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Fall 2015

## Of Counsel, Volume 17 | Fall 2015

North Carolina Central University School of Law

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## A Tribute to 75 Years

U.S. Attorney General Loretta E. Lynch Holds Civil Rights Round Table at NCCU

NCCU Law Pro Bono Program Turns 20



75th anniversary Edition  
North Carolina Central University School of Law

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# ofCOUNSEL

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# Letter from the Dean

Dear Alumni:

Yes, 2014-2015 was a momentous 75th year for North Carolina Central University School of Law. We made major strides last year from being named the #1 top law school for clinics in the Southeast (National Jurist) to having the highest bar passage rate out of all historically black colleges and universities, NCCU School of Law is raising the bar across the legal education field day by day.



I believe in giving credit where credit is due and, though our students are working hard in each of their courses and earning these degrees, we wouldn't be able to matriculate the caliber of students we do without accomplished and supportive alumni. When students who are interested in the field of law look at lists of top lawyers across this nation, there is not one reputable publication that doesn't recognize our alumni. On top of that, we are seeing giving increase both in amount given and the number of alumni giving. This is allowing us to do amazing things, from a technological, facilities, and pro bono standpoint. Just this past year, our Virtual Justice Project has continued to grow, hosted here in the School of Law and touching the campuses of four other HBCUs across the state of North Carolina. Our building was updated so that the entire School of Law now runs on energy efficient lighting. And, over the past two years, our clinic rendered nearly \$1 million in free services to those who otherwise would not afford legal representation. All of these things are made possible by the legacy each of you created, both through giving and through building solid reputations that help sustain the School of Law.

Though we have come a very long way in these past 75 years, we still face many challenges. There are still many injustices that communities across this nation encounter every day. NCCU School of Law is focused on preparing lawyers to combat those issues and more, but we cannot do it without your time and donations. From mentorship to money, our students need our support. For those of you who are active on social media, our hashtag this year is #StudentsFirst. At the most fundamental level that is what NCCU School of Law is all about: the students. We are here preparing them to do what you all do every day so that this institution will stand strong for another 75 years with an even broader alumni base.

Once again, we thank you for all that you do to bring honor and recognition to this school of law. From your demeanor in the courtroom to your work in the community, we could not be more proud of what you have done and more excited about what you will accomplish. In 1939, could Robert Bond have imagined that in only 75 years, his School of Law would host a black female Attorney General? Or that it would have played such a strong role in the civil rights movement? I'm sure he couldn't have imagined our classes being as diverse as they are. It has certainly been an exciting initial 75 years but the true display of strength is how much more we can accomplish as we enter the final quarter of this century. Let us continue to make strides and let everyone know that this is the greatest school of law in the nation.

In Truth and Service,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Phyllis Craig-Taylor". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Phyllis Craig-Taylor, Dean and Professor of Law

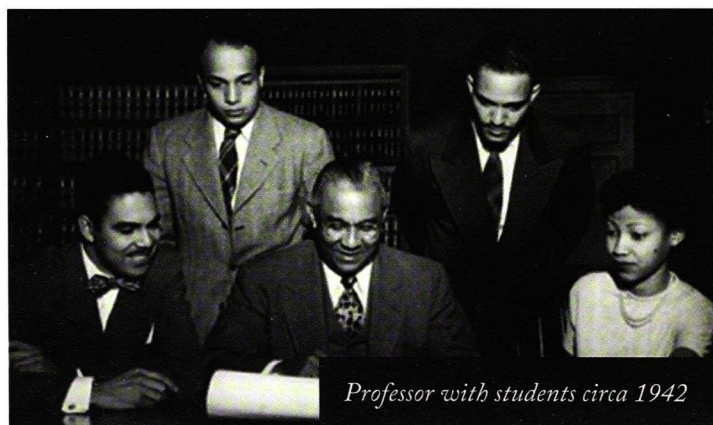


# Readings & Features .....

## 75<sup>th</sup> Anniversary

How Far We've Come Cannot Compare To Where We Are Going

When those in the legal field think of top tier law schools across the nation, North Carolina Central University is on that list. Since its inception, NCCU School of Law has molded minds into amazing professionals who have changed this nation on every level of the legal system and, this year, as we celebrated our 75th year in truth and service, we move forward, knowing that we will continue to do the same. From our first graduate, Mr. Robert Bond '43, to our class of 2015, we have had both world-renowned attorneys and unsung heroes. But most importantly, the School of Law has people committed to changing the community every single day. And this has been the case from 1939, when we opened and tuition was \$50, to today where, though tuition has increased slightly, the quality of education and preparation have increased considerably.



*Professor with students circa 1942*

North Carolina Central University was founded by Dr. James E. Shepard in the Hayti District of Durham in 1910 as the private National Religious Training School and Chautauqua for the Colored Race. By 1925, the school had been reorganized into the North Carolina College for Negroes—the nation's first state-supported liberal arts college for black students.

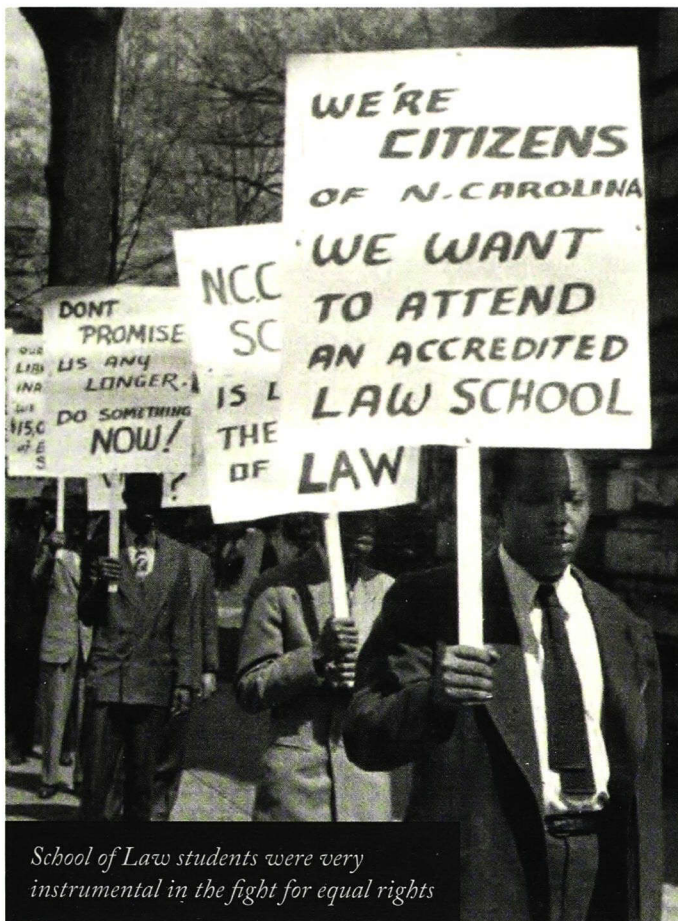
North Carolina Central University School of Law was officially created on March 1, 1939 by an Act of the General Assembly of North Carolina which provided for a law school at the North Carolina College for Negroes (now NCCU).



The legislation was intended to create a separate-but-equal institution for black students to become lawyers, so that the law school at the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill (UNC) would not have to be integrated. There had been no in-state institution for the legal education of black citizens since the closing of Shaw University's law school in 1914.

Dean Maurice T. Van Hecke, who was Dean of UNC's law school at UNC, also served as the first Dean of the NCC School of Law. The first year course of study duplicated what law school students learned at all-white UNC and included civil procedure, contracts, torts, real property, and agency.

The NCC School of Law was scheduled to open during the fall of 1939; however, the Law School had no time to advertise and enrolled only one student. As a result, the Law School delayed opening until 1940.



*School of Law students were very instrumental in the fight for equal rights*

In-state tuition the first semester was \$50. Out-of-state tuition was \$62.50. Room-and-board charges were \$20 per month, and student casebooks cost approximately \$30 per year. Tuition for in-state students did not increase until 1946, when it rose to \$75 a semester.

Durham attorney C. Jerry Gates argued at the Law School's founding in 1939 that having black faculty "would have gone a long way in disabusing the average Negro's mind of the popular notion that the Negro can't serve in such capacity and to a great extent that he is prohibited from practicing law in the South as the white lawyer does." In 1941 three full-time black instructors were hired, among them Albert L. Turner. A year later, he became the first African-American dean as well as the first full-time dean of the North Carolina Central University School of Law.

