The School of Law’s Dynamic Legal Clinicians
Leaders in Legal Training and Service

Speakers: Past and Present
Mural Installation of United States Constitution
Fond Farewells
North Carolina Central University School of Law has earned its designation as an established leader in legal education. The high quality presence of our alumni in the practicing bar, the judiciary, and in government service is the greatest testimony to the Law School’s firm standing within the world of legal education. The Law School’s commitments to stellar classroom instruction, supported by our nationally ranked clinical legal education programs, combine to produce exceptionally well-prepared and practice-ready attorneys. Clinical legal education, without question, contributes substantially toward the preparation of young attorneys in their ability to provide effective legal service.

Operated by seasoned and dedicated members of our Law School faculty, the Clinic at NCCU School of Law is one of the finest clinical programs in the nation. As an established fixture in providing public service, our Clinic has a clear and measurable impact that also reinforces the mission of the Law School to provide attorneys ready and prepared to serve the legal needs of their community.

Further, the development of our Technology Assisted Legal Instruction and Services (TALIAS) project gives us increased ability to extend our clinical services to remote communities while enhancing the practical skills development of our students. You will read more about TALIAS in this magazine. You will also read more about our clinical programs in the nation’s 10 “Most Popular” law schools in a ranking released by U.S. News & World Report. The listing is based on an analysis of admission yield — the percentage of students accepted by a school who choose to enroll. In the rankings compiled for 2010, NCCU School of Law placed ninth, with a yield of 49.6 percent, of 415 applicants accepted by the school, 206 subsequently enrolled.

Finally, Pre-law Magazine ranked NCCU School of Law in the top 25 Best Public Interest Law Schools. As this ranking supports, and we as a law school recognize, the role of practical skills training continues to be elevated in national discussions regarding legal education.

Raymond C. Pierce
Dean and Professor of Law

Breaking Records

2010 proved to be a banner year for the NCCU Clinical Legal Education Program. We closed the academic year in May with a record number of clinics and a record enrollment of students for 252 placements in our clinical and skills courses. Ultimately, we provided a record high of $1,994,375 in free legal services to indigent individuals, nonprofits, pro bono and government agencies, corporations, and private law firms in the community. Remarkable is the term that comes to mind when I try to describe our success. We were very proud to report these developments, and although it was May, it soon became apparent that our year had just begun.

New Grants - New Clinics - New Technology

The spring and summer of 2010 marked our most active year for grant applications.

Assistant Dean Adrienne Meddock applied to the United States Patent and Trademark Office for privileges under its Trademark Law School Certification Program. In July, we were notified that NCCU was one of only 10 law schools that made a successful application. We now boast an Intellectual Property Clinic that will assist people with trademark applications.

Pro Bono Director Page Potter’s Volunteer Income Tax Assistance Program (VITA) attracted the attention of Southern University’s Path to Independence Project, sponsored by a grant from The Kellogg Foundation. As a sub-contractor, our VITA program will incorporate information on financial education and asset building into our current activities.

“"No matter what courtroom you are in, in North Carolina and beyond its borders, you can tell the NCCU law student. They don’t have to open their mouths. It’s the way they carry themselves.”

- The Honorable Pat Evans, District Court Judge and Double Eagle, Women’s Law Caucus Luncheon Speaker, March 21, 2010

I am proud to share with you some of the stories that helped produce the confident young attorneys that Durham County’s newest District Court Judge, Pat Evans, was referring to when she made the above statement. The experiences that shape these young professionals are quite inspiring.

But before you read their stories, let me share with you some of the exciting things that happened recently with the Legal Clinic.

TRUE TO OUR MISSION... LOOKING TO THE FUTURE

OF COUNSEL / LETTER FROM THE DEAN

SPRING 11

OF COUNSEL / READINGS AND FEATURES

>>Continued on next page
in September, 2010 that we were awarded $1.8 million to create virtual classrooms with immersive technology for the purpose of expanding legal services and other resources throughout the state. This year, the Legal Clinic will begin to provide Technology Assisted Legal Instruction And Services (TALIAS), combining immersive tele-presence technology and desktop video-conferencing with the services the Law School currently provides at the local level. The programs that will be provided include legal information seminars, pro se assistance, and direct legal services. Although significant, legal assistance is not just in numbers, but also in the breadth of social, educational, and professional backgrounds of the students we serve. The Legal Clinic constantly monitors the state of the legal profession and strives to provide a vast array of clinical opportunities that support the diverse interests and professional goals of our students.

Team Spirit
This term is not just for athletics. If you walk down the hallways of our Legal Clinic, you can feel it. We are a lively, eclectic group. Young and not so young, black, white, Hispanic, Native American, Jewish, Christian, Gender, male, female; we are literally and figuratively “all over the place.” It is not unusual to find us in the offices of one another, discussing the latest case, or giving and receiving advice on litigation strategy and teaching methodology. Our diverse backgrounds stimulate thoughtful, in-depth discussions. We are happy to have this responsibility and it shows; We laugh loudly and often. Our students and colleagues often comment about “those people in the Clinic.” We consider our students a part of our team, especially the interns. We are grateful for smaller classes that give us the opportunity to spend quality time with our students. We spend time with them talking about life, the law, and the profession. We never miss an opportunity to discuss not only ethics, but professionalism.

Institutional Support
Many years before 1992, when the American Bar Association issued its MacCrate Report encouraging the practical experience of law students while enrolled in law school, our clinical program enjoyed the support of both the Law School and university administrations. As late as the 1970s, our minority graduates continued to face racial discrimination as they entered the profession and most decided to open their own practice. These inexperienced practitioners lacked the mentoring and network that many white lawyers enjoyed post graduation. In response to this dilemma, exposure to the practical skills necessary to succeed in the practice of law became a critical objective for NCCU Law. With university support, practical skills programs were developed with federal grants and state grants. Over the years, funding for most of these programs was absorbed into the state operational budget, which created the financial security required to attract highly qualified, dedicated faculty and staff.

It is ironic that the discrimination that required NCCU Law to create a practical skills curriculum in the early 1970s provided the foundation for this historically black law school to become a nationally recognized leader in practical skills training and legal services to clients in and around Durham. That same support continues to be the foundation for a level of service to the community that is unmatched by any other law school in the state and by very few in the nation.

Pamela Stanback Glean '80
Assistant Dean for Clinical and Professional Skills
B.A., Duke University
J.D., NCCU School of Law
I have been a District Court Judge in Durham County since December 1, 2002. Since taking the bench, I have had the pleasure of presiding over many cases where students from NCCU School of Law have appeared before me from the various clinical programs (mostly from the Criminal Litigation Clinic as interns with the District Attorney and Public Defender).

While in law school, I was the beneficiary of practical experience. I attended Cumberland School of Law in Birmingham, Alabama, graduating in 1976. I was in the first class that was allowed to participate in the third-year practice act in Alabama. I believe that Cumberland was on the cutting edge of clinical legal education. After being in the classroom for two years, it was exciting and nerve-wracking to be allowed in a real courtroom with real cases and real clients (being able to put into practice what I had learned). When I talked with my first client, I am sure I was more nervous than he was. At that point, I realized that sometimes clients could be less than truthful with their lawyers.

Law school teaches you law. Hopefully, it prepares you to pass the bar exam. But then what? A new attorney may know the law but may not know how to practice law. Those with a clinical background are ahead of the curve. However, I suggest that new lawyers find an experienced attorney to observe and mentor them. New lawyers should not be afraid to ask questions. Mistakes will be made. It is important for new lawyers to understand that the tragedy is in not learning from your mistakes. The clerk and bailiffs can also be a lot of help to a new attorney. They are in the courtroom more than anyone. They can give practical insights into the inner workings of the courtroom and tendencies of the judge. (Yes, we judges are human and have similar responses to similar cases and situations).

Clinical legal education is becoming more common in all of our law schools, both locally and nationally. They are a vital component of a good legal education to properly train and educate lawyers to be effective advocates for their clients. I can say without reservation that in my eight years on the bench, NCCU has been leading the way in the Research Triangle in this area. NCCU should be proud of the “practice-ready” lawyers it is producing.

The Honorable James T. Hill is a District Court Judge for the 14th Judicial District of North Carolina. He was elected to the District Court bench in 2002.

Craig Kabatchnick
Director, Veterans Law Clinic
B.S., Political Science, University of Scranton
J.D., George Washington University School of Law

Last year, I and clinic student Patricia Fitzsimmons ’10 represented a veteran and his spouse at a hearing before the Board of Veterans Appeals. The veteran was a member of the Marine Corp’s Company C, 1st Battalion, 8th Marines (C/18). On April 18, 1953, the Marine Corp’s Battalion mission was aborted due to excessive radiation exposure “specifically a 25 kiloton tower atomic shot” during Operation Upshot-Knothole in Nevada. After the detonation, the battalion continued the mission and was exposed to radiation.

Over the years, the veteran suffered from bone death—bilateral auricular necrosis of the femoral head and skin cancer. Suspecting that his diseases were related to the veteran’s service in the Marines, the client began to maneuver the claims process without representation by an attorney. The Department of Veterans Affairs denied the claim for benefits, asserting that the diseases were not related to the radiation exposure in 1953. Unsuccessful for approximately 29 years, the veteran finally sought the assistance of the Veterans Law Clinic.

Fitzsimmons was particularly qualified for this assignment. Before she entered law school, Fitzsimmons received a Ph.D. in Inorganic Chemistry from Wake Forest University, and a B.S. in Biochemistry from the State University of New York-Buffalo. In addition, she had experience working for the Environmental Protection Agency and Bayer Corporation, Division of Biological Products, and possessed a vast knowledge of radiation biology.

The response to this clinic has been outstanding, and the benefits of a Veterans Law Clinic located in a state with such a large veteran and military personnel population is obvious. The students work diligently with veterans to help them maneuver the Veterans Administration’s (VA) claims adjudication process. Students advocate for further medical examinations when needed, and ensure that the VA applies its broadened duty to assist veterans in the development of their claim, as required by law. Some cases are appealed to the U.S. Court of Appeals for Veterans Claims.

The Clinic fought for a hearing. At the hearing, Fitzsimmons and I presented medical records to support the veteran’s claim and Fitzsimmons’ extensive background allowed her to explain the research in this area. The result was a successful argument that the veteran’s skin cancer was due to the radiation from the nuclear blast, which was as much as 4000 times the estimate first indicated by the government.

This case was the first time that the Board of Veterans’ Appeals had ever granted benefits to a veteran exposed to radiation during a test site nuclear blast such as the one that occurred during Operation Upshot-Knothole in April 1953. Unfortunately, the celebration of this victory was short-lived. The veteran died in 2010. But because of the Veterans Law Clinic success, his widow now has benefits to support her.

Craig Kabatchnick
Director, Veterans Law Clinic
B.S., Political Science, University of Scranton
J.D., George Washington University School of Law
in the end, the student’s perseverance and hard work paid off: A new mortgage company, represented by a “reasonable” lawyer, was assigned the loan. A favorable settlement was quickly negotiated, and Ms. Smith’s loan was refinanced at a rate that cut her monthly payments by nearly $200. Today, she is current on her house payments and is thankful for the assistance offered by the Civil Litigation Clinic.

When her case was closed, with her newfound savings, Ms. Smith offered to pay the Clinic for its work on her behalf. She was informed that the Clinic cannot accept payment from clients. Not to be dissuaded, Ms. Smith prepared a batch of her world famous banana pudding and delivered it to the students and faculty in the Clinic one spring afternoon. It was, without a doubt, the best banana pudding anyone had ever tasted!

