. Virginia received her BA from Duke University, her JD from the University of North Carolina School of Law, and her MPH in Health Policy and Management from the University of North Carolina Gillings School of Global Public Health.

Will Polk is Deputy General Counsel, NC Department of Public Safety. He is legal counsel to the Division of Emergency Management and is the legal liaison between the Department and the Governor's Office for Emergency Management Response and Recovery. He is an expert in executive branch emergency management authority and law. He is active in the National Emergency Management Association. He has served in various legal counsel positions in the Governors and Lieutenant Governor's Offices. Will earned his J.D. from NC Central University and his BA from NC State.

NC Judicial Branch's Response to COVID-19

Danielle Carman has been Deputy Director of Court Programs at the NC Administrative Office of the Courts since October 2019. For the prior three years, she served as the Deputy Director of the Southern Coalition for Social Justice (SCSJ), a community-lawyering nonprofit. Prior to joining SCSJ, Danielle served for more than 15 years as the founding Assistant Director and General Counsel of the statewide North Carolina Office of Indigent Defense Services (IDS), where she supported the work of the IDS Commission and was instrumental in reforming and improving North Carolina's indigent

defense system. For almost four years after graduating from law school, she served as an Assistant Appellate Defender in the North Carolina Office of the Appellate Defender. Danielle attended the University of North Carolina School of Law as a Chancellors Scholar and graduated with high honors in 1997.

Kellie Z. Myers has been the Trial Court Administrator for the Tenth Judicial District (Wake County) since 2014. Prior to becoming the Trial Court Administrator, Kellie worked at the North Carolina Administrative Office of the Courts as a state-wide Case Management Specialist in the areas of Domestic Violence and Language Access. Kellie graduated from the Pennsylvania State University School of Law and received her B.A. from UNC-Chapel Hill with a double major in political science and psychology. She is currently licensed to practice law in the State of North Carolina.

Kellie currently serves on the NCBA Litigation Council, the Chief Justice's Rules Advisory Commission, and the Judicial Branch COVID-19 Task Force. Kellie most recently chaired the COVID-19 Task Force's Best Safety Practices Working Group, and she is regularly consulted by judicial leadership on topics such as eCourts and the Integrated Case Management System (ICMS), continuity of operations, and court operations.

NC Legislative Developments in Criminal and Civil Law, presented by legislative staff.

Thank you to our four presenters, **Jennifer Bedford** and **Jeremy Ray** of the Legislative Analysis Division and **Amy Jo Johnson** and **Lisa Wilks** of the Legislative Bill drafting Division.

Issues in Rulemaking

Thank you to our three presenters for this session, **Amber May**, **Amanda Reeder**, and **Ashley Snyder**. They all work the NC Office of Administrative Hearings as counsel to the Rules Review Commission.

Amber graduated from Meredith College and NC Central School of Law.

Ashley graduated from Wake Forest University

Amanda graduated from UNC Chapel Hill, and North Carolina Central School of Law .

Public Attorney Work as Emotional Labor

Dr. Leisha DeHart-Davis is a Professor of Public Administration and Government who joined the School in 2012. She directs the Local Government Workplaces Initiative, which conducts organizational research for improving city and county workplaces, and is also a faculty partner in *Engaging Women in Local Government*, a program that seeks to equip women to pursue public service leadership positions. DeHart-Davis is a National Academy of Public Administration. She has published in numerous public administration journals, including the *Journal of Public Administration Research and*

Theory and Public Administration Review. Her book, *Creating Effective Rules in Public Sector Organizations*, was published by Georgetown University Press in 2017 and has won best book awards from the American Society for Public Administration and the Academy of Management Public and Nonprofit Division. DeHart-Davis holds a PhD in public policy from the Georgia Institute of Technology.

Legal Ethics

Ronnie Mitchell is a veteran attorney with public and private practice experience over the past forty plus years. He is currently Legal Counsel to the Cumberland County Sheriff's Office. He received a bachelor's degree, *cum laude*, from Wake Forest University. He earned his JD from Wake Forest Law School, *cum laude*.

Ronnie has been involved in a broad civil and criminal law practice, in the state and federal courts. He has been successful as both a trial and appellate attorney. His practice has included personal injury, insurance, law enforcement, and governmental as well as criminal cases. He has successfully defended civil cases brought against sheriffs' deputies, police officers, health care providers, various public officials as well as individuals.

Ronnie has served as a contributor, author or co-author of more than fifty legal publications, and he has been a lecturer for a vast number of continuing legal education programs.

Ronnie has been named to *The Best Lawyers in America*, *Who's Who in American Law*, *North Carolina Super Lawyers*, and he has received many other professional recognitions. He has also been an adjunct professor of law at the Norman A. Wiggins School of Law at Campbell University.

Melvin F. Wright, Jr. is a graduate of the University of North Carolina and Wake Forest University School of Law. A private practice attorney for twenty-six years, Mel became the Executive Director of the North Carolina Chief Justice's Commission on Professionalism in November 1999. He served in that capacity until his retirement in August 2017 and has resumed this role in March 2019. Through the years, he has served in numerous leadership positions within the Bar at large and in professionalism committees and initiatives on both the state and national front. Mel has been awarded the Bronze Star and Air Medal for his service in Vietnam; the Order of the Long Leaf Pine, the Wake County Bar Association Professionalism Award, the Chief Justice's Professionalism Award, the Robinson O. Everett Professionalism Award, the John B. McMillan Award for Public Service, and the CJCP Award for Meritorious and Extraordinary Service.