Robert Bond was the first student to enroll and graduate from the NCCU School of Law. Mr. Bond had been preparing to attend medical school when Dr. James Shepard persuaded him to enter the Law School in 1940.

In the early days, Mr. Bond had to study the law by himself. Because the Law School lacked a dedicated faculty, he would have to attend classes at the segregated law schools of Duke University and UNC. Those institutions required that he sit in the back of the classrooms and forbid him to participate in class discussions. At times, faculty from these same schools came to the Law School to test Bond's progress and offer one-on-one instruction. Bond also had to use the law libraries at Duke or UNC late at night to study because it was illegal for him to visit these segregated spaces during the day.

In 1943, Mr. Bond graduated from the Law School and was the only African American to pass the bar examination later that same year. After passing the Bar, Bond accepted a post at the Social Security Administration in Washington, DC before settling down to private practice in Wilmington, NC in 1947.

Just four years into its history, the Law School enrolled its first women students, Ruth Norman and Ruth Taylor, who boosted enrollment to seven. The next year, four of the thirteen students





*Robert Bond became NCCU School of Law's first graduate in 1942*

enrolled in the Law School were women. In 1948, the entire graduating class was made up of three women: Catherine Johnson, Marcia McDonald, and Ruth Norman. Afterwards, the Law School did not enroll another woman until 1952, when Anne Duncan enrolled. Duncan went on to become a librarian at the Law School and a member of the admissions committee.

Enrollment at the Law School picked up modestly after World War II, with a total of thirty enrolled students by 1949. Despite this uptick in admissions, the Law School struggled to find funding to adequately equip its students and faculty, and barely managed to make ends meet. Law students toured the state in an effort to encourage officials to upgrade the school, but when these efforts failed, students picketed the State Capitol.

In 1950, ten years after enrolling its first student, the Law School at the North Carolina College at Durham (as it was

known from 1947-1969) was accredited by the American Bar Association. Despite this important benchmark, students at the Law School were still denied equal access to other state-supported law schools. In 1950, law review student Harold Epps, along with several other students at the Law School, filed suit seeking admission to UNC's law school. Though the federal district court denied Epps' petition in *Epps v. Carmichael*, this decision was later reversed by the 4th Circuit in another student-generated lawsuit, *McKissick v. Carmichael*. In the summer of 1951, Floyd McKissick and three other black law students were enrolled at UNC's Law School. They were given a separate floor in a residence hall and at first were not allowed in the swimming pools or in the student section at football games.

Two of the law students who attended law school classes at UNC, Floyd McKissick and James Lassiter, returned to NCC School of Law, where they graduated in 1951. McKissick went on to become national executive director of the Congress of Racial Equality.

During the 1963-64 school year, the NCCU School of Law moot court team, led by future mayor of Atlanta Maynard Jackson, defeated 14 teams from more established and better funded rivals, including UNC, Duke University, and the University of South Carolina, before suffering a controversial defeat to the University of Virginia. In a newspaper interview some twenty years later, Jackson recalled: "That showed me right there that this little bity black law school can produce a level of legal education and preparation on par with any Law School in the nation." -Maynard Jackson '64

In 1965, the Law School enrolled its first white students, taking further steps toward the diversity that would become its hallmark in later years. Around this same time, however, political pressure began to build that would threaten the existence of the Law School altogether. With black students now able to attend UNC law school, an effort was made to close the nearby law school at NCCU. Outraged, alumni and other supporters from the community launched numerous campaigns on behalf of North Carolina Central University (as it has been known from 1967 onward) Law School, including a resolution



from Durham's George H. White Bar Association, drafted by its president, William G. Pearson. The resolution points out that the Law School produced,

"an overwhelming majority of the lawyers who have been most active in providing the expertise required to bring about the social changes now existing for the poor of the state, a substantial number of whom are Negroes..." There was "an alarming shortage of Negro lawyers in the State of North Carolina as indicated by the fact that there (were) approximately 4,500 lawyers in the state of which only 86 are Negroes..." There was approximately one white lawyer for every 768 white residents and one black lawyer for every 16,910 black residents, "or in other words, there [were] 44.5 lawyers for every county in the state in contrast to only one Negro lawyer for every one and two-fifth counties in the state..." The resolution went on to point out that North Carolina College Law School "serves the entire citizenry of the State of North Carolina ...as is evidenced

by the fact that the... School of Law is the most integrate law school, faculty, and student body in the state."

Nevertheless, in 1968, the North Carolina Board of Higher Education recommended phasing out the Law School by 1974 if African-American enrollment at UNC's law school could be increased to match that at NCCU. In response, Dean Daniel Sampson issued what became known as the "Sampson Report," which documented the negative impact closing the Law School would have on the black community.

From the Sampson Report:

"More and more law schools are limiting their enrollment to the top five or ten percent of college graduating classes. The student graduating in the lower-upper or middle part of his class from any college is finding his chance of obtaining a legal education diminishing. Because of this,



*Dean Harry E. Groves speaking with Governor Jim Hunt during the dedication of the Albert L. Turner Law Building*





1963-64 North Carolina College Law School moot court team, led by Maynard Jackson, seated to the far left

North Carolina College School of Law is in a unique position of performing an invaluable service to worthy and deserving students.”

In 1969, NCCU School of Law was home to 74 black students. UNC had one.

*“There is one experience I must share with you. One law student and his wife brought their little daughter with them when they came for the clean-up campaign. Their little daughter, probably between two and a half and three years old, looked like a doll in her blue raincoat and matching blue rain hat. As her mother and father proceeded with ‘operation clean-up,’ this little angelic girl amused herself as long as she could. At last, she walked over, picked up a cloth, dampened it, pulled up a chair, stood on her tip-toes, with her little arms stretching far above her head, tried to reach the bottom of a smoke-stained window. I watched as she tried, but the bottom of that window persisted in exceeding her reach. ... My thoughts went back to the ashes and charred remains of our library and to those great legal scholars of the ages who let their minds reach out beyond their times to establish the great principles of individual liberty that we, generations later, now enjoy. We, like them, must let our minds be bold and propose legal principles that will enhance the individual freedom, integrity, and human worth of this little girl and those who follow her, even though the fruition of these goals presently exceeds our reach.”*

— Dean LeMarquis DeJarmon (1969-1976)

Enrollment and the number of graduates jumped dramatically

in the early 1970s, from eighteen in 1971 to 110 in 1976. Admitting more students made it harder for UNC to meet the 1968 mandate for equal enrollment of African Americans. Further, the larger student body decreased the per-student cost, further securing the Law School’s future.

With this immediate threat to the Law School’s existence allayed, the school’s outlook continued to improve during the 1970s. However, the Law School faced criticism for not better preparing its graduates for the state bar examination. Criticism peaked in 1974, when media reported that fewer than one quarter of the school’s graduates passed the state bar exam on their first try.

In 1974, the Associated Press reported that UNC’s Law School had received more money per law student than NCCU--\$1,250 per student at the much larger UNC, compared to NCCU’s \$917 per student. At the time, the student-faculty ratio at UNC was 23 to 1, compared to 33 to 1 at NCCU. This imbalance even extended to the law libraries at the schools--150,000 volumes at UNC, while NCCU’s library contained 42,368. Average faculty salaries also differed greatly. The average law school faculty salary at UNC was \$7,442, far exceeding the average at NCCU, according to NCCU Law School Dean, LeMarquis DeJarmon.

In 1975, the North Carolina General Assembly appropriated \$2.5 million to pay for a new law school building and increased the school’s operating budget. The new building, dedicated in 1980, was named after the Law School’s first African-American dean, Albert L. Turner.

*“The unique challenge of this institution is not merely to keep open a wider door of opportunity to persons from educational backgrounds which have frequently failed to make their admissions criteria competitive at other schools, but to cause such students to raise the level of their competence and performance so that they enter the profession not disadvantaged in comparison with graduates of other institutions. It is not a small challenge. It is a worthy one.”*

— Dean Harry Groves, 1979



As the 20th Century drew to a close, a new era—one of growth, achievement, and national recognition—began in 1995 with the establishment of the Charles Hamilton Houston Endowed Chair.

Created to attract distinguished visiting professors with expertise in the fields of constitutional and civil rights law, the Chair was made possible by the generous donation of \$667,000 from businessman Franklin R. Anderson and NCCU Law School faculty member Susie R. Powell. The Chair is named after famed civil rights pioneer Charles Hamilton Houston, “The Man Who Killed Jim Crow,” who served as Dean of Howard University Law School and Litigation Director for the NAACP. Also in 1995, National Jurist magazine named NCCU Law School the Best Law School for Women in the country.