Here at NCCU School of Law, legal education goes far beyond teaching legal theory. NCCU operates a number of excellent clinical legal education programs, but the Law School’s first clinical program was the Civil Litigation Clinic, initiated by Professor Thomas Ringer nearly 25 years ago.

The Civil Litigation Clinic, currently led by Professor Greg Malhoit, is designed for two equally important purposes: first, to allow third-year law students to learn, through experiential learning, how to practice law and represent real clients; and second, to help fulfill the promise of “equal justice under law” by providing valuable legal services to low-income persons living in the Durham area. Students represent clients across a broad range of civil areas including landlord-tenant, unemployment, consumer, domestic, government benefits, and advance directives. The student provides legal advice, prepare documents, negotiate, initiate or defend litigation, and go to trial when necessary. The supervising attorney teaches the students to keep a weekly journal with candid reflections of what they are learning and experiencing about the practice of law. Students also participate in weekly case review meetings to collaborate on key case decisions.

For the past 25 years, hundreds of graduates of NCCU School of Law have taken their first practical steps towards the practice of law in the Civil Litigation Clinic. With this solid foundation, most have gone on to become highly successful practicing lawyers, distinguishing themselves as top practitioners across the country.

In 2008, as media reports surfaced about the subprime mortgage meltdown and rampant predatory lending practices by lenders, 64-year-old Annie Smith (not her real name) sought legal assistance from NCCU’s Civil Litigation Clinic. Ms. Smith was facing foreclosure of her home because she was allegedly behind in her payments. The clinic student handling her case quickly discovered that Ms. Smith was current in her payments. The problem was the way in which the mortgage company treated her escrow payments. A simple misunderstanding like this should have been quickly resolved with a phone call or letter. Case closed, right? Not exactly. The mortgage company dug in its heels and continued to pursue foreclosure.

The student redoubled her efforts finding that Ms. Smith, in fact, was the victim of a predatory lending scheme. Two mortgage companies induced her to enter into separate adjustable-rate mortgages in less than three years. Each time, a mortgage broker took an exorbitant commission for “flipping” the loan. There was also clear evidence of broker fraud and misrepresentation throughout the transactions. To make matters worse, the reconstituting by the mortgage companies was abysmal. At this point, the student learned, first hand, about the “securitization” debacle unfolding across America. As this student noted in the case file, “I guess Ms. Smith’s mortgage is just another toxic asset held by some unknown entity.”

The student filed a complaint with the State Banking Commission and prepared to litigate Ms. Smith’s case of the mortgage company pursued foreclosure. While the case was pending, two mortgage companies that held Ms. Smith’s mortgage went out of business. To make matters worse, all of the opposing lawyers with whom the clinic had been negotiating were fired or laid off. With no one to negotiate with, it felt like the Clinic was shooting at a moving target.

A mother of two needs immediate court representation to obtain a restraining order that will protect her and her children from a physically abusive husband, but she is afraid of what the consequences may be if the judge does not grant her an order. A young woman seeks legal advice about what her rights are in dealing with a roommate who has verbally threatened her and even murdered her beloved pet. However, she is concerned that she cannot afford to live without her roommate’s financial contribution. A father assesses whether he should get a protective order against his son’s mother, who is constantly harassing him through text messages, e-mails and phone calls in an effort to rekindle their relationship, or do something in order to keep his relationship with his son intact. These are typical cases in which the Domestic Violence Clinic is involved.

It is the Clinic’s mission to provide high quality legal and holistic representation to clients in the hopes of bringing about a cessation of violence and/or stalking in the clients’ lives and restoring dignity to the clients. Below is an example of the work we do.

Eileen Long (not her real name) sought the legal services of the Domestic Violence Clinic. Mrs. Long had filed her own Complaint for a Domestic Violence Protective Order in District Court, in which she alleged continuous verbal abuse and threats from her husband over the course of their twenty-two year marriage. She recalled one occasion when he placed a gun on the family dining table while the family were dinner to “show” them who was in control of their household. She remembered the soldiers feeling she had whenever her husband came home from work, knowing the climate of the evening and the safety of her family coated solely on his mood. Mrs. Long’s husband eventually left the family home on his own accord but would routinely reappear, unannounced and at his leisure, to see what Mrs. Long and the children were doing. He did not provide any financial support to the family and showed relatively no interest in the children, other than to try information from the children regarding Mrs. Long’s activities during his absence. Mrs. Long made the decision to change the locks on the marital home to prevent her husband’s random and welcomed visits. The husband soon discovered that he could no longer enter the home whenever he waned, and he became irate. He called Mrs. Long and told her that he would not provide him with a key immediately, she would live to regret it. While on the phone, she heard the click of a gun and her husband’s car being started. He told her that she was on the way. Frightened, Mrs. Long called law enforcement. Fortunately for Mrs. Long, law enforcement intervened before any harm could be done to her or the children, but not before her husband unknowingly made threats to a responding officer, believing him to be a paramour of Mrs. Long. Her husband was arrested. This was the first time he was jailed for his abuse of his wife.

Mrs. Long came to our office uncertain of her legal options. She was fearful, and emotionally and physically exhausted, but she was determined. She was determined to move forward with her case and determined to break the cycle of abuse for her children. The Domestic Violence Clinic helped her obtain a one-year protective order and recommended that she participate in a domestic violence support group.

One year later, Mrs. Long came back to the Clinic. She was confident, strong and had a smile so bright she was almost unrecognizable. She and her children are building a new life, and her children are especially proud that she is moving them forward in a new direction. She thanked the clinic staff for their assistance and shared with the staff that she was now a domestic violence advocate so that she could help local victims of domestic violence to become survivors.

The thing that is so unique about the Domestic Violence Clinic and the work we do, is that the clinical students characterize themselves with an expectation that they will gain legal experience and knowledge that will enhance their professional skills. But ultimately, these students see that they have the ability to transform lives beyond the courtroom, and they readily see the value of their work and the immediate impact it has on the clients’ lives. While domestic violence may not be a lucrative area of law, it is an incredibly rewarding one. Nearly every student who has taken the Domestic Violence Clinic has made a
In the spring of 2010, Criminal Defense Clinic client Julia Baker (not her real name) was charged with Misdemeanor Larceny. At 27 years old, Ms. Baker did not have any prior experience with the criminal court system. As a single mother, she was scared she might have to go to jail and be separated from her young child. As a college student, she was afraid that a criminal charge might prevent her from ever finding a good job.

On top of everything else, her assigned “attorney” was only a student! Fear was a clear emotion in Ms. Baker’s eyes when she stepped into the Clinic office for her initial interview with George March ’10. Yet, Mr. Marsh demonstrated such knowledge and professionalism during the interview that Ms. Baker appeared visibly relieved when she left a while later. When Mr. Marsh’s efforts resulted in Ms. Baker’s case being dismissed in court, Mr. Marsh and the Clinic proved that they were worthy of the trust and confidence Ms. Baker showed at the end of that first interview.

While working in the Criminal Defense Clinic last year, Andrew J. Neal ‘10 developed confidence in his ability to handle any events that might arise in the course of client representation. Mr. Neal was assigned to represent a client, David Smith (not his real name), who was charged with a relatively minor offense: Drinking Beer While Driving. While preparing to meet Mr. Smith for the first time, Mr. Neal learned that Mr. Smith also faced a pending felony drug charge. Mr. Neal entered my office with wide eyes and obvious anxiety as he reported the news about Mr. Smith’s felony charge. After a lengthy discussion with me, Mr. Neal conducted legal research and prepared to take on both of Mr. Smith’s cases. Using his knowledge of the law, his professional skills, and my signature, Mr. Neal successfully negotiated a plea agreement in which the felony charge was dismissed. Mr. Smith was satisfied with this result and with Mr. Neal’s efforts on his behalf.

Having effectively handled a felony case, Mr. Neal demonstrated that the training and experience provided by the Criminal Defense Clinic can prepare a student to handle the unexpected challenges that often arise in a client’s case.

Shortly before graduating from law school, Mr. Neal summarized his experience in the Criminal Defense Clinic as follows:

“From what I have seen in my internships, lack of confidence in the courtroom is the biggest setback for young attorneys— not only in public speaking, but confidence in knowing the law. My experience in the Clinic has not made me by any means perfect, but it has given me a huge advantage when I get out of school. I am very grateful for my experience and feel extremely confident graduating and beginning to practice.”

Dionne Gordern-Stanley
Criminal Defense Clinical Supervising Attorney
B.A., Duke University
J.D., New York University School of Law

T

he Criminal Defense Clinic helps both third-year law students and individuals charged with crimes make the transition from fear to confidence as they all navigate their way through the North Carolina criminal court process. The Criminal Defense Clinic receives cases from the Durham County Public Defender’s Office. Third-year law students are given primary responsibility for every aspect of a client’s representation while they work under the supervision of an experienced attorney. Students know that they are expected to provide Clinic clients with legal representation of the highest quality and professionalism. Students have to explain the Clinic to their clients, obtain client consent to student representation, and prove themselves worthy of the trust and responsibility they are given. Year after year, Criminal Defense Clinic students succeed at each of these tasks.

I am sure that I will never forget my first REAL case. Professor Davis assigned me co-counsel, Chaun McAllister 4LE, and me to a mom who desperately wanted to keep her family together. She and her husband had separated, and her husband had filed a Complaint for Custody of their eldest son. Through a series of interviews with the client and, what I would like to call, “think tanks” with Professor Davis and Chaun, it became clear that litigation was going to be exceptionally difficult for our very emotional client. Rather than rushing to file an Answer and Counterclaims, we decided to meet with opposing counsel to determine whether we could somehow find an acceptable alternative resolution for her.

“Prior to our meeting, Professor Davis propped me and Chaun accordingly—she wanted us not to give away too much, to listen intensely, to take notes when necessary, and to ask as many relevant questions as we thought would get answered. I think Chaun and I both thought that Professor Davis would lead the meeting on our behalf but she gave us the reins, allowing me to take the lead, only interjecting when necessary. I rapped off a litany of questions regarding the father’s parental fitness, the necessary educational and disciplinary considerations for the rebellious teen, and the emotional impact that a custody battle as to their eldest son. Through a series of interviews with the client and, what I would like to call, “think tanks” with Professor Davis and Chaun, it became clear that litigation was going to be exceptionally difficult for our very emotional client. Rather than rushing to file an Answer and Counterclaims, we decided to meet with opposing counsel to determine whether we could somehow find an acceptable alternative resolution for her.

“Prior to our meeting, Professor Davis propped me and Chaun accordingly—she wanted us not to give away too much, to listen intensely, to take notes when necessary, and to ask as many relevant questions as we thought would get answered. I think Chaun and I both thought that Professor Davis would lead the meeting on our behalf but she gave us the reins, allowing me to take the lead, only interjecting when necessary. I rapped off a litany of questions regarding the father’s parental fitness, the necessary educational and disciplinary considerations for the rebellious teen, and the emotional impact that a custody battle as to their eldest son. Chaun followed suit, supplementing my questions with precision.

“Chaun and I had developed what we call a “Bastman and Robin” relationship—we were both satisfied with being Bastman sometimes and Robin at others. It’s the best way to learn from each other's strengths and is yet another factor that makes the design of this course so great. For example, where I do not have children, Chaun does. Professor Davis had paired us together partially for that reason. I did not know a lot about childrearing or the local school schedules, but Chaun’s familiarity allowed us to shine as a team during our meeting with opposing counsel.

“Probably the biggest obstacle with our family counseling idea was that this family was not an American family. Accordingly, we needed to make sure that the proposed counselors did not impose our cultural biases on them. Professor Davis told me to do some research and instructed me to ask the NCCU Law School’s on-staff psychologist, Dr. Donna Koregay, about insurance issues and costs.

“We found a psychologist that both sides agreed to pretty quickly—one that understood the heritage of the parents and who accepted our client’s insurance. Professor Davis had me draft a Consent Order as a temporary resolution to the pending custody issue, because we needed to see whether the parents could resolve their issues through counseling before we moved forward with litigation. Professor Davis reviewed the Consent Order before she allowed me to submit it.

“Before we conducted the counseling sessions, Professor Davis reviewed the Consent Order with me and Chaun. We had to decide whether to use a psychologist or a social worker and the role of each in the counseling process. Professor Davis reviewed the Consent Order with me and Chaun. We had to decide whether to use a psychologist or a social worker and the role of each in the counseling process.
In response to the epidemic of juveniles who are falling between the cracks in the juvenile justice system, the Juvenile Law Clinic was developed. Under the supervision of Clinical Professor Nelwyn Mpare, students receive 40 hours of classroom instruction and training, followed by 60 hours of fieldwork in juvenile court representing students facing long-term suspension from school in Durham and Wake counties. Attorney Mark Trustin is a long-term adjunct professor for the long-term suspension cases. Many policy changes have been implemented by the local school boards as a result of his advocacy.

Jocelyn Calvin 2L recounts her experience in the Juvenile Law Clinic:

“During the Fall 2010 Juvenile Law Clinic, I received a set of facts that I was sure would result in an unfavorable outcome for my client. He was a senior in a Durham County high school and was suspended for the remainder of the school year on the first day of classes. The suspension was the result of a threatening text message he sent to his ex-girlfriend while he was at home. My client and his ex-girlfriend are next-door neighbors, and he sent the message after a heated argument. Before the case was referred to the Clinic, my client admitted to school personnel that he sent the text message. During the initial client interview, I discovered that my client had a long history of violent outbursts in school and mental health issues. Despite the facts that were given to me, I determined to be the best advocate for my client and to help him return to school.

The first thing I did was develop a legal strategy. Based on his mental health issues, I decided to explore whether my client qualified as an ‘exceptional student.’ In order to prove that my client qualified as an ‘exceptional student,’ I had to impute knowledge of his condition onto the school district by showing that the district and/or its agents knew, or should have known, that my client suffered from serious emotional distress and needed special services to be a productive student. If I could impute knowledge onto the school district, my client would go through another disciplinary process, and he would not be suspended long-term for his actions.

In an effort to prove my theory, I contacted my client’s psychiatrist, whom he had seen consistently for over three years. The psychiatrist expressed his willingness to help through writing a letter, but was reluctant when I asked him to come to the administrative hearing on my client’s behalf. After numerous phone calls, persuasion, and begging, the psychiatrist agreed to come to the hearing and discuss his treatment of and recommendations for my client. On the day of the hearing, counsel for the school district saw me walking in with my client and his psychiatrist, and offered me a settlement agreement. The agreement was that the suspension would be converted to a short-term suspension on my client’s school record and my client would go to alternative school for one marking period. In addition, at the conclusion of the school year, the short-term suspension would be expunged from my client’s academic record and would be documented as an administrative transfer. My client was ecstatic when I presented the offer to him and graciously accepted it. With the long-term suspension behind him, my client enrolled in a technical college program where he could obtain his high school diploma while simultaneously earning college credits.

My experience in the Juvenile Law Clinic taught me that advocacy begins before you enter the courtroom and that preparation beforehand will yield the best results for both you and your client.”

Nelwyn Mpare ’80
Juvenile Law Clinic Clinical Supervising Attorney
B.A., Political Science, Spelman College
J.D., North Carolina Central University
School of Law

O n September 27, 2009, the Funk Music Preservation Society (FMPS) had its premiere in Durham, North Carolina. The guests at this event were regaled with an afternoon of the “funky” sounds of funk music and treated to video snippets of the Godfather of Soul as the originator of funk music, James Brown.

At this same time last year, FMPS was a dream that was committed to paper in the form of bylaws, a business plan and articles of incorporation. Though the students are not required to assist an actual client. Our partnership with the Small Business Technology Development Center (SBTDC) in the School of Business allows the SBTDC to focus solely on legal matters while the SBTDC assists clients with their business issues, such as marketing, business plans, etc.

Felicia L. Branch
Email Business Clinical Supervising Attorney
B.S., Accounting, Arkansas State University
J.D., University of Arkansas School of Law
LL.M., Taxation, University of Florida College of Law

The Clinic combines weekly classroom instruction and case rounds. During classroom instruction, pertinent business-related legal issues, such as choice of entity decisions to the tax implications of these entity choices, are presented and discussed. Case rounds consist of the students giving updates on their research to the class so that all students can engage, discuss and make suggestions, even if their cases present with different issues. Through this method, the SBTDC provides students with the skills and knowledge necessary to assist small businesses and nonprofits with their legal issues.

Nelwyn Mpare, Juvenile Law Clinic Clinical Supervising Attorney
Felicia Branch, Small Business Clinical Supervising Attorney

The Clinic teaches students how to analyze and solve problems, work effectively in teams, and make decisions. The students are not required to assist business owners with their business plans, students who are enrolled in the joint JD/MBA program are always eager to apply both disciplines to assist an actual client. Our partnership with the Small Business Technology Development Center (SBTDC) in the School of Business allows the SBTDC to focus solely on legal matters while the SBTDC assists clients with their business issues, such as marketing, business plans, etc.

JUVENILE LAW CLINIC
ADVOCACY BEGINS BEFORE YOU ENTER THE COURTROOM

SMALL BUSINESS CLINIC
TURNING DREAMS INTO REALITY
INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY
CLINIC
PROTECTING CREATIONS OF THE MIND

“WHEN I HEARD THAT THE U.S. PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE WOULD BE HOSTING A TRADEMARK CLINIC AT NCCU SCHOOL OF LAW, I KNEW THAT IT WAS AN OPPORTUNITY THAT I HAD TO TAKE ADVANTAGE OF. I KNEW THAT THE PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE DID NOT GRANT THIS PRIVILEGE TO MANY LAW SCHOOLS. AS A STUDENT WITH GREAT INTEREST IN INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY, I REALIZED THAT THIS CLINIC WOULD PROVIDE ME WITH INVALUABLE EXPERIENCE THAT WOULD DISTINGUISH ME FROM MY PEERS.”

Obieze Mmeje, Class of 2012

In August 2010, North Carolina Central University School of Law was selected by the United States Patent and Trademark Office to be one of the 16 law schools in the nation to participate in a unique clinical opportunity assisting clients seeking trademarks for their goods and services. In this pilot program, law students can work with a half of clients in filing applications for federal trademark registration. After completing a classroom requirement in the fall semester, interested students enrolled in the legal clinic course for the first time in the Spring 2011 semester, and the clinic began recruiting and accepting clients.

Eligible clients are individuals, small businesses or nonprofit organizations that do not otherwise have sufficient resources to pursue protection of their intellectual property by consulting private practitioners. Once a prospective client has made an inquiry, a law student is assigned to work with the client in obtaining information about the client’s goods or services and the specific trademarks or service marks for which the client wishes to establish formal rights of protection. The law student will then engage in a two-fold inquiry. The law student will first conduct a trademark availability search to determine that the selected trademark does not infringe upon another party’s marks and then determine whether it is likely that an application for federal registration will be successful. Finally, if no substantive obstacles are encountered, an application for federal registration is filed. All work is supervised by a licensed attorney with substantial experience in trademark prosecution.

Although intellectual property rights, including rights to patents for inventions, rights to use and register trademarks or service marks, and rights established in copyrightable works, are valuable business assets, formal registration and protection can be costly and beyond the means of many start-up companies and entrepreneurs. Taking advantage of the services available in the Intellectual Property Legal Clinic can reduce considerably the resources required and, at the same time, provide valuable experiences for individual clinic students.

Without question, this is a win-win situation. At the present time, services provided in the Intellectual Property Clinic are limited to the trademark area, but plans are underway to begin offering limited services in the copyright area in the near future.

Joyce Jenazoo ’96
Intellectual Property Clinical Supervising Attorney
B.S., University of North Carolina Chapel Hill
M.S., University of North Carolina Chapel Hill
J.D., North Carolina Central University School of Law

The vision of the nonprofit Center for Child and Family Health (CCFH) is that every child has the right to be loved, nurtured, and safe. As an off-campus extension of the NCCU Clinical Program, the Legal Program at CCFH connects the expertise of NCCU School of Law with a wide array of mental health, medical, and abuse prevention faculty and staff from Duke University, UNC Chapel Hill, and the nonprofit Child and Parent Support Services (CAPSS). In a multidisciplinary approach, which provides in-house legal support in a licensed clinical setting, is particularly effective and unique in the nation. As expressed by CCFH Executive Director, Dr. Robert Murphy:

“The Center for Child and Family Health remains at the leading edge of innovation in bridging the legal and mental health professions. Despite a commonality of interest and focus on child well-being, nationally the two professions have been more likely to serve as referral sources for one another, rather than collaborative, co-located partners with equal involvement and accountability for better child outcomes. To have a legal program of such high caliber, with the backing of a prominent law school, remains an exception in mental health care and training nationally.”

Although we are in a time of war, with much attention paid to post-traumatic stress disorder (PTSD) among members of our armed forces, organizations like CCFH raise public awareness about a very different population: babies, toddlers, and teenagers who have experienced traumatic stress here in our own country. PTSD arises when we “feel terror, helplessness, or horror because of the extreme seriousness of what is happening and the failure of any way to protect against or reverse the harmful outcome. These powerful, distressing emotions go along with strong, even frightening physical reactions, such as rapid heartbeat, trembling, stomach dropping, and a sense of being in a dream.” National Child Traumatic Stress Network, “Understanding Child Traumatic Stress” page 1 http://www.nctsn.org/resources/audiences/parents-caregivers/understanding-child-traumatic-stress.

For a sense of how many children might be exposed to PTSD in our own community, one of our joint community projects, the North Carolina Child Response Initiative (NCCRI), provides some insight. NCCRI combines the efforts of the Durham Department of Social Services (DSS), the Durham Police Department, and CCFH clinicians who ride together with patrol officers on police calls involving children.

Because many children are often involved in traumatic events as a result of child abuse or witnessing violence, they have a greater likelihood of being drawn into legal actions than children who might otherwise receive mental health care. Both the child and his or her CCFH therapist may be called to testify in criminal court, DSS court, Family Court, Domestic Violence Court, or other legal forums. To reduce the stress for children in testifying the events to an audience made up largely of strangers, and to assist the court effectively with clear expert witness testimony, the clinicians and Legal Program staff work together to mutually educate each other. For example, the Legal Program helped produce an online guide for parents and adolescents on coping with the legal system in child sexual abuse cases, published online on the National Child Traumatic Stress Network website, http://www.nctsn.org.

The CCFH Legal Program annually provides training to its more than 50 staff and graduate interns, including an expert witness training. This training has included vigorous mock cross-examinations of mental health staff by NCCU Law professors Fred Williams and Greg Malhoit, which the CCFH staff acknowledges would make any courtroom feel less intimidating. At NCCU School of Law, the Legal Program helps train future attorneys to better serve children, as the Legal Director regularly teaches courses in Domestic Violence Law and Scientific Evidence (expert testimony). The CCFH Legal Program also helps develop activities and train law student counselors at the NCCU Legal Eagle Law Camp each summer.