The next year, the Law School opened its Model Law Clinic to house the clinical program, where students gain practical experience while helping people in the surrounding community resolve real-life legal issues.

That same year, NCCU began offering a joint degree program, allowing students to earn both a MBA and a JD in four years, instead of the typical five. Later, in 1997, the RJR Nabisco Endowed Chair in Business and Law was established as a joint appointment between the School of Law and the School of Business to attract visiting faculty whose scholarship is focused on international business transactions, international trade, and comparative law.

In 2008, Dean Raymond C. Pierce led a successful effort to equalize state funding between the law school at UNC Chapel Hill and NCCU, the state’s only two public law schools. The \$4.5 million increase in recurring funds for the law school significantly improved the Law School’s ability to provide a competitive legal education program.

Before the first decade of the 21st Century concluded, the Law School expanded its clinic program offerings, established the Biotechnology and Pharmaceutical Law Institute and the Dispute Resolution Institute, and played host to some very

distinguished guests, including: a session of court of the Fourth Circuit Court of Appeals, United States Attorney General Eric Holder, and Supreme Court Chief Justice John Roberts.

It has truly been a momentous 75th year for the School of Law. Within this past year, we have had Attorney General Loretta Lynch speak at the School of Law, had alumni receive legal accolades on local, state, and national levels, and graduated a class of lawyers who are ready to hit the ground running. As grateful as we are to have made it this far, we know that our work is far from over and, as we move closer to the century mark, we are going to continue to be at the forefront of the legal field.



*Keynote speaker Willie Gary*



# U.S. Attorney General Loretta E. Lynch Holds Civil Rights Round Table



**O**n her first official visit to her home state of North Carolina, Attorney General Loretta E. Lynch traveled to Durham and Raleigh to attend meetings with civil rights leaders and individuals combatting human trafficking. In Durham, the Attorney General held a civil rights roundtable meeting with law enforcement, local officials, community leaders, students, and faith leaders. The topics discussed at the roundtable, which was held at North Carolina Central University School of Law, included hate crimes, voting rights, and community-police relations. During the roundtable, the Attorney General noted that recent events in the South have brought back painful memories of the past for many.



"These are in fact challenging times as we all know," the Attorney General told those assembled. "You've alluded to the recent events that have traumatized many of our houses of worship. There have also been events traumatizing many of our individuals of color. Also, of course, the events just a few weeks ago in Charleston highlight days that I think many of us thought were behind us."

The Attorney General also noted that the Justice Department continues to investigate the heartbreaking church shooting in Charleston, reiterating that the investigation will explore "all angles, be it hate crime or domestic terrorism."

She also spoke about the recent spate of church fires in southern states, saying that the department does not yet have all the details but that those incidents "have our full attention."

"This is a serious issue that we will be addressing with the appropriate care and we will see where those matters lead us," she said.

The Attorney General also emphasized her commitment to pursuing justice in the face of hate crimes and civil rights abuses.

"While we cannot guarantee the absence of hate, we can guarantee the presence of justice. We could do that. And I am committed, as Attorney General, to making good on that guarantee," the Attorney General said. "And I know that everyone in this room has spent most of their lives working towards living up to that guarantee and I'm so happy to count you as partners in this fight because it's a fight that will cover all types of issues -- the traditional ones that we've seen here as well as the new threats that our newest citizens face, all of the things that make this country great. Sometimes people are looking to



*NCCU Chancellor Debra Saunders-White, U.S. Attorney General Loretta Lynch, Dean Phylliss Craig-Taylor, NCCU School of Law and U.S. Rep. G. K. Butterfield*



push back on that. But I want you to know that the Department of Justice and this Attorney General are committed to working with you in this fight.”

“One of my top priorities as Attorney General is to bring human traffickers to justice, assist trafficking survivors and secure the rights and dignity of anyone unable to do so for themselves,” the Attorney General said. “But as the people in this room are all too aware, responding to a crime as complex and as devastating as human trafficking is neither easy nor straightforward. Such crimes must be fought persistently and aggressively, while drawing on ingenuity and collaboration across many disciplines, organizations and professions.”

The Attorney General also praised the work of U.S. Attorney Thomas G. Walker of the Eastern District of North Carolina and U.S. Attorney Ripley Rand of the Middle District of North Carolina, whose offices have had recent successes in holding traffickers accountable. The Attorney General highlighted the Justice Department’s recent announcement on the success of an interagency Anti-Trafficking Coordination Team Initiative – or ACTeam Initiative – and the expansion of those efforts to other parts of the country.

The Attorney General also met with local officers from the Durham Police Department to thank them for their service and for being on the front lines to advance public safety. The Attorney General also stressed the importance of improving relationships, trust, and respect between law enforcement and the communities they serve.

The Attorney General was joined on her visits in Durham and Raleigh by U.S. Attorney Walker and U.S. Attorney Rand.

## NCCU School of Law Professor David A. Green Moderates National Bar Association’s Keynote Event

In late July of this year, Professor David A. Green of the North Carolina Central University School of Law moderated the keynote event at the National Bar Association’s 89th Annual Convention in Atlanta, Georgia. The National Bar Association is the oldest and largest association of African American lawyers and judges in the nation. The Convention provided hundreds of law students, attorneys, and educators the opportunity to complete continuing legal education seminars, attend panel discussions, and participate in community outreach projects.

This year, the Presidential Showcase Panel fell during the 50th anniversary of the Civil Rights Act (1964) and the 60th anniversary of *Brown v. Board of Education* (1954). Professor Green moderated the topic “Searching for Justice: Racial Profiling in the 21st Century,” and led a panel discussion with several prominent civil rights advocates. Professor Green began the discussion with a thought-provoking presentation that displayed photos set to Marvin Gaye’s melodies in order to familiarize the audience with racial profiling. His innovative and dynamic approach set the tone for the discussion, and was well-received by the audience. Tanya Washington appreciated Professor Green’s extensive preparation, and reflected that she had “never seen a panel introduced in such a creative and thoughtful manner.” Professor Green led a productive discussion, presenting various ideas while encouraging audience engagement and participation. He was able to successfully manage a diverse group of panelists who all expressed different perspectives on potential solutions to the realities of racial profiling.

Several NCCU Law students and faculty attended the conference. Clifton Morgan, a third-year student at NCCU Law, enjoyed attending the Presidential Showcase and explained, “It was a great experience and one that I am grateful to have been a part of. The NBA hosted many CLEs that focused on almost all areas of the law.”



# School of Law Awarded \$250,000 Professorship

The North Carolina Central University School of Law has received a \$257,000 gift from John D. Fassett, attorney and former U.S. Supreme Court law clerk at the time of the 1954 *Brown v. Board of Education* decision. The gift received March 11, 2015, will assist the School of Law in creating an endowed professorship for a faculty member who can make contributions to legal reform in areas of constitutional law, human rights and civil rights.

Fassett graduated from Yale Law School at the top of his class in 1953. Chosen by Supreme Court Justice Stanley Reed to serve as one of his two clerks, he was deeply involved in the workings of the Court during the 1953-1954 term when the groundbreaking school desegregation decisions were handed down. Fassett played a significant role in convincing the judge not to dissent in the landmark 1954 *Brown v. Board of Education* decision. The court's unanimity on that decision is credited with building public support that led to the end of legalized racial segregation.

"We are extremely grateful for this gift to NCCU School of Law," said NCCU Vice Chancellor for Institutional Advancement Harriet F. Davis, Ph.D. "With the exceptional generosity of Mr. Fassett, we can continue to provide top-quality legal education to our students."

The John D. Fassett Professorship was made by a gift of stock. A portion of the gift will be added to the School of Law Annual Fund to support a visiting lecture series, also bearing Fassett's

name. "As a lawyer, teacher, corporate executive and writer, Mr. Fassett recognized the need to endow ongoing research at the law school," said Attorney Phyllis Craig-Taylor, dean of the NCCU School of Law. "This professorship will allow one of our professors to expand the work of the law school in addressing cutting-edge and systemic issues in the law that disproportionately impact vulnerable communities."

In addition to the professorship, The John D. Fassett Collection was established in 2012. It is a comprehensive collection of

writings by and about Supreme Court Justices and the workings of the court that were donated by Fassett. It has over 1200 volumes that range in publication date from 1852 to the present. As a result of his experience at the court, Fassett started collecting the volumes in

the 1950's and continued to collect, both new and used volumes, through 2011, when he donated the collection to NCCU School of Law. In addition to the collection, he also donated memorabilia from his term on the court and items related to *Brown v. Board of Education*. Some of this memorabilia along with a video presentation about the collection are on display in the breezeway on the first floor of the law school.

The Fassett Collection is located in the northeast corner on the second floor of the Law Library.

"With the exceptional generosity  
of Mr. Fassett, we can continue  
to provide top-quality legal  
education to our students."

- Harriet F. Davis, Ph.D



# NCCU Law Pro Bono Program Turns 20



*NCCU School of Law alumni, students, and friends volunteering at Project Will Power*

**T**he School of Law's Pro Bono Program was established in 1996 to foster a commitment to pro bono service both during law school and following graduation. Housed within the Clinical Legal Education Program since academic year 2005-06, the Pro Bono Program makes hands-on experiential learning opportunities available to students, while at the same time helping to address some of the local community's unmet legal needs. The program has grown significantly since its inception and now encompasses a wide range of projects and partnerships with community organizations, alumni, and state and local bar associations. In recent years it has twice received the NCBA's Law School Pro Bono Project of the Year Award (in 2011 for the Driver's License Restoration Project, and in 2013 for the Elder Law Project).



During the past few years, the program has enjoyed tremendous growth, as new pro bono projects have been added and established projects continue to evolve and expand. Student participation increased dramatically as well, and, last year, reached a record 255 (45% of the student body) participating, contributing 5,754 hours of service during the academic year. Since 2009, a volunteer student Pro Bono Council has played an increasingly important role in promoting awareness of pro bono, leading projects, and advising and assisting the Pro Bono Program Director. In addition to students, we have been fortunate to have faculty, alumni, and friends of the school lend their expertise to pro bono efforts like the Elder Law Project, In-School Truancy Court, the Lawyer on the Line project, and others.

## Elder Law Project Helps Meet Legal Needs of NC's Seniors

The Elder Law Project in particular has seen spectacular growth since its inception in 2009. As budget cuts have forced Legal Aid of NC (LANC) to direct limited staff resources to urgent, time-sensitive matters such as evictions, it is less able to meet low-income seniors' need for wills, advance medical directives and powers of attorney. Increasingly, Elder Law Project students, supervised by volunteer attorneys, are helping to take up the slack. The Project's long-standing partnership with Legal Aid's Durham office has expanded to LANC offices beyond Durham.

In October 2011, the first "Project Will Power Raleigh," a wills clinic co-sponsored by LANC's Raleigh office, was held at a southeast Raleigh community center with the support of LANC Raleigh's managing attorney Victor Boone and enthusiastic participation by Wake County estates practitioners and many alumni volunteers. Project Will Power Raleigh is now an annual event, serving between 30 and 50 seniors each year. In October 2014, 35 law students and 23 attorneys, including 14 alumni, volunteered, providing wills and other advance planning documents to 52 seniors, the largest number ever. The first "Alamance Project Will Power" followed in April 2012 as a result of the vision and energetic leadership of Larry D. Brown, Jr. Mr. Brown determined to bring Project Will Power to his hometown of Burlington, arranged for his church to host the



*Alumni and students serving the community volunteering with the Elder Law Project*

clinic, and galvanized Alamance County attorneys to volunteer. Alamance Project Will Power has also become an annual event, held each April in partnership with Legal Aid's Pittsboro office.

Elder Law Project students continue to volunteer close to home, at monthly wills clinics held at the Durham Senior Center and with "Wills for Habitat," a public service project of the Durham Bar Association, spearheaded by attorney Malvern King and alumnus Daron Satterfield. They also range farther afield, to senior centers in Granville, Person, Vance, and Edgecombe counties, to volunteer at clinics sponsored by LANC's Senior Law Project. Of course, none of this would be possible without the contributions of the Elder Law Project's founding volunteer attorney, Bill Moore '94, who conducts trainings for student volunteers each semester and attends nearly all Elder Law Project events to supervise them.

## Removing Barriers, Offering Hope

A criminal record, even a minor infraction or dismissed charge, is an obstacle that far too many North Carolinians face, often preventing them from obtaining employment or housing and contributing significantly to poverty levels in the state. Several organizations, including LANC, the North Carolina Justice Center, and the Southern Coalition for Social Justice, have created initiatives to address this issue, sponsoring clinics on expungements and other forms of relief from the consequences of a criminal conviction.

In October 2014, NCCU Law students participated in the Alamance County Expunctions Clinic, a direct outgrowth of the



energy generated by Alamance Project Will Power and Larry D. Brown, Jr., and the partnerships with Legal Aid – Pittsboro and the Alamance County Bar. Seventeen law students and 15 volunteer attorneys gathered in the fellowship hall of Ebenezer United Church of Christ in Burlington for a morning training by LANC-Pittsboro staff in expunctions and deciphering criminal records (volunteers earned free CLE credits). In the afternoon, the volunteers reviewed criminal records for close to 160 residents to determine their eligibility for either an expunction or a certificate of relief, giving them hope and bringing them a step closer to being able to move forward productively in their lives.

The Lawyer On The Line (LOTL) and Re-entry Phone Screening projects also engage students and alumni in helping low-income North Carolinians remove the burden of a prior criminal record. Re-entry Phone Screeners, as the name suggests, conduct phone interviews to determine initial eligibility of applicants for Legal Aid's services, allowing the process of clearing up a criminal record to move forward more quickly. The LOTL is broader in scope – cases involve a range of legal problems that often affect Legal Aid clients, such as landlord-tenant, family law/custody, and consumer/bankruptcy issues, in addition to expunctions – and it also offers students a more in-depth volunteer experience.

LOTL volunteers are assigned cases involving individuals who have called Legal Aid's statewide toll-free Helpline for assistance. Students interview the clients by phone, research their issue, and write a short memo containing the facts, their legal analysis and proposed advice. Of course, law students must be supervised when working with clients, so volunteer attorneys review and discuss the LOTL students' work with them by phone and e-mail before the student calls the client a second time with the answer to his issue. We have been fortunate to have strong support from two alumnae with relevant practice experience, Elysia Prendergast-Jones and Janet Stedum, who provide supervision and mentoring to the LOTL student volunteers. Alumni and students have both enjoyed the connection. In 2014-15, 25 students volunteered, assisting 39 Legal Aid clients, 14 with expunctions questions, 9 landlord-tenant, 8 family law/custody, and 8 with consumer/bankruptcy issues.

## Serving Those Who Served – Bull City Stand Down

If you happened to drive past the Durham County Stadium and National Guard Armory on September 18, 2014, you might have noticed the crowds, balloons, and banners announcing the annual Bull City Stand Down. The Stand Down is a day of service for veterans organized by city and county governments, the VA, non-profit organizations and the business community to honor those who have served in any branch of the military. The event includes food, giveaways, showers, haircuts, and booths staffed by service providers, including housing and employment specialists, educational, medical and mental health services, as well as basic legal services. Some 80 to 100 service providers and around 2,000 veterans attend each year.

NCCU Law has participated in the Bull City Stand Down since 2011 and each year our presence has grown. The Legal Aid Ambassadors, a group of 2L and 3L students who have received training in working with high-need populations such as veterans, the homeless, and the re-entry community, assist with client intakes at Legal Aid's booth. Other students help with registration and act as veteran escorts, helping veterans locate the service providers they need. Professor Craig Kabatchnick and alumnus Jonathan Kelly, with their Veterans Law Clinic students, staff a booth providing information about VA benefits and conduct private confidential interviews with individual veterans in one of the Armory offices. Professor Pamela Thombs and her Consumer Financial Transactions Clinic students answer questions and provide information about foreclosures and bankruptcy. Most notably, there is an Ask-A-Lawyer booth organized and staffed by alumna Florence Bowens, who answers questions on family law matters, and assistant PDs from the Durham Public Defender's office, who answer questions about outstanding warrants.

The Bull City Stand Down is truly a demonstration of the degree to which the spirit of service is ingrained in NCCU Law students, faculty and alumni. The growth of the Pro Bono Program reflects growing needs in society, and we are fortunate that the support and participation of students, faculty, alumni, and friends have enabled the program to grow to meet those needs.