At CCFH, law students play an integral role. The Legal Program utilizes the energy and compassion of supervised NCCU law students to do the following: assist with tailored legal information; develop well-encouraged written and online public information; and monitor legislative reform and CCFH court testimony involving children.

Jennifer Brobst
Associate Legal Director
Durham Department of Social Services
>
>Continued on next page

CENTER FOR CHILD AND FAMILY HEALTH
A PARTNERSHIP WITH THE NCCU SCHOOL OF LAW

A PARTNERSHIP WITH THE NCCU SCHOOL OF LAW

The Center for Child and Family Health (CCFH) is that every child has the right to be loved, nurtured, and safe. As an off-campus extension of the NCCU Clinical Program, the Legal Program at CCFH connects the expertise of NCCU School of Law with a wide array of mental health, medical, and abuse prevention faculty and staff from Duke University, UNC Chapel Hill, and the nonprofit Child and Parent Support Services (CAPSS). In a multidisciplinary approach, which provides in-house legal support in a licensed clinical setting, is particularly effective and unique in the nation. As expressed by CCFH Executive Director, Dr. Robert Murphy:

“The Center for Child and Family Health remains at the leading edge of innovation in bridging the legal and mental health professions. Despite a commonality of interest and focus on child well-being, nationally the two professions have been more likely to serve as referral sources for one another, rather than collaborative, co-located partners with equal involvement and accountability for better child outcomes. To have a legal program of such high caliber, with the backing of a prominent law school, remains an exception in mental health care and training nationally.”

Although we are in a time of war, with much attention paid to post-traumatic stress disorder (PTSD) among members of our armed forces, organizations like CCFH raise public awareness about a very different population: babies, toddlers, and teenagers who have experienced traumatic stress here in our own country. PTSD arises when we “feel terror, helplessness, or horror because of the extreme seriousness of what is happening and the failure of any way to protect against or reverse the harmful outcome. These powerful, distressing emotions go along with strong, even frightening physical reactions, such as rapid heartbeat, trembling, stomach dropping, and a sense of being in a dream.” National Child Traumatic Stress Network, “Understanding Child Traumatic Stress” page 1 http://www.nctsn.org/resources/audiences/parents-caregivers/understanding-child-traumatic-stress.

For a sense of how many children might be exposed to PTSD in our own community, one of our joint community projects, the North Carolina Child Response Initiative (NCCRI), provides some insight. NCCRI combines the efforts of the Durham Department of Social Services (DSS), the Durham Police Department, and CCFH clinicians who ride together with patrol officers on police calls involving children.

Because many children are often involved in traumatic events as a result of child abuse or witnessing violence, they have a greater likelihood of being drawn into legal actions than children who might otherwise receive mental health care. Both the child and his or her CCFH therapist may be called to testify in criminal court, DSS court, Family Court, Domestic Violence Court, or other legal forums. To reduce the stress for children in testifying the events to an audience made up largely of strangers, and to assist the court effectively with clear expert witness testimony, the clinicians and Legal Program staff work together to mutually educate each other. For example, the Legal Program helped produce an online guide for parents and adolescents on coping with the legal system in child sexual abuse cases, published online on the National Child Traumatic Stress Network website, http://www.nctsn.org.

The CCFH Legal Program annually provides training to its more than 50 staff and graduate interns, including an expert witness training. This training has included vigorous mock cross-examinations of mental health staff by NCCU Law professors Fred Williams and Greg Malhoit, which the CCFH staff acknowledges would make any courtroom feel less intimidating. At NCCU School of Law, the Legal Program helps train future attorneys to better serve children, as the Legal Director regularly teaches courses in Domestic Violence Law and Scientific Evidence (expert testimony). The CCFH Legal Program also helps develop activities and train law student counselors at the NCCU Legal Eagle Law Camp each summer.

At CCFH, law students play an integral role. The Legal Program utilizes the energy and compassion of supervised NCCU law students to do the following: assist with tailored legal information; develop well-encouraged written and online public information; and monitor legislative reform and CCFH court testimony involving children.

Jennifer Brobst
Associate Legal Director
Durham Department of Social Services

>>Continued on next page
While direct services were the initial focus at CCFH, in part, because Medicaid reimbursements for direct mental health services have been severely cut in recent years. Nonetheless, the broad multidisciplinary expertise at CCFH lends itself well to disseminating best practices throughout the state and the nation. Indeed, last year CCFH provided professional training to over 5,000 participants nationwide. The Legal Program in particular has focused on professional training to both the legal and non-legal professions. For example, last year the Legal Director, Jennifer Brobst presented “Demystifying Psychological Assessments” to juvenile court judges, attorneys, and staff at the N.C. Administrative Office of the Courts “Court Improvement Program” conference. A joint presentation by the CCFH Legal Director and Child Psychologist, Dr. Tripp Ake, proved that two professions are better than one in a plenary session on “PTSD & Mental Health Expert Testimony” at the Fall Conference of North Carolina Association of Defense Attorneys in Greensboro. A collaboration of four CCFH mental health faculty and the Legal Director produced the five-part, free online continuing education course series on “Children and Domestic Violence,” which continues to reach hundreds of online students every year. See http://www.ahcconnect.com.

The faculty and staff at CCFH are truly an impressive lot. In this short space, we can only mention a few of the types of programs that CCFH has developed in its short 15 years on behalf of children and families, such as:

• The East Durham Children’s Initiative (EDCI) coordinating community services to families in a 120-block contiguous area east of downtown Durham in one of the most impoverished sections of the city;
• The Period of Purple Crying, which has brought shaken-baby syndrome prevention materials to every mother giving birth in every hospital in the state;
• The research programs CCFH works with in helping bring evidence-based mental health therapy to HIV/AIDS orphans in Malawi and other parts of Africa;
• Policy work with the Legal Director’s involvement in the N.C. Commission on Mental Health, Developmental Disabilities, and Substance Abuse, and the N.C. Commission on Domestic Violence;
• Not to mention all of its teen clinical support groups, Early Head Start, and other Durham school programs.

As a final thought, one would ordinarily begin a program description with its history, but here we will end with a historical note. One of the three founders of CCFH is NCCU School of Law Professor Cheryl Amana, and its first Legal Director was Professor Pamela Glenn, now Assistant Dean of the Law School’s Clinical Legal Education Program. Both continue to provide invaluable support through involvement on the CCFH Board of Directors, and maintain dynamic links between CCFH and the clinical programs at NCCU School of Law. As stated by Dean Glenn:

“I consider the Center to be a critical component of our clinical program. The relationship serves as a constant reminder to our students of the impact legal difficulties have on children and families. This reminder advances the mission of the clinical program to produce attorneys who are sensitive to all of the needs of vulnerable, underserved communities, not just their legal needs.”

For many years, through its partnership with our university neighbors at CCFH, NCCU School of Law has generously provided funding and legal support to its most vulnerable of community members – its children. The vision of its founders that every child be loved, nurtured, and safe comes to life every day through the many multidisciplinary programs at CCFH, and through the ongoing work of NCCU law students and alumni who have worked with the CCFH Legal Program and who continue to carry that vision forward.

Jennifer Brobst
Legal Director, Center for Child and Family Health
B.A., University of Cape Town in South Africa
J.D., University of San Diego School of Law
LL.M., Victoria University School of Law in Wellington, New Zealand

Carolyn Watts, M.S.  
(J.D., Class of 2012)
To commemorate National Constitution Day, the NCCU School of Law unveiled a Mural of The Constitution of the United States of America created by the famed muralist, Michael Brown. The unveiling ceremony took place on Friday, September 17, 2010, at 4:00 p.m. on the second floor of the Turner Law Building. The guest speaker was Randall Kennedy, the Michael R. Klein Professor of Law at Harvard Law School. In his lecture, Professor Kennedy examined aspects of the U.S. Constitution as it relates to the historic and present day understanding of U.S. citizenship.

Dedication remarks were given by Art Pope, President of the John William Pope Foundation, immediately following the unveiling of the mural. Mr. Pope’s remarks centered on the ways in which “the force of ideas declared and adopted in 1776” have guided the “interpretation and application to the law of these documents.” In referring specifically to the 13th, 14th, 15th, and 19th Amendments, Mr. Pope recognized the evolutionary growth of our founding documents as our country strives for “not a perfect, but a ‘more perfect union’ under Constitutional government.”

Dean Pierce was very pleased with the outcome of the project. He stated, “Michael Brown has done an outstanding job in creating this mural of the United States Constitution. The mural is a fitting addition to our law school building. Our law school is thankful to Art Pope and The Pope Foundation for their generous support toward this work of art.”
LEADERS IN LAW

Mark Chandler
Senior Vice President, General Counsel and Secretary, Cisco Systems Inc., September 30, 2010. The Future of the Legal Profession: What New Graduates Should Expect and What Law Schools Should Be Teaching

Congressman Bob R. Etheridge
February 5, 2010. Federal Tax Law Update

Congressman G. K. Butterfield ’74
February 5, 2010. Federal Tax Law Update

Mark Chandler
Senior Vice President, General Counsel and Secretary, Cisco Systems Inc., September 30, 2010. The Future of the Legal Profession: What New Graduates Should Expect and What Law Schools Should Be Teaching

Representative Bob Etheridge
February 5, 2010. Federal Tax Law Update

Representative G. K. Butterfield ’74
February 5, 2010. Federal Tax Law Update

Legal Academies and the Law

E. Christopher Johnson, Jr.
Vice President and General Counsel, General Motors North America, September 22, 2008. Diversity as an Imperative in the Legal Profession

Fred A. Whitfield ’88

Hon. Kennedy W. Starr
Dean Pepperdine School of Law, former U.S. Solicitor General, former Judge D.C. Court of Appeals, now President of Baylor University, October 22, 2008. The Modern American Lawyer and the Caring Community

Hon. Dennis W. Archer
Former Associate Justice, Michigan State Supreme Court, past President of the American Bar Association, former Mayor, City of Detroit, June 25, 2008. A Conversation with Dennis Archer

Thomas E. Perez
Assistant Attorney General, United States Department of Justice, Civil Rights Division, February 1, 2010. The Merits of Public Service in the Federal Government

Hon. Kenneth W. Starr
Dean Pepperdine School of Law, former U.S. Solicitor General, former Judge D.C. Court of Appeals, now President of Baylor University, October 22, 2008. The Modern American Lawyer and the Caring Community

Hon. John G. Roberts, Jr.

Hon. Walter Dalton
North Carolina Lt. Governor, October 20, 2009. A Public Interest Law Lunch and Learn Lecture

Hon. Harry T. Edwards
Senior Circuit Judge, Chief Judge Emeritus, United States Court of Appeals for the D.C. Circuit, January 28, 2008. Legal Academies and the Law

Susan Klooz
Vice President and General Counsel, Administration and External Relations, Wal-Mart Corporation, September 16, 2008. Making Diversity Sustainable in the Legal Profession

Michele Coleman Mayes
Senior Vice President and General Counsel, Allstate Insurance Company, January 20, 2011. You Really Can Be in Control – Charting Your Journey

Larry D. Thompson
Senior Vice President, Government Affairs, General Counsel & Secretary, PepsiCo Inc., November 3, 2010. The Responsible Corporation and Professional Courage

Hon. Walter Dalton
North Carolina Lt. Governor, October 20, 2009. A Public Interest Law Lunch and Learn Lecture

Hon. John G. Roberts, Jr.