# North Carolina Bar Association Recognizes...

## 2015 Citizen Lawyers: L. Lamont Wiggins



Lamont Wiggins is a 1993 graduate of the School of Law. Raised in Rocky Mount, NC, Wiggins returned here after passing the Bar in order to give back to the community that he grew up in. As a member of the Rocky Mount City Council since 1997, his commitment to the community goes further than the courtroom.

Within the community, he is often sought out to either provide counsel or utilize his network to help those who would otherwise be unable to connect with necessary resources. Though he holds, and has held, various roles within the NCBA, he feels that the most important role he has played with the Association has been with the Juvenile Justice and Children's Rights Section. As an African-American male, he feels that it is necessary that he works to play a role in the futures of the youth who too often do not see the options they have in front of them. The Citizen Lawyer Award truly speaks to his ability to take his passion for public service from the courtroom to the community, and it is well-deserved.

## 2015 Citizen Lawyers: Ann McKee David

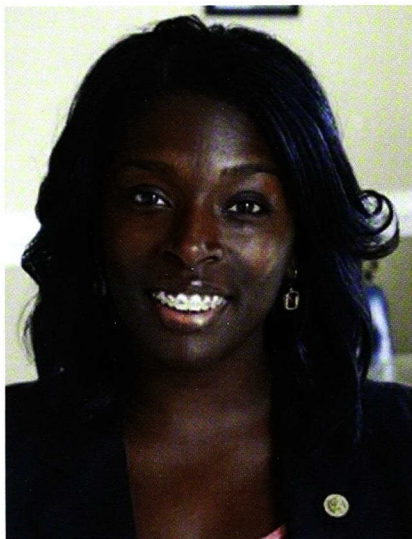


Growing up, 1988 NCCU School of Law graduate Ann McKee David knew she wanted to be a teacher, up to the point that she was on the brink of applying to pursue a master's degree in education. Instead she pursued a degree in law. She and her husband own their own practice, David & Associates, which allows her the

freedom to spend a considerable amount of her time as a parent volunteer with the New Hanover County School District. Just last year, she served as the co-chair of the School Bond Committee, working vigorously to help pass the largest school bond in the history of the district. She also plays a major role in the North Carolina Bar Association's Lawyers 4 Literacy program, in which she spends 30 minutes each week reading to local children. From serving on three different Parent Teacher Association Councils (president of two) to being appointed to the board of trustees of Cape Fear Community College, her passion for education is evident, and the roles that she plays in the community are integral to its success. New Hanover County School district superintendent Dr. Tim Markley put it perfectly by saying that David is "most deserving of the 2015 N.C. Bar Association's Citizen Lawyer Award" and it can be assumed that she will continue to be deserving of such awards for as long as she can give of herself.



2015 Young Lawyers Division Charles F. Blanchard Young Lawyer of the Year Award Deyaska Spencer



Deyaska Spencer is a 2013 graduate of the School of Law. The Blanchard Award was established to recognize young lawyers for their distinguished and meritorious service and is named in honor of Charles Blanchard, founding chair of the YLD who served in 1953-55. Spencer is an attorney at Attorney at Law

Offices of F. Craig Wilkerson, Jr. While in the School of Law, Spencer launched Legal LINK, a program aimed at under-represented youth to encourage them to consider the legal profession while still in their formative years.

Within the Young Lawyers Division, Spencer has come in and taken a leadership role within the Minority Focus Committee. She was in charge of this year's Youth Engagement Summit, helping high school seniors get college applications started, completed, and submitted. The pride she takes in every project she touches is reflected in their successes. The wonderful thing is, this is only the beginning for Attorney Spencer.

## Move Over Oprah

Durham attorney Carena Lemons said that Oprah Winfrey's departure from daily TV left a void, one she hopes to fill.

Lemons hosts a TV show, "It's Your Life" that airs Thursdays at 5 p.m. on RTN 10 in Raleigh. "The show deals with legal issues people deal with in their everyday lives such as consumer debt, bankruptcy, divorce and personal injuries," said Lemons. Her guests are typically professionals and attorneys who practice in those specific areas. "It's my job to use the show to help viewers feel empowered and confident to reach out for help."

Lemons is a graduate of NCCU School of Law and has 13 years of experience in private practice managing a wide array of cases. She now limits her practice to the areas of bankruptcy, entertainment, and employment law.

She said her experience handling a broad variety of cases and appearing in court gives her unique skills as an interviewer. "If a lawyer is a guest and they slip into jargon, because I'm a lawyer, I am able to help them clarify what they are saying so that it makes sense for our viewers," said Lemons. "I feel that the time I have spent in court as a lawyer gives me the ability to ask my guests deeper questions."

"It's Your Life" is now into its first season and has added a live audience. "I love the live audience experience, which we didn't have during the pilot. It makes our shows more interesting and interactive and engaging."

"Oprah helped reshape our culture by tackling issues that had never been discussed on TV, she gave a voice to issues such as domestic violence. She was truthful and people could rely on her," said Lemons. "I hope I can provide that voice."

*Originally printed in Attorney At Law Magazine*



# Your Attitude Determines Your Altitude: Ron Wotorson's Flight to the Top 40 Under 40

**R**onnie "Ron" Wotorson is a student of the law and comes from a family of trial lawyers and politicians. TRU Entertainment Magazine hailed him "A Champion for Justice." Prior to law school, Wotorson worked as a sales manager for many years in some of the nation's top corporations, managing multimillion dollar businesses but knew that corporate America was not where he was called to serve. Wotorson places a strong emphasis on public interest and always knew that he was meant to serve the community through the court room. "In companies, it's all about numbers, not about people. It's all about revenues and margins and there's no personal aspect to it... People matter." As the Principal at Wotorson Firm, LLP, he stands by those words, trading in the security of a job he was good at for a career he could be passionate about.







Upon leaving Corporate America, Wotorson enrolled at NCCU School of Law, determined to make a lasting mark on his life through education. Stepping out on a limb, he gave up a comfortable income and management role to serve as an assistant to professors and a tutor to his classmates. He interned in the District Court of Maryland and in the Maryland Attorney General's office. Ultimately, Wotorson graduated with honors in 2006 and at the top of his class. Following law school, he trained at the prestigious national law firm of Gary, Williams, Parenti, P.L. in Florida and has worked on cases with values ranging from thousands to billions of dollars.

In 2015 alone, the National Trial Lawyers Association named Wotorson on their list of Top 100 Trial Lawyers in the United States and the American Academy of Trial Attorneys named him a Top 100 Premier trial Lawyer in Georgia. This past year the National Bar Association placed him on their Top 40 Under

40 Nation's Best Advocates list of award recipients. This list sits on the pillars of innovation, vision, leadership, and legal and community involvement. The award was given out at the NBA's 90th Annual Convention in Los Angeles, CA.

Attorney Wotorson is just one of many notable alumni who are doing amazing things for the legal field. His work in the profession and the community serve as an inspiration to students both at NCCU School of Law and across the nation. Having accomplished so much at such a young age, it is evident that the sky is truly the limit. But then again, eagles always have soared higher and with more grace than any other creature so it is to be expected.



# Board of Visitors

**Honorable Wanda Bryant, Chair**, an Associate Judge on the North Carolina Court of Appeals, appointed in 2001 by Mike Easley and re-elected in 2012. Prior to being appointed to the Court of Appeals, Bryant was a Senior Deputy Attorney General. Bryant received her Juris Doctor from NCCU School of Law in 1982, and her undergraduate degree from Duke University. Bryant received her Juris Doctor from NCCU School of Law in 1982, and her undergraduate degree from Duke University.

**Leonard T. Jernigan Jr., Co-Chair**, is the owner and Senior Partner of The Jernigan Law Firm in Raleigh, NC, a highly experienced firm representing injured workers all over the state. Jernigan specializes in workers' compensation, and has been in practice as a workers' compensation attorney for over thirty years. Jernigan is a board certified specialist, and founder and past president of WILG, a national organization of workers' compensation lawyers, and currently serves on the Industrial Commission's Advisory Council. Jernigan is also an adjunct professor of Workers' Compensation Law at NCCU School of Law.

Jernigan received his Juris Doctor from NCCU School of Law in 1976, and his undergraduate degree from the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill.

**Atiba Adams** is the Vice President and Assistant General Counsel of Pfizer Inc., a multinational pharmaceutical corporation based in New York. Adams is Chief Counsel of Pfizer's Nutrition Business Unit, and previously served as the Assistant General Counsel, Senior Corporate Counsel, Corporate Counsel, and Assistant Corporate Counsel.

Adams received his Juris Doctor from NCCU School of Law in 1996, graduating Magna Cum Laude, and his undergraduate

degree from Millersville University of Pennsylvania.

**Honorable Ronald Barbee** began his practice of law in Greensboro, NC, and served as a Superior Court Judge – the second African-American to so serve in the history of the State of North Carolina. After retiring from the bench, Barbee returned to private practice. He presently and formerly served as a member of the NC Bar Association, the NC Academy of Trial Lawyers, the National Bar Association, the Greensboro Bar Association, the Association of Black Lawyers of Guilford County, the 18th Judicial Bar Association, and the Greensboro Criminal Defense Lawyers Association. Barbee has also presently and formerly held positions in the following organizations: NC Board of Conservation and Development, NC Board of Transportation, NC Board of Economic Development and Resources, Guilford County Mental Health Board, Criminal Code Commission, Legal Aid Society Board, Morehead Scholar Selection Committee, and is a member NCCU School of Law Board of Visitors. Barbee received his Juris Doctor from NCCU School of Law in 1970.

**Danielle Tuohey Bennett** is the Associate General Counsel for Duke Energy Progress (formerly Progress Energy), the largest electric power holding company in the United States.

Bennett received her Juris Doctor from NCCU School of Law in 1999, and her undergraduate degree from Duke University.

**Dorothy C. Bernholz** served as the director of the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill's Carolina Student Legal Services (retired June 30). Prior to serving as the director, Bernholz served as a staff attorney. Bernholz came up with the idea for CSLS, which provides legal advice, representation and referrals for students, after graduating from the law school. She received the Order of the Long Leaf Pine for her distinguished



legal service to the State of North Carolina in 2010.

Bernholz received her Juris Doctor from NCCU School of Law in 1975, and her undergraduate degree from the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill.

**Congressman G.K. Butterfield Jr.** is the U.S. Representative for North Carolina's first congressional district. Prior to being elected in 2004, he served as a Resident Superior Court judge, and as a state Supreme Court Justice. Rep. Butterfield serves on the House of Representatives' Subcommittee on Commerce, Manufacturing and Trade (Ranking Member) and the Subcommittee on Environment and Economy. Rep. Butterfield is also a member of the Congressional Black Caucus, International Conservation Caucus, and Congressional Motorcycle Safety Caucus. Rep. Butterfield received his Juris Doctor from NCCU School of Law in 1974.

**Jay Chaudhuri** is the General Counsel and Senior Policy Advisor to the State Treasurer of North Carolina. As Special Counsel, Chaudhuri develops major policy initiatives and provides counsel to the Attorney General on a wide variety of legal and policy issues, and represents the Attorney General on the Governor's Crime Commission and the State Advisory Board on Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention. Chaudhuri previously served as a clerk for the Honorable Linda M. McGee of the North Carolina Court of Appeals and served as legislative counsel to Roy Cooper, when he was State Senate Majority Leader.

Chaudhuri received his Juris Doctor from NCCU School of Law in 1999, and his undergraduate degree from Columbia University.

**Catherine Constantinou** practices in the Raleigh-Durham area at Constantinou Law Group, PA. Constantinou has been an organizing member of the Durham County Family Bar, aiding in the drafting of the current Family Bar Juvenile Rules, and serving twice as its co president. Constantinou received her Juris Doctor from NCCU School of Law in 1992, and her undergraduate degree from the University of North Carolina at Greensboro.

**Thomas Cuffie** is the founder of The Cuffie Law Firm in Atlanta, GA. Since founding the firm 1961, Cuffie has transformed his practice into a litigation boutique concentrating on wrongful death and catastrophic injury cases. Prior to practicing law, Cuffie joined the Uniform Division of the City of Atlanta Police Department, became an elected Atlanta city councilman in 1961, and served as an Associate City Attorney for the city of Atlanta. Cuffie has served as Corporate Counsel for the Georgia Funeral Service Practitioners Association since 1995, providing legal advice on a variety of issues ranging from amending the Constitution and Bylaws to interpreting various state laws that impact the industry, and is the Chief Executive Officer and Managing Attorney for Maceo's Kids Foundation. Cuffie is a member of the NCCU School of Law Board of Visitors and received his Juris Doctor from NCCU School of Law in 1978.

**Donna Douglas** works at the Office of the Chief Counsel, Internal Revenue Service in Washington, DC. Prior to her employment with the Office of Chief Counsel, Douglas specialized in the practice of business law in Asheville, NC.

Douglas received her Juris Doctor from NCCU School of Law in 1984.



**Eugene Ellison** is a sole practitioner in Asheville, NC, where 70% of his practice is devoted to litigation. Ellison was admitted to the North Carolina Bar and the U.S. District Court Western District in 1984, and received his Juris Doctor from NCCU School of Law in 1983. Ellison hosts an annual luncheon in Asheville to support the Harrell-McGlohon Scholarship Fund.

**Anthony Fox** is a partner at Parker Poe Adams & Bernstein, LLP in Charlotte, NC, where he concentrates his practice on advising municipalities, school boards, public sector clients, regulated industries, and corporate clients. Prior to joining the firm, Fox served as an Assistant City Attorney for the cities of Charlotte, Winston-Salem, and Wilmington, NC, as well as an attorney for the U.S. Department of the Navy. Fox received his Juris Doctor from NCCU School of Law in 1982.

**Chris Gaenzle** is the Chief Administrative Officer and General Counsel (and former General Counsel and Corporate Secretary) at INC Research, LLC, a clinical research organization in Raleigh, NC. Prior to joining INC, Gaenzle was Assistant General Counsel at Pfizer, Inc., and partner at Hunton & Williams. Gaenzle received his Juris Doctor from Syracuse University.

**Willie Gary** is the founder of The Gary Law Group in Stuart, FL. Gary earned his reputation as “The Giant Killer” by taking down some of America’s most well-known corporate giants on behalf of his clients, winning some of the largest jury awards and settlements in U.S. history. Gary has been featured in *Ebony* magazine as one of the “100 Most Influential Black Americans,” and *Forbes* magazine has listed him as one of the “Top 50 Attorneys in the U.S.” Gary received his Juris Doctor from NCCU School of Law in 1974.

**Jason Groves** is the Executive Vice President and General Counsel at Medifast, Inc. an American nutrition and weight loss company based in Owings Mills, MD. Prior to joining Medifast, Groves served as Assistant Vice President of Government Affairs for Verizon Maryland and was a direct commissioned Judge Advocate in the U.S. Army Judge Advocate Generals Corp (JAG). As a JAG Officer, he practiced

law and had the distinction of prosecuting criminal cases in the District Court of Maryland as a Special Assistant United States Attorney. Groves received his Juris Doctor from NCCU School of Law in 1996, and is the grandson of former Dean Harry Groves.

**Mark D. Locklear** is an Associate in the law firm of Locklear, Jacobs, Hunt & Brooks in Lumberton, NC. His practice areas include auto accidents, wrongful death, premise liability, workers’ compensation, social security disability, and traffic offenses. Locklear is a member of the NC State Bar Association, the NC Advocates for Justice, the Robeson County Bar Association and the NC Bar Association.

Locklear received his Juris Doctor from NCCU School of Law in 1993, and his undergraduate degree from Pembroke State University.

**Susie Powell** is a former contracts and trial practice professor at NCCU School of Law, and co-author of HBO’s award-winning documentary film, *The Loving Story*, which has also won a Peabody Award and received three Emmy Award nominations in 2012. The film is based on the story of Richard and Mildred Loving, an interracial couple who lived in Virginia in the 1950s, and their legal struggle to live as husband and wife. Powell practiced poverty law in North Carolina and Ohio, and sued the U.S. on behalf of poor people living in substandard federal housing soon after passing the Ohio bar. Powell received her Juris Doctor from Case Western Reserve in 1970 in the first wave of women law students and was one of two black women to graduate. Powell is a member of the NCCU School of Law Board of Visitors.

**Honorable Herbert L. Richardson Sr.** has one of the longest tenures of any current active member of the North Carolina judiciary, having served as a District Court judge since 1979, when he was appointed to the court by former Governor Jim Hunt. Prior to his appointment to the court, Richardson worked as an attorney in private practice in Durham, and served in the District Attorney’s Office.



Richardson received his Juris Doctor from NCCU School of Law in 1976, and his undergraduate degree from North Carolina Central University.