Hon. John G. Roberts, Jr.
The Biotechnology and Pharmaceutical Law Institute held its first annual Health Law Moot Court Competition on September 24, 2010. The competition offers students the opportunity to engage in leading health care topics and laws that govern these issues. The first place winner of the inaugural competition was 2L Gwendolyn Babson who is also a Registered Nurse. Second place winner was 2L Jaamal Jennings, with 2L Henrietta Asiedu placing third. The winners traveled to Carbondale, Illinois to compete in the 2010 National Health Law Moot Court Competition, held on November 5 – 6, 2010. Professor Kimberly Cogdell took two teams, comprised of five students, to compete in this one-of-a-kind competition hosted by both the School of Law and the School of Medicine at Southern Illinois University.

North Carolina Central School of Law prides itself on producing “practice ready” lawyers, equipped to provide excellent service in the early years of their careers. The adjunct faculty serves a key role in continuing that tradition. From the Legal Writing Program, to trial and appellate advocacy teams, to the traditional classroom, adjuncts add value to the Law School experience of our students. The adjunct faculty includes members of the practicing local bar, as well as state and federal judges. This cadre of experienced attorneys, many of whom are graduates of NCCU School of Law, provide a critical component to our curriculum by assuring that students are exposed to the constant changes in the day-to-day practice of law. Moreover, the use of adjuncts allows the Law School to provide seminars in subjects that we would not otherwise be able to offer. They are also vital to expanding the elective offerings for students in the part-time Evening Program.

Many NCCU law students come to law school with a variety of interests, while others are still pinpointing their interest. With the help of our adjunct faculty, we are able to develop those interests. With classes like In-House Counsel, Business Transaction for Lawyers, Law Office Practice, Intellectual Property seminars, National Security Law, Workers Compensation, and Immigration Law, we are able to open new opportunities for, and provide invaluable insight to, our students. Our students are introduced to experienced and successful lawyers and jurists who can provide a practical perspective and serve as mentors and role models. Most students come to law school knowing about defense attorneys, prosecutors or personal injury attorneys. Our adjuncts introduce students to areas of law that many were unaware of prior to coming to law school.

Even before the legal academy embraced the importance of providing legal writing opportunities beyond the first year, NCCU recognized that legal writing was one of the pillars that had to be firmly supported for the Law School to offer a diverse, challenging academic environment that would adequately prepare our graduates for practice. We ensure the success of our students by affording one-on-one contact between professor and student in first-year and upper-level writing courses. The Legal Writing adjunct professors, under the leadership of Professor Brenda Gibson, ensure the success of our students by affording one-on-one contact between professor and student in first-year and upper-level writing courses. The Legal Writing adjunct professors, under the leadership of Professor Brenda Gibson, provide a practical perspective and serve as mentors and role models. Most students come to law school knowing about defense attorneys, prosecutors or personal injury attorneys. Our adjuncts introduce students to areas of law that many were unaware of prior to coming to law school.

Even before the legal academy embraced the importance of providing legal writing opportunities beyond the first year, NCCU recognized that legal writing was one of the pillars that had to be firmly supported for the Law School to offer a diverse, challenging academic environment that would adequately prepare our graduates for practice. We ensure the success of our students by affording one-on-one contact between professor and student in first-year and upper-level writing courses. The Legal Writing adjunct professors, under the leadership of Professor Brenda Gibson, provide a practical perspective and serve as mentors and role models. Most students come to law school knowing about defense attorneys, prosecutors or personal injury attorneys. Our adjuncts introduce students to areas of law that many were unaware of prior to coming to law school.

Even before the legal academy embraced the importance of providing legal writing opportunities beyond the first year, NCCU recognized that legal writing was one of the pillars that had to be firmly supported for the Law School to offer a diverse, challenging academic environment that would adequately prepare our graduates for practice. We ensure the success of our students by affording one-on-one contact between professor and student in first-year and upper-level writing courses. The Legal Writing adjunct professors, under the leadership of Professor Brenda Gibson, provide a practical perspective and serve as mentors and role models. Most students come to law school knowing about defense attorneys, prosecutors or personal injury attorneys. Our adjuncts introduce students to areas of law that many were unaware of prior to coming to law school.

Even before the legal academy embraced the importance of providing legal writing opportunities beyond the first year, NCCU recognized that legal writing was one of the pillars that had to be firmly supported for the Law School to offer a diverse, challenging academic environment that would adequately prepare our graduates for practice. We ensure the success of our students by affording one-on-one contact between professor and student in first-year and upper-level writing courses. The Legal Writing adjunct professors, under the leadership of Professor Brenda Gibson, provide a practical perspective and serve as mentors and role models. Most students come to law school knowing about defense attorneys, prosecutors or personal injury attorneys. Our adjuncts introduce students to areas of law that many were unaware of prior to coming to law school.

Even before the legal academy embraced the importance of providing legal writing opportunities beyond the first year, NCCU recognized that legal writing was one of the pillars that had to be firmly supported for the Law School to offer a diverse, challenging academic environment that would adequately prepare our graduates for practice. We ensure the success of our students by affording one-on-one contact between professor and student in first-year and upper-level writing courses. The Legal Writing adjunct professors, under the leadership of Professor Brenda Gibson, provide a practical perspective and serve as mentors and role models. Most students come to law school knowing about defense attorneys, prosecutors or personal injury attorneys. Our adjuncts introduce students to areas of law that many were unaware of prior to coming to law school.

Even before the legal academy embraced the importance of providing legal writing opportunities beyond the first year, NCCU recognized that legal writing was one of the pillars that had to be firmly supported for the Law School to offer a diverse, challenging academic environment that would adequately prepare our graduates for practice. We ensure the success of our students by affording one-on-one contact between professor and student in first-year and upper-level writing courses. The Legal Writing adjunct professors, under the leadership of Professor Brenda Gibson, provide a practical perspective and serve as mentors and role models. Most students come to law school knowing about defense attorneys, prosecutors or personal injury attorneys. Our adjuncts introduce students to areas of law that many were unaware of prior to coming to law school.
Leonard Jernigan ’76 is one of several practitioners/scholars among the ranks of NCCU School of Law adjunct faculty. He has been in the Workers Compensation field for over thirty years and is Board Certified by the N.C. State Bar. A few years after graduating from the Law School, Jernigan was asked to help file compensation claims for textile workers who had contracted an occupational lung disease, byssinosis. Thereafter, he handled asbestos claims and other claims involving work-related injuries. He founded The Jernigan Law Firm in 1988 in Raleigh, where he continues to practice. In 1995, Jernigan became one of the founding members of the Workers’ Injury Law and Advocacy Group (WILG), a national organization of attorneys who represent injured workers, and served as WILG’s President in 2001. Jernigan is currently on the Wake County Bar Association’s Board of Directors and the Board of Visitors for the Law School.


Jernigan enjoys a favorable reputation at the Law School and always receives high marks from the students on his evaluations. One recent student reported that Professor Jernigan’s class was the best class he had taken at the Law School.

Amos Jones
Visiting Faculty
Visiting Assistant Professor Amos Jones, B.A., cum laude, Emory University, M.S., Columbia University, and J.D., Harvard University, teaches Constitutional Law, Comparative Constitutional Law, and taught a historical survey of Black lawyers in the United States during the Spring 2011 semester. A former Executive Editor of the Harvard Human Rights Law Journal and the Harvard Black Letter Law Journal, Professor Jones was an Associate in International Trade and Commercial Litigation at Bryan Cave LLP for three years. He has lectured as a Fulbright Scholar at the Centre for Comparative Constitutional Studies in the law school at the University of Melbourne (Australia). His research interests and publications include the areas of Civil Rights Theory and Jurisprudence, the First Amendment’s Religion Clauses, Professional Responsibility; and Public International Law. Professor Jones is a member of the District of Columbia Bar Association, the American Bar Association, and the International Bar Association. He is admitted to practice in the District of Columbia and in the U.S. District Court of the District of Maryland.

Joyce Jeramzo ’96
New Adjunct Faculty
Joyce Jeramzo, ’96, who retired from a career as a Professor in the Dental School at UNC and as a Trademark Law practitioner at Moore and Van Allen, is serving as the Supervising Attorney for the NCCU United States Patent and Trademark Office (USPTO) Trademark Clinic. The Clinic is one of less than 20 approved by the USPTO to allow students to prosecute trademark applications on behalf of live clients before the office.
Cheryl Amana-Burris presented at the Western Regional BLSA Conference in February of 2010 on alternative careers in the law and life in the academy. In March, she spoke on “Know Your Rights” at the Links Annual Conference for Middle School Students. Also in March, Professor Amana-Burris was presented with the first annual Professor Cheryl Amana-Burris Award for Distinguished Service by the Women’s Law Caucus at their annual brunch for faculty and staff. She attended the annual meeting of Black Proseutors held in San Francisco in July, as well as the annual awards dinner for the Charles Houston Bar Association in December. Professor Amana-Burris was recognized this past summer for her support of the Legal Writing Program. In September, she presented at the North Carolina Association of Women Attorneys Annual Conference that was held at the Grandover Resort in Greensboro, NC, as part of a panel on diversity in the profession. She prepared the BARBRI materials on Family Law and gave the winter lecture in January 2011. She has been active with the Minorities in the Profession Committee of the North Carolina Bar Association as well as its subcommittee on Law School Admissions. She continues to serve as a member of the Institutional Review Board (IRB) for the University and a member of the Social Ethics Committee of the Law School. Dean Sisters, Dean Daughters, which was published by the ABA in 2009 and which Professor Amana-Burris contributed to, was presented to First Lady Michelle Obama, after being signed by all of the authors. Professor Amana-Burris continues to serve on the board of the Center for Child and Family Health, North Carolina. She is a co-founder of the Center.

James Beckwith presented in June at the 2010 CALI (Computer Assisted Legal Instruction) Annual Meeting at the Rutgers Law School in Camden, NJ. He spoke on engaged teaching in a small classroom and wrote a paper for the proceedings, “Re-Bootstrapping Legal Education: Infrastructure and Engaged Teaching in a Small Classroom.” Professor Bedsworth continues (since 2001) to serve as Editor of Notes Bearing Interest for the Business Law Section of the North Carolina Bar Association. An issue of Notes Bearing Interest is being planned for 2011, which will discuss the state of transactional legal education and transactional legal clinics at the seven North Carolina law schools.

Jennifer Brobst presented at the following Continuing Legal Education seminars: “Gender Disability in Public Service,” panel presentation for the N.C. Bar Association Conference, “Raising the Challenge – Women in Public Office,” Raleigh, October 2010, “Diversity of Voice, Leadership and Perspective among Women Legal Professionals,” Plenary Panel Session (with Professor Cheryl Amana-Burris and Finesse Coach, Esq.), NCBA Annual Conference, Greensboro, September 2010, and “Dennertzky Psychological Assessments,” N.C. Administrative Office of the Courts Court Improvement Program conference for juvenile court judges and staff, April 2010. Professor Brobst has been accepted to present a workshop on “Law and the Imagination in Teaching Scientific Evidence” at the upcoming 2011 Applied Legal Storytelling Conference at Sturm College of Law, University of Denver this summer. She continues to provide annual local continuing education seminars on Expert Witness Testimony and Ethics for medical and Mental Health practitioners at the Center for Child and Family Health to Center staff and interns and residents from Duke University, UNC-Chapel Hill, and NCCU. Brobst is currently a member of the N.C. Commission on Mental Health, Developmental Disability, and Substance Abuse, and the N.C. Commission on Domestic Violence. She is also a member of the Juvenile System Consortium of the National Child Traumatic Stress Network, for which she is assisting in the development of judicial training materials on the admisibility of evidence of child traumatic stress. Brobst provided volunteer judging or coaching assistance in several events this academic year, including the Fourth Annual Carolina Classic Mock Trial Tournament at Elon University, October 2010, the Tobacco Road Regional Mock Trial Tournament at UNC Chapel Hill, February 2011; the NBLSA Frederick Douglass Southern Regional Mock Court Competition, December 2010; and the NCCU Dispute Resolution Institute 40-hour Superior Court Mediation/ADR Clinic, January 2011.

Kimberly Cogdell presented a work in progress at the National People of Color Conference at Seton Hall University School of Law on September 12, 2010. She also served as a panelist on Health Care Reform at the same conference. Professor Cogdell presented at the Texas Wesleyan University School of Law Innocence and the Road to Exoneration Symposium on her most recent article - “Misuse of DNA Evidence is not a ‘Harmless Error’ – Prosecutorial Misconduct, Wrongful Conviction and DNA Evidence.” This article is scheduled to be published by the Texas Wesleyan Law Review. Finally, Professor Cogdell presented at the Southern Region Black Law Students Association Law Journal Symposium. The theme of the symposium was “Southern Discontent: A Critical Analysis of the Southern Black Community’s Legal Strides and Struggles in the 21st Century.”

Kevin Foy ’94 attended the “New Partners for Smart Growth: Building Safe Healthy Livable Communities Conference” in February 2011; hosted a visit to the law school by the Environmental Protection Agency’s General Counsel, Scott Fulton (Fall 2010); co-chaired a workshop for scientists, attorneys, and policymakers, on “Establishing Hezbollah National Monument in the Atlantic Ocean,” with Professors Orin H. Pilkey, Duke University, and Robert Y. George, University of North Carolina - Wilmington (Fall 2010); served as a panelist, with Winfried Olaye and Kragh Lamimost from EPA’s Office of General Counsel, on Career Opportunities in Environmental Law (Summer 2010).

Dionne Gender-Stanley was appointed to serve on the Board of Directors for North Carolina Prisoner Legal Services, Inc., the N.C. Bar Association Law School Liaison Committee, and the N.C. Bar Association Minority in the Profession Committees. In 2010, she attended the following conferences: AALS Clinical Legal Education Conference, May 2010; the NCJLF Masters in Criminal Advocacy Program, June 2010; and the N.C. Bar Association CLE entitled “When Issues Collide: The Seriousness of Immigration Consequences of Criminal Pleadings.” June 2010. She also taught at the NITA Southeast Regional Trial Skills program in May 2010 and presented a panel at the Christian Legal Society Prayer Breakfast in November 2010. Professor Gender-Stanley continues to volunteer every year with the Exemption Seminar Project of the Durham County Bar Association and the UNC-Chapel Hill Collegiate Mock Trial Regional Tournament.

David A. Green has returned to the classroom full time where he enjoys teaching Civil Procedure, Employment Discrimination, and Disability Law. In the Fall of 2010, he began serving on an ad hoc committee to establish the Durham NAACP Legal Redress Fund. The purpose of the Fund will be to help defray the costs of selected cases or legal battles involving issues related to employment discrimination, police misconduct, school inequality, access to fair housing, and others. Furthermore, during the Fall of 2010, he continued to serve on the Salvation Army Boys and Girls Advisory Board. In October 2010, Professor Green began to participate in the Hillsdale High School Tramay Court Program. The Tramay Program is designed...
as an intervention effort to assure that Hillsdale High School students are maintaining atten- dance consistent with North Carolina law. On November 21, 2010, he served as a judge in the finals of the Duke University Mock Trial Tobacco Road Invitational.


In 2010, Professor Hauser became a peer reviewer at the National Bankruptcy Institute in Wilmington, NC. In January 2011, Professor Hauser presented at the 33rd Annual North Carolina Bankruptcy Conference, was a member of the panel on “Appellate Procedure” and hosted the National Client Counseling Competition Subcommittee.

Reginald Mombrun ’88 presented his latest article, “Shifting the Paradigm by Bringing Tax Arbitrage to the Lower Income Segmented Family: Why Should the Middle to Upper Class Family Have All the Fun?,” on May 28, 2010 at the Law & Society Convention in Chicago, Illinois. The article will be published in Spring 2011 in the Akron Tax Journal. Professor Mombrun was the lead investigator on a successful grant application for the establishment of a Low Income Taxpayer Clinic at the Law School. He is co-director of the Clinic until a permanent director is hired. He updated all of CALL’s tax lessons during the Summer of 2010 and made a presentation on how to write a treatise to the faculty during its annual retreat. Professor Mombrun made his annual presentation on LLM tax programs in the Fall of 2010 and delivered his lecture on IRS rulemaking, “The Four Re-Registration, Rulings, Reliance and Retroactivity,” to the Administrative Law class on February 22, 2010. Along with Professor Melissa Branch, he instilled a Tax Certificate Program at the Law School.

Mark W. Morris ’82 directs the Dispute Resolution Institute at the School of Law, including the Certificate Program in Dispute Resolution, the only such program at any of the state’s seven law schools. In addition to the regular curriculum, the DRI Summer Institute teaches trial skills to practicing attorneys. The DRI Summer Institute offers students, lawyers and other professionals a wide selection of courses for academic credit, certified mediation training, professional skills development workshops, and CLE programs at the campus in Durham and in connection with the Summer Study Abroad Program in Costa Rica. Professor Morris recently completed a three-year term on the North Carolina Dispute Resolution Commission, where he chaired the Standards, Discipline, and Advisory Opinion Committee. He is also a member of the Board of Directors of the Mediation Network of North Carolina. He is on the work on the third edition of his treatise, North Carolina Law of Torts.

Nelwyn Mpare ’80 was a faculty member at NITAS Southeast Regional Program, May 15-18, 2010 at UNC Law School. This training program teaches trial skills to practicing attorneys.

Dorothy D. Nachman’s ‘96 article, “Living Wills: Is It Time to Pull the Plug?,” will appear in the fall 2010 edition of The Elder Law Journal of the University of Illinois College of Law (Vol. 18, No. 2). She edited the “Wills” and “Trusts” components of the North Carolina Bar Review’s publication, Wills in North Carolina. She published an article on the permanent guardianship under the North Carolina’s Continuing Assignment of Responsibility for its children: Rosenman v. Jarell,” published for publication in the Fall 2010 issue of the Charlotte Law Review. As a member of the Carborro Board of Aldermen, Professor Lavelle sits on the Durham-Chapel Hill-Carborro Metropolitan Planning Organization Transportation Advisory Committee and was elected as its chair in December 2010. She also serves as a member of the Chapel Hill-Orange County Visi- tor’s Bureau Board of Directors.

Adrienne Meddock ’91 successfully applied for NCCU School of Law’s inclusion in the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office’s clinical program. More than 20 schools in the United States were selected to have students represent clients with trademark applications before the office. She was a contributing author for the American Bar Association Intellectual Property Section 2010 Annual Review. She wrote synopses of cases and statutes of importance to IP practioners as a part of the convenient desktop resource. Associate Dean Meddock also serves on the Strategic Planning Committee of the North Carolina Bar Association which develops plans for the organization’s direction. This spring, she is coaching the 2011 Saul Lefkowitz Trademark Moot Court team. The Lefkowitz competition is sponsored by the International Trademark Asso- ciation, the NCCU School of Law and Meddock have been participating in the high-level competi- tion since 1995.

Page Potter attended the 2010 American Association of Law Schools (AALS) Clinical Legal Education Conference in Baltimore, MD. In Summer 2010, she co-directed NCCU’s Legal Eagle Law Camp for middle and high school students.

Wendy Scott participated in several symposia and attended conferences in 2010. In February 2010, Dean Scott spoke at the Grier v. Tennessee Symposium, hosted by the University of Tennessee Law School and the Howard Baker Center for Public Policy. The Symposium honored named plaintiff Rita Grier with a discussion of the past and future of higher education in Tennessee. Dean Scott also spoke on a panel at the April 2010 Diversity in Higher Education Conference in Durham, hosted by Duke University and the Conference Board. She presented a
Charles Smith was a visiting professor at Florida A&M University (FAMU), College of Law from 2008-2010, teaching Business Organizations, Contracts II, Entertainment Law, Insurance Law, Educational Opportunity Law, and Sports Law. Professor Smith served as moderator for one of the sessions at the Entertainment, Arts and Sports Law Society (EASLS) National Conference, hosted by FAMU in 2009. Professor Smith also served as the coach of the FAMU Black Law Students Association team that competed in the Southern Regional Moot Court Competition in Baton Rouge, LA in January 2010. As a contributing author for the American Bar Association, Intellectual Property Law Developments 2010 Annual Review, Professor Smith prepared ten (10) articles. His submissions included discussion of two United States Supreme Court decisions; one from the Sixth and Ninth United States Circuit Courts of Appeals, respectively; one from the Court of Appeals for the Federal Circuit; one each from the United States District Court for the Southern District of New York, and the United States District Court of Minnesota; one on the Satellite Television and Location Act of 2010 (enacted); and one on the Innovative Design Protection and Piracy Prevention Act (S.3720) (not enacted). These articles were published in February 2011.

Kia Vernon ’00 attended the AALS Annual Meeting in San Francisco, CA, January 2011. She was a panelist for a “Minorities in Law” program at the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill in October 2010. She co-authored a book, Investing in Your Success: A Practical Guide to Achieving Your Best Results in Your First Year of Law School, commemorating the 60th anniversary held at the Texas Southern Thurgood Marshall School, commemorating the 60th anniversary of the Sweatt decision, which ordered Texas to desegregate the University of Texas Law School. The paper will appear in the Spring 2011 issue of the Tenth Circuit Bar Journal.

In September 2010, Professor Todd Clark earned second place in the Third National People of Color Junior Faculty Writing Competition, held at Seton Hall Law School in Newark, NJ. Professor Clark’s article titled, “My President Is Black And I Be God Damn If My Agent Ain’t Too!,” will be published in the upcoming edition of the Georgetown Journal of Law and Modern Critical Race Perspectives. The article provides a comprehensive explanation as to how the Rooney Rule, which requires NFL franchises to interview at least one minority head coaching candidate before making a final hiring decision, will have a palpable effect on increasing the number of Black athletes that hire Black agents. More specifically, it illustrates how the scope of the Rooney Rule will extend beyond its intended purpose in increasing the number of Black head coaches and administrators.

As a result of the Rooney Rule, Black players will observe more Blacks in positions of power. Consequently, the myth that Blacks are unsuitable for such positions will be dispelled as an increasing number of the Black athletes begin to experience the realization of Blacks being placed in those types of positions. As this occurs, Black athletes will increase their level of confidence in hiring Black agents for the purpose of representation. Professor Clark’s article also sets forth a new and novel diversity based process for eliminating and/or reducing the significant level of agent corruption that currently burdens college football. This latter issue has recently gained an extensive amount of coverage after Nick Saban, the current head coach of the University of Alabama, while speaking at the Southeastern Conference Football Media Days, compared unscrupulous sports agents to “pimps,” after one of his star players, defensive end Marcel Dareus, came under investigation for attending an agent-sponsored party, in violation of NCAA rules and regulations.

This summer in Miami, Florida, Professor Clark joined the NCCU Law Faculty in 2007 and teaches Business Associations, Contracts I and II, and Employment Discrimination.