**Rick Richardson** is the VP and Associate General Counsel at GlaxoSmithKline, a research-based pharmaceutical company, in RTP, NC. Prior to joining GSK, Richardson was an Associate at Womble Carlyle Sandridge & Rice PLLC. Richardson is a Board and Executive Committee Member for Lawyers for Civil Justice, a board member for the Product Liability Advisory Council, and Chair of the Publications Committee for the NC Bar Association. Richardson received his Juris Doctor from the University of North Carolina, Chapel Hill School of Law.

**Honorable Milton Tingling Jr.** is a Justice of the New York County Supreme Court, Civil Term in the first Judicial District of New York. Before service as a judge, Tingling worked as a law assistant to Civil Court Judge Milton Richardson, a law secretary to acting Supreme Court and Court of Claims Judge Dennis Edwards, a sole practitioner in New York, and a court attorney for the Trial Part of the Civil Court. Tingling began his career on the bench in 1996, when he was appointed to the New York City Civil Court, and was elected to the Supreme Court in 2001. Tingling is a member of the NCCU School of Law Board of Visitors and received his Juris Doctor from NCCU School of Law in 1982.

**Gerald Walden** is the Senior Corporate Counsel at The Fresh Market, Inc., a chain of gourmet supermarkets based in Greensboro, NC, and also serves as an Adjunct Clinical Professor at NCCU School of Law. Prior to joining The Fresh Market, Walden was a law clerk at the NC Court of Appeals, and a manufacturing engineer at Siemens Automotive. Walden received his Juris Doctor from NCCU School of Law in 2001.

**Honorable Monte Watkins** is a criminal court judge for the Davidson County Criminal Court Division V of the Twentieth Judicial District in Nashville, TN. Prior to his appointment, he worked 19 years as a sole practitioner, focusing on criminal defense and probate law. Watkins is the current Chairman of the Character and Fitness Committee

of the Tennessee Board of Law Examiners, Treasurer of the Judicial Council of the National Bar Association, Past President and Life Member of the Napier-Looby Bar Association, and member of the NCCU School of Law Board of Visitors. Watkins received his Juris Doctor from NCCU School of Law in 1984.

**Lisa H. Wilks** is the Principal Legislative Analyst/Staff Attorney for the North Carolina General Assembly in the Bill Drafting Division, working closely with members and staff of the Senate, House of Representatives, and lobbyists in drafting legislation in the areas of Occupational Licensing, Family Law, Domestic Violence, Juvenile Law, and various areas in Health and Human Services.

Wilks received her Juris Doctor from NCCU School of Law in 1996, and her undergraduate degree from The College of William and Mary.

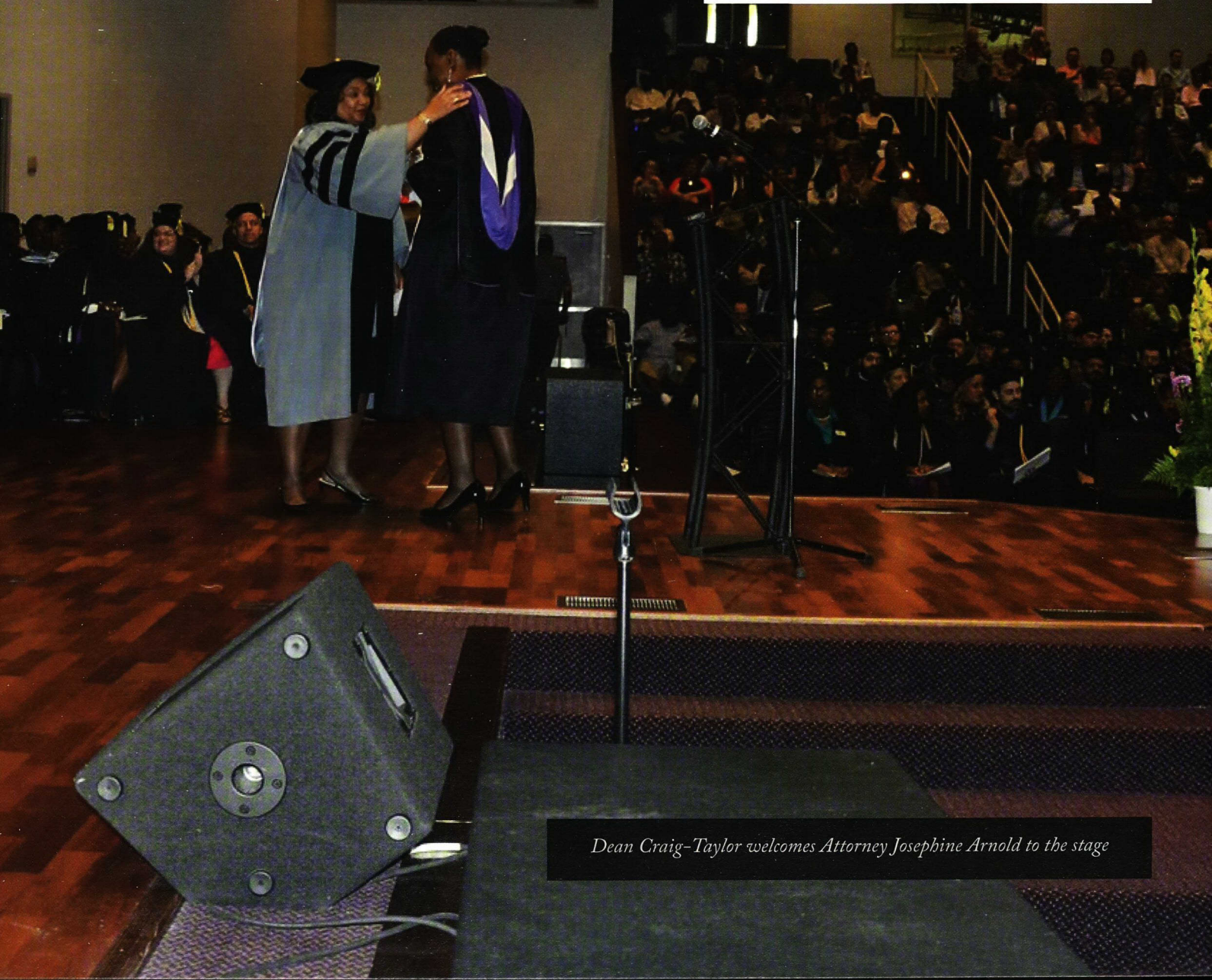
**Pamela Thorpe-Young** is the Director of External Affairs, Chancellor's Office, and former Chair of the NC Industrial Commission. As Chair, Young was the agency's chief executive officer and chief judicial officer. Prior to her 2003 appointment, Young served as Deputy Secretary and Legal Counsel for the NC Department of Cultural Resources, and as a Deputy Commissioner for the Industrial Commission. Currently, she serves as NCCU's Director of External Affairs.

Young received her Juris Doctor from NCCU School of Law in 1985, and her undergraduate degree from the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill.



## 2015 Commencement Ceremonies

The commencement ceremony for the Class of 2015 was held on May 12, 2015 at King's Park International Church in Durham. Josephine Arnold, Chief Counsel for the Minority Business Development Agency within the United States Department of Commerce, served as the keynote speaker. Arnold, having previously served as a Senior Attorney with the National Telecommunications and Information Administration, offered words of encouragement for the new graduates.