SPRING 11
On Thursday, September 16, 2010, the School of Law held a Gala Retirement Dinner in honor of Professors Thomas M. Ringer, Walter H. Nunnallee and Monica K. Kalo, and Mrs. Iris W. Gilchrist at the prestigious Brier Creek Country Club in Raleigh, NC. The event celebrated the honorees’ long and distinguished careers with North Carolina Central University School of Law. The ballroom at the country club was filled to capacity with alumni, family, and friends of the honorees who, over dinner, listened to video tributes from selected individuals (chosen by the honorees) as they shared stories and remembrances of those being honored. Music by the NCCU Jazz Combo and Fred Mills added to the celebratory mood of the evening.

On Wednesday, October 27, 2010, the Dean hosted the annual reception for the Law School’s recent graduates at the North Carolina Bar Center to congratulate them on their success in passing the Bar. This gathering of faculty, administrators, graduates, and students gives everyone a chance to reconnect and celebrate the graduates’ new status as practicing attorneys. The Bar Center’s main hall was buzzing with news. NCCU Law’s graduates have found employment in a spectrum of practice areas and geographic locations ranging from Durham to the U.S. Virgin Islands. The reception allowed our Legal Eagles a chance to mingle in a professional environment and celebrate overcoming that last hurdle before beginning what we all hope is a rewarding career.

The Dean reminded the assembled crowd that our school has a strong tradition of alumni service and we hope that those newly admitted eagles remember that they are one half of the equation for the success of the Law School. In order to facilitate the continued participation in the Law School Community, the school has created the “Eagles Nest,” a comprehensive, interactive intranet site with information and user-generated content such as forums and Twitter feeds. The “Eagles Nest” is located at http://web.nccu.edu/law/nest.Alumni.html. Keep in touch!
The academic year was capped by our commencement ceremony where 177 juris doctorates were awarded, and those assembled were addressed by the Honorable L. Douglas Wilder, former Governor of Virginia. Wilder’s career in public service spans 40 years and is noted for several historic milestones.
CIVIL RIGHTS DOCUMENTS DONATED TO NCCU

Jack Greenberg, currently a Professor of Law at Columbia Law School, has donated a significant amount of civil rights materials he accumulated throughout his professional career to the NCCU School of Law. The collection of 280 briefs is the most valuable part of the gift. It provides a snapshot of the work of racial equality advocates, and particularly the NAACP Legal Defense Fund, which forever transformed race relations in the United States. Included are documents from landmark cases, such as Brown v. Board of Education (1954), which Greenberg helped argue before the U.S. Supreme Court, as well as lesser cases that never resulted in a decision.

At Columbia College, Greenberg served as Dean and Professor of Law from 1989 to 1993, Vice Dean and Professor of Law from 1984 to 1989, and Adjunct Professor of Law from 1970 to 1984. As Assistant Counsel at the NAACP Legal Defense and Education Fund, Greenberg assisted Thurgood Marshall in leading education and demonstration cases and succeeded Marshall as Director-Counsel. He authored a New York City ordinance prohibiting discrimination against women and minorities in private clubs. Greenberg also founded the Mexican-American Legal Defense and Education Fund. He consulted in South Africa on the creation of the Legal Resources Centre (the leading civil rights legal organization there). He has participated in numerous overseas human rights missions and lectured in Europe and several African nations. Greenberg is a prolific writer, authoring books on civil rights and many articles on affirmative action in higher education. More recently, he has focused his attention on the discrimination faced in Europe by the Roma, which Greenberg has called “one of the greatest humanitarian and economic crises of our time.”

The collection of civil rights materials is a significant gift to the NCCU School of Law. The collection of documents from landmark cases, such as Brown v. Board of Education (1954), which Greenberg helped argue before the U.S. Supreme Court, as well as lesser cases that never resulted in a decision, provides a snapshot of the work of racial equality advocates, and particularly the NAACP Legal Defense Fund, which forever transformed race relations in the United States. Included are documents from landmark cases, such as Brown v. Board of Education (1954), which Greenberg helped argue before the U.S. Supreme Court, as well as lesser cases that never resulted in a decision.

LAW SCHOOL HOSTS ANNUAL D.C. LUNCHEON

On November 12, 2010, the NCCU School of Law hosted the annual D.C. Luncheon at the Capital Grille in Washington, D.C. This annual event brings together members of the judiciary from Virginia, Washington D.C., Maryland, and New York and members of the U.S. Congress to promote internship opportunities for students at NCCU School of Law. Also in attendance at this year’s luncheon were congressional staffers, representatives from the law firms of Womble Carlyle Sandridge & Rice, PLLC and Goddard, Devoto, Leech & Dunn, PLLC, and representatives from Wells Fargo Securities. The D.C. Luncheon is in its seventh year and also serves to thank members of Congress, judges and agency executives for their support in providing recent interns and employment opportunities for NCCU School of Law students.

LETTER FROM THE ALUMNI PRESIDENT

I am my honor as president of the NCCU School of Law Alumni Association to, once again, bring you greetings on behalf of the Association’s Board of Directors.

This past year, serving as your president, has been filled with great activities and pleasurable associations. At the 2011 graduation ceremony, I had the opportunity to meet, greet, and dine with numerous Law School students. At this fall event, the Board witnessed the “unveiling” of the Eagle’s Nest intranet site and blog. This is a site designed to help existing law students and alumni to connect. The address for the site is http://web.nccu.edu/law/nest/Alumni.html.

Most significantly, over the past year, I have been impressed with the efforts of the Development Office to reach out to alumni and to make giving to the Law School a convenient, consistently present, but not overly-intrusive, endeavor. The ongoing mission of my tenure is to help increase the percentage of our alumni who contribute financially to the Law School and to expand the level of commitment for those who have contributed in the past. Please review the 2010 Honor Roll of Donors, located at http://www.nccu.edu/formsdoc/proxy.cfm?file_id=1178. If your name is not there, it should be! If you are a regular donor, and if your circumstances permit in these difficult times, consider increasing your normal level of donation by 25 percent, 50 percent, or more. If you have never contributed or have not done so lately, begin today. No amount is too small.

Finally, please do not hesitate to contact me at shelahchavis@hotmail.com with questions or recommendations you have regarding the Law School or the Alumni Board, or if you have an interest in working with the Board.

With warmest regards,
Sheila W. Chavis ’00
Alumni Association President

RALEIGH ALUMNI RECEPTION

On April 13, 2010, the Raleigh alumni held their annual reception at the stately North Carolina Governor’s Mansion in downtown Raleigh. More than 25 area alumni attended this exciting event.
Dorothy Bernholz ’75, Director of Student Legal Services at North Carolina University at Chapel Hill, received the Order of the Long Leaf Pine for her distinguished legal service to the State of North Carolina. Representative Joe Hackney, Speaker of the N.C. House of Representatives, presented the prestigious award on behalf of Governor Bev Perdue at a meeting of Orange County’s Bar Association.

Karen Fraser Alston ’94 Accepts Position in Saudi Arabia

Karen Fraser Alston ’94 has been named the Director of Business Operations for the Global Collaborative Research (GCR) Division of the King Abdullah University of Science and Technology (KAUST) in Thuwal, Kingdom of Saudi Arabia. KAUST was conceived 25 years ago by His Majesty, The Custodian of the Two Holy Mosques, King Abdullah, as a means of modernizing Saudi Arabia. KAUST, which is located on the Red Sea, opened its doors in September 2009 as an independent and merit-based international, graduate-level research university, supported by a multi-billion dollar endowment. KAUST focuses its research in disciplines such as energy and the environment, water desalination, industrial biotechnology, engineering, nanotechnology, and mathematics and computational scientific computing. KAUST is the only co-ed university in Saudi Arabia, and it is housed in world-class facilities serving the most highly sought-after international students and the most well-known researchers and scholars from around the world.

Ms. Alston is a graduate of Hampton Institute (’84) with a B.A. in Chemistry and of North Carolina Central University School of Law (’94). She clerked for the Honorable Robert F. Orr at the North Carolina Court of Appeals and the Supreme Court of North Carolina. Subsequently, she practiced law in the areas of Immigration Law, Family Law and Personal Injury Law. She then served her alma mater in several capacities, including serving as the School of Law’s first Associate Dean for Finance and Administration and the University’s Title III Programs Grants Compliance Officer. Most recently, Ms. Alston was Assistant Grants Compliance Officer in the Office of the Director, Office of Policy and Extramural Research Administration at the National Institutes of Health in Bethesda, MD. Ms. Alston is licensed to practice law in the State of North Carolina, the Eastern and Middle Districts of the U.S. Federal District Courts, and the U.S. Supreme Court. In addition, she holds certificates in Grants Writing & Communications and in Grants Management.

Ms. Alston’s son, Jesse (age 11), will join her in Saudi Arabia. Her daughter, Olivia (Hampton University ’09), will remain in the U.S. where she is completing her medical degree studies at the Brody School of Medicine at East Carolina University.

North Carolina Advocates for Orange County’s Bar Association.


Craig Croom ’94, a Wake County District Court Judge for more than a decade, has been appointed by North Carolina Governor Bev Perdue to be a Special Superior Court Judge.

"Judge Croom was a distinguished prosecutor and has been a valuable member of the judiciary," Perdue said in a prepared statement. "He will be a great addition to the superior court."

Croom, a graduate of UNC-Chapel Hill and NCCU School of Law, has been a Wake County District Court Judge since 1999. He also has worked as an Assistant District Attorney for Wake County, been a clerk for Judge Jack Coutrot on the North Carolina Court of Appeals, served as a deputy sheriff for the Wake County Sheriff’s Department and been a paramedic in Orange County.

Thomas H. Hodges, Jr. ’82, has been named as the new Employment Security Commissioner Chief Counsel. His appointment was effective July 1, 2010. Hodges succeeds Thomas S. Whitaker who retired effective June 30.

Kathryn Cook DeAngelo ’84, has been appointed by the South Carolina Bar to a seat on the Board of Governors for the Third Judicial Region.

Vaughan S. Winborne, Jr. ’85, is entering his fifth year of private practice on Hawaii’s “Big Island” in Kamuela. He also serves as the President of the North Hawaii Rotary Club and Senior Warden of St. James Episcopal Church. Winborne previously practiced law in Raleigh, NC for 20 years.

Henry Campen ’86, a partner with the law firm Parker Poe Adams & Bernstein LLP, has been appointed by the Chair of the North Carolina Energy Policy Council to its Committee on Low Carbon Energy Supply Renewables.

Pamela Stanback Gleen ’80, NCCU School of Law Assistant Dean for Clinical Programs, was accepted into the 2010 UNC BRIDGES Academic Leadership for Women Program.

Karen Alston Alston ’94 has been named the Assistant Grants Compliance Officer in the Office of the Director, Office of Policy and Extramural Research Administration at the National Institutes of Health in Bethesda, MD. Ms. Alston is licensed to practice law in the State of North Carolina, the Eastern and Middle Districts of the U.S. Federal District Courts, and the U.S. Supreme Court. In addition, she holds certificates in Grants Writing & Communications and in Grants Management.

Most recently, Ms. Alston was Assistant Grants Compliance Officer in the Office of the Director, Office of Policy and Extramural Research Administration at the National Institutes of Health in Bethesda, MD. Ms. Alston is licensed to practice law in the State of North Carolina, the Eastern and Middle Districts of the U.S. Federal District Courts, and the U.S. Supreme Court. In addition, she holds certificates in Grants Writing & Communications and in Grants Management.

Ms. Alston’s son, Jesse (age 11), will join her in Saudi Arabia. Her daughter, Olivia (Hampton University ’09), will remain in the U.S. where she is completing her medical degree studies at the Brody School of Medicine at East Carolina University.
The Government of Kosovo and the Office of State Prosecution, with the support of the U.S. Embassy and OPDAT Resident Legal Advisor (RLA) to Kosovo Kimberly Moore ’94, marked October 17-23, 2010, as its first annual National Crime Victims’ Rights Week to raise awareness of victims’ rights and to highlight the plight of victims. This year’s theme was “Crime Victims’ Rights: Fairness. Dignity. Respect.” Guest speakers for the ceremonies included Acting President Jakup Krasniqi, State Prosecutor Izet Kabaishi, and Deputy Chief of Mission Michael Murphy, United States Attorney George Holden (Eastern District, North Carolina), and Director of the National Center for the Prosecution of Child Abuse Suzanna Tiapula.

The idea for a Kosovo National Crime Victims’ Rights Week and Candlelight Observance Ceremony was formed in April 2010, when OPDAT sent 23 Kosovo prosecutors, police officers, victim advocates and service providers to Raleigh, NC and Washington, DC, where they received training on a wide variety of issues related to victims’ rights and attended the U.S. Department of Justice National Crime Victims’ Rights Candlelight Observance Ceremony. At the end of the training, the participants decided to create a National Crime Victims’ Rights Ceremony in Kosovo to highlight the plight of victims.

Brian Beverly ’95, an attorney at the law firm of Young Moore and Henderson, was selected for inclusion in the North Carolina Super Lawyers for 2011.

N. King Prather ’97, has been named Senior Vice President, General Counsel and Corporate Secretary at Blue Cross and Blue Shield of North Carolina (BCBSNC). In addition to his duties managing the Law Office at BCBSNC, Prather will oversee the company’s Audit and Risk Management function, Special Investigations and Fraud Unit, Enterprise Security and Privacy department, and Contract Analysis and Negotiation unit.

Tina Herbert ’00, was elected President of the South Carolina Bar’s Young Lawyers Division in 2010.

Ryan Oxendine ’00, recently joined Herring Mills & Kram, PLLC in Raleigh, NC. Mr. Oxendine will concentrate his practice in the areas of Commercial Real Estate and Business/Corporate Law.

Brenda Branch ’01, Chief District Court Judge, District 6A (Habifius County), was awarded the Citizen Lawyer Award at the North Carolina Bar Association Annual Meeting in Wilmington, NC on June 25, 2010.

D. Toni Pinkston ’04, has been appointed to the position of Managing Attorney in the Legal Aid of North Carolina (LANC) Office in Fayetteville, NC.

Rikesia Williams ’04, was named staff attorney in the LANC Office in Fayetteville.

William S. Eubank II ’07, an attorney with the public interest environmental law firm Meyer Glizenstein & Crystal recently filed suit on behalf of several organizations to stop the indiscriminate burning of several species of endangered and threatened sea turtles as part of the Deepwater Horizon oil spill response in the Gulf of Mexico. As a result of the lawsuit and a request for emergency injunctive relief from a federal court in New Orleans, Eubanks and his clients pressured BP and the Coast Guard into a favorable settlement requiring the creation of a mandatory sea turtle observer program and the adoption and implementation of sea turtle search, rescue, and rehabilitation protocols to minimize the risk of harm to federally protected sea turtles as part of in-situ burn operation. The case was covered by various media outlets including the New York Times, Washington Post, NPR, CNN, and CBS.

In addition to his litigation accomplishments, Eubanks also recently published the cover article for the Environmental Law Institute’s summer reading issue of The Environmental Forum, titled “Paying the Farm Bill: How One Status Has Radically Degraded the Natural Environment and How a New Found Emphasis on Sustainability is the Key to Reviving the Ecosystem.”

Crystall G. Rouse ’07, joined the Law Offices of James Scott Farrin as an Associate Attorney.

Lori Warlick ’07, joined the U.S. Department of Justice (DOJ) in September of 2007, as a law clerk at the Miami Immigration Court. She later joined DOJ’s Office of Immigration Litigation in Washington, D.C. as an appellate practitioner. She has filed briefs in the Second, Fifth, Sixth, Eighth, Ninth, Tenth, and Eleventh Circuit Courts of Appeal and has appeared for oral argument before the Second and Eleventh Circuits. Lori is currently on a one-year detail to the Guantanamo Bay Habeas Litigation Unit, a part of DOJ’s Federal Programs Branch, appearing before the U.S. District Court for the District of Columbia. She was admitted to the U.S. Supreme Court Bar on November 10, 2010.

Douglas E. Neuman ’08, is a partner with the firm of Daggett, Shuler, Knouse, Neuman & Bell, PLLC in Winston-Salem, NC, where he practices personal injury and insurance law.
Law School Alumna Honored at State Bar Lawyers Luncheon

On Thursday, October 28, 2010, Stephanie D’Artri ’09 was honored at the State Bar Fifty Year Lawyers Luncheon for her work in the Guardian ad Litem program while she was a third year law student last year at NCCU School of Law. The statement read at the luncheon was as follows: “Stephanie D’Artri’s passion for the Guardian ad Litem program is known to everyone who knows her. She has been a volunteer Guardian herself for over five years; she drives to Charlotte once a month to visit one of her children, a severely abused little boy who was transferred to a group home there, so that he will have continuity with an adult in his life. She has also been a tenacious and successful recruiter for the Guardian ad Litem program during all her time at NCCU School of Law, organizing events and bringing in speakers to promote volunteering, personally recruiting her classmates, and organizing a support group for students currently serving as volunteer Guardians.” This past year Stephanie was instrumental in establishing the Driver’s License Restoration Project, a new pro bono project initiated by NCCU School of Law alumna and Orange County Assistant District Attorney Jeff Nieman ’06. As if this wasn’t enough she founded a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization, Anointed Children Through Teachers, Inc. (Project ACTT), whose purpose is to reimburse readers for out-of-pocket classroom expenses that benefit students receiving a public education in North Carolina. More information about this Project ACTT is available on their website http://www.projectactt.org/home.

Amanda G. Presson ’09, has been promoted to Captain in the United States Army JAG Corps. Presson is stationed at Fort Seward, GA working as a Legal Assistance Attorney.

Samantha J. Younker ’09, recently joined the Janvier Law Firm PLLC in Raleigh, NC. Ms. Younker is practicing in bankruptcy law.

Eric C. “Clifton” Williams ’09, is the University Records Officer in the Office of the General Counsel at North Carolina State University. His primary responsibility is coordinating NCSU’s public records program. He also coordinates NCSU’s response to subpoenas, search warrants, and court orders. In addition, Williams acts as primary advisor to the university on FERPA (student records privacy law) and HIPAA (health records privacy law) in the university setting.

Quentin M. McGee ’10, has joined the Lewis E. Waddell, Jr. Law Office in Newton, NC as an Associate Attorney. McGee earned a B.A. in Economics with a second major in Management and Society from UNC-Chapel Hill in 2007. A native of Statesville, NC, McGee resides in Iredell County.

Donna Blyskol ’10, recently joined the firm of Herrin Mills & Kran, PLLC in Raleigh, NC. Ms. Blyskol is practicing family law.

Precious Green ’10, was recently named Staff Attorney in the Office of Legal Aid of North Carolina (LANC) in Fayetteville, NC.

IN MEMORIAM

Charles B. Markham
NCCU Professor of Law ’76 - ’83
March 22, 2010

James L. Griffin ’92
March 28, 2010

Timothy C. Cole ’99
December 23, 2010

Calling All Alumni to Make a Financial Contribution in Support of the NCCU School of Law

Now more than ever your financial contribution to the School of Law is essential to our remaining a Leader in Legal Education. Your support directly impacts the availability of scholarships, student events, emergency loans, faculty recruitment, special projects, and many essential operating needs for which state funds are not available.

Our Alumni Participation Rate (APR) goal this year is 20 percent. To reach this goal we need 595 alumni to contribute by June 30, 2011. To date, we have received 252 alumni contributions. Last year, we reached a record 17 percent and we can make this year’s goal with your participation.

Why Participate?
The Alumni Participation Rate (APR) is widely used to measure the value alumni place on their education and the financial health of the institution. Employers, prospective students and grant-making foundations look to alumni giving rates as evidence of student satisfaction and an indication of the prestige of a college or university.

Every gift—regardless of size—shows support for the great education the NCCU School of Law provides!

Show your Legal Eagle pride by making a contribution today online at http://web.nccu.edu/law, by mailing your contribution to NCCU School of Law Development Office 640 Nelson Street Durham NC 27707, or by calling Sharon Aaron at 919-530-5386. Thanks in advance for helping to reach the NCCU School of Law Alumni Participation Rate Goal.

IN MEMORIAM

Donald L. Murphy ’76 made a provision in his estate planning to leave a generous gift of $30,000 to the School of Law’s general fund. The gift was received on November 20, 2010. In keeping with his wife Sybill’s wishes, the date the gift was received coincided with the one-year anniversary of his passing. Murphy, a double eagle, graduated from NCCU with a degree in Sociology in 1973 and juris doctor degree from the Law School in 1976. Student support programs that will benefit from this gift include the Bar Stipend Program, Wellness Emergency Loans, and the Annual Professional Dinner.

Alumnus Bequest $30,000 to NCCU School of Law
### DONOR LIST

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Donation Range</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Jack Faucett</td>
<td>$10,000–more</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ernst Haiger</td>
<td>$9,999–$5,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>John Harmon</td>
<td>$4,999–$2,500</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>John Harmon</td>
<td>$2,499–$1,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>John Harmon</td>
<td>$999–$500</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>John Harmon</td>
<td>$47</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### Spring 11

Legal Eagle Club Membership, July 1, 2009–June 30, 2010. This list acknowledges members of the NCCU Legal Eagle Club, the membership body of alumni and friends who support the Law School. Thank you for remembering the Law School in your charitable giving plans. If you have supported the Law School during this time and your name is not listed, please accept our sincere apologies and notify Sharon D. Alston in the External Relations office at 919.530.5836 or alstonsh@mccu.edu.
Redressing the Wronged

well as the law school. The Civil Litigation Clinic looks forward to continuing its strong tradition of providing students with the skills and knowledge necessary to successfully practice law in the Twenty-First Century and giving access to justice to those who need it most.

Gregory Malhoit
Civil Litigation Clinical Supervising Attorney
B.A., History, Midland Lutheran College
J.D., University of Nebraska School of Law

Transforming Lives Beyond the Courtroom

verbal commitment to assist one to two clients on a pro bono basis each year after they become licensed attorneys.

Dessa Haynes ’98
Domestic Violence Clinical Supervising Attorney
B.S., North Carolina Central University School of Business
J.D., North Carolina Central University School of Law

Making a Positive Difference with a Family in Crisis

it to the court (my very first court appearance). I drafted an Answer and Counterclaims to preserve our client’s rights in the event that the parents could not resolve their issues.

Ultimately, the husband voluntarily dismissed his claim for custody and moved back home. The counseling helped him and his wife communicate better about raising their children. Though they continue to go to counseling and I am sure it has taken work, we actually helped to rebuild a broken family. It proved to me that not all family law practice is divorce and fighting over children and property. It proved that I can make a positive difference. It is the reason I know I chose the right path when I decided to go to law school, and it is the reason that I highly recommend the Family Law Clinic course at the NCCU School of Law.

Nakia Davis ’01
Family Law Clinical Supervising Attorney
B.A., University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill
J.D., North Carolina Central University School of Law

Adjuants Adding Value to the Law School Experience

have enabled us to develop an intensive three-year Legal Writing Program.

NCCU Law School applauds the contribution of our adjunct faculty to the success of our students and in the elevation of the Law School’s profile in the academic and legal communities.

Wendy Brown Scott
Associate Dean for Academic Affairs and Professor of Law
B.A., Harvard University
J.D., New York University