*Dean Craig-Taylor welcomes Attorney Josephine Arnold to the stage*







# ..... Alumni Giving .....

## \$10,000-more

John D. Fassett  
Greensboro Barristers Wives  
Smith/Shaver Law School  
Scholarship Fund, Inc.  
Tonja Roberts '93  
Donna Douglas '84  
Leonard Jernigan, Jr. '76

## \$9,999-\$5,000

1st Atlantic Surety Company  
John Burris & Cheryl E. Amana  
Danielle Bennett '99  
Sammie Chess Jr. '58  
Phyllis Craig-Taylor  
Ralph K. Frasier Sr. '65  
Willie Gary Esquire '74  
Marvin Genzer  
Jackson Lewis LLP  
Leroy Johnson '57  
Clayton Jones Jr. '03  
Julian T. Pierce Memorial  
Initiative  
Jessica Major '09  
Mary Stevenson '75  
Milton Tingling '82  
Monte Watkins '84

## \$4,999-\$2,500

F. Fraylon Wilson  
James D. Williams Jr. '79

Michael R. Coates  
Irving Joyner

## \$2,499-\$1,000

Henry Campen Jr. '86  
John Carter Jr. '79  
Bert Collins '70  
M. Elizabeth Collins '05  
Jabari Craddock '12  
Thomas Cuffie '78  
Ronald Douglas '82  
Eugene Ellison '83  
Anthony Fox '82  
Nathan Garrett '86  
Angela Gilmore  
Samuel Goren '75  
David Green  
Paul L. Jones '74  
Arnold Locklear '73  
Mark Locklear '96  
James Mack '69  
LaToya Merritt '00  
Theodore Meyers  
Joseph Mitchiner '76  
Mark Morris '82  
Carolyn O'Garro-Moore '87  
Jane Pearce '98  
Marshall Pitts Jr. '90  
Page Potter  
Karen L. Prus '95  
Maurice Smith '05  
Frank Turner '73

Kia Vernon '00  
James M. Webb '77  
Lisa Wilks '96  
Ronnie Wotorson '06  
Mary Wright  
Pamela Thorpe Young '85

## \$999-\$500

Kelvin Atkinson '03  
Nathan Baskerville '06  
Randall Best, M.D. '08  
Renee Bowser '82  
Larry Brown Jr. '08  
Lawrence Campbell '84  
Carolina Academic Press  
Ertle Chavis '73  
Chesnutt, Clemmons & Peacock,  
P.A.  
CJM Foundation  
J. Carlton Cole '87  
Jason Crump '97  
Harry Daniels '10  
William Dudley Sr. '76  
Jeffrey Edwards  
Farris and Farris, P.A.  
Henry Frye Sr. '59  
Sonny Haynes '10  
Kimball Hunt '74  
William Hunter '76  
Wilton Hyman '92  
Andrew Izod  
Kaye Jackson '73

James Lamb IV '86  
Lawyers Mutual Liability  
Insurance  
Angela McIver '01  
Mechanics and Farmers Bank  
Adrienne Meddock '91  
Constance Milstein '77  
Carlton Moss Jr. '98  
Nichelle Perry '93  
Timothy Peterkin '04  
Elizabeth Peterson '87  
Samuel Rhoades '73  
Anitra Royster '02  
Joseph Seagle '96  
Michael Smith '80  
Elizabeth Stephenson '00  
Erogers Stinson '72  
Richard Strowd '81  
Julia Taylor  
Tharrington Smith LLP  
Tonnie Villines '88  
Priscilla Wallace

## \$499-\$100

William Acton Jr. '77  
Sonya Allen '99  
Wanda Allen-Abraham '95  
Pearla Alston '04  
Edward Anderson Sr. '76  
Anonymous  
Nita Asher '06  
Debbie Baker '84



Camille Banks-Payne '01	Kamaria Davis '09	Carol Goins '89	Lisa Kosir '07
Shelly Bao '06	April Dawson	Iris Green '01	Shelia Lambert
Michael Barnes '98	Alexander Dawson '85	Nichole Greene '06	Lydia Lavelle '93
Ulysses Bell '76	Dale Deese '89	John Haggerty '13	L. Brent Lawrence '76
Voneka Bennett '03	Ernest Dessausure '96	David Hands '02	Randolph Lee '99
Dorothy Bernholz '75	Emily Dickens '02	Pauline Hankins '94	Latrice McDowell Lee '12
Morris Billingslea '74	T. Greg Doucette '12	Arlene Hanks '96	Jennifer Lee '01
Victor Boone '75	Walter Dukes '89	R. K. Harrell '96	Nicole Leonard '00
William Bowie III '85	Melinda Dula '88	Anthony Harris '82	Ulysses Leverett '80
Tonya Boykin '04	Durham County Public Schools	Terrance Harrison	Ola Lewis '90
Daniel Britt '12	Anita Earls	Susan Hauser	Tanisha Locke '07
Melissa Bromley	A. Root Edmonson '76	Janelle Headen	John Logsdon '95
Eugene Brown '07	Bethaney Embry '08	Chris Heagarty '10	Avery Lowery-Crump '97
Saprina Brown-Taylor '99	Jay Evans '09	Tracy Hewett '04	Dennis Martin '93
Lynn Burke '10	James Faison III '87	E. Ann Hill '84	Frances McDuffie '13
Sandy Burney '08	Linda Falls '87	Bernard Hollowell Jr. '79	W. David McFadyen Jr. '79
Dominique Camm '09	Frederick (Rick) Fleming '01	Charles Holmes '75	Joy McIver
Marjorie Canaday '88	William Foley III '89	Manus E. Holmes '90	Detrece McMillon '85
Arien Cannon '11	Jeanne Ford '98	Shelia Holmes '92	Lawrence McPhail '11
Janelle Carter '07	Patricia Ford '89	Rosalyn Hood '07	Joyce Michaux '76
Zshakira Carthens '11	Steven Ford	Donnie Hoover '74	Reginald Mombrun '88
William Christy '89	Ira Foster '88	Frederick Hutchinson	Lisa Morgan
Kinna N. Clark '14	Richard Foster '73	Olivia Hyatt Rembach '08	Nelwyn Mpare '80
Theasues Clayton '58	Constance Foster '92	Kelvin Jacobs '13	Deedee Nachman '96
Gregory Clinton	Christina Freeman	Diane Jacoby '88	Tin Nguyen '06
D. Randall Cloninger '88	Donald Ray George '05	Craig James '96	Tammy Nicholson '99
Blair Cody III '00	Brenda Gibson '95	William P. Janvier '92	Joel N. Oakley '86
Kimberly Cogdell Boies	Iris Gilchrist	Deborah Jefferies '76	Susan Olive
Harold Cogdell Jr. '96	Beryl Sansom Gilmore '70	Elizabeth Ann H. Jefferson	Nina Olson '91
James Coile '02	Pamela Glean '80	Martin Kaplan '97	Henry Oxendine '73
Krishnee Coley '00	Walter Godwin Jr. '77	Leonard Kelley '74	Rodney Oxendine '98
Dale Davis '04	Philip Godwin Jr. '78	Eleanor Kinnaird '92	Regina Parker '92



John Parker Jr. '08  
 Phillip Parker Jr. '10  
 Christina Pearsall '98  
 Christopher Peffley '04  
 Andrew Peterson '03  
 D. Cole Phelps '13  
 Steven Phillips '93  
 D. Toni Pinkston '04  
 Robert Potter '73  
 Eric Pridgen '03  
 George Pruden II '81  
 Valerie Quiett '95  
 Debra Quigley '89  
 Paul Quinn '90  
 Robert Raynor Jr. '81  
 Stephen Redmon '87  
 Eula Reid '97  
 Shannon Reid '06  
 Keith Roberson '12  
 Brandon Robinson '13  
 Franklin Robinson Jr. '93  
 Jimmonique Rodgers '96  
 Ciara Rogers '09  
 Stephen Russell '76  
 David Sherrill '01  
 Thomas Shuford Jr. '73  
 Geoffrey Simmons  
 Raymond Sitar '72  
 Aisha Slade '10  
 Kenneth Snow '00  
 Matthew Sperati '99  
 Clifton Stancil '05  
 Melissa Stegman '08  
 Matthew Sullivan '06  
 The Cotton Law Firm, PLLC  
 Valeria Bland Thomas '79  
 Pamela Thombs '99  
 Diane Tilley '96  
 Patricia Timmons-Goodson

Aija Tingling '05  
 Frank Toliver  
 Ann Toney '83  
 Sharon Turner '95  
 Stephen Valentine '09  
 Glenn Veit '88  
 Gerald Walden '01  
 Gwendolyn Walker '96  
 R. Brent Walker '99  
 Judith Washington '77  
 Natalie Watson '01  
 Debbie Weaver  
 Marion Weaver Jr. '74  
 J. Seth Whipper '84  
 Frank White '92  
 Leslie Wickham Jr. '83  
 Fred Williams  
 Syrena Williams '06  
 Michael Willis '81  
 Stephen Woodard Jr. '76  
 Keisha Wright Hill '02  
 W. Trent Ragland, Jr. Foundation  
 Stanley Young '84

## Under \$100

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 Bank of America  
 Sharon Tracey Barrett  
 Selece Beasley '91  
 Linda Bell '03  
 Kristen Bell-Thompson '07  
 Staris Best  
 Heather Blair  
 Carolyn Boone '01  
 M. Scott Boyles '91  
 Percel H. Brown '96  
 Sandra Brown Bechtold  
 Amanda Bryant-Friedrich  
 Carissa Burroughs

Michelle Burt '08  
 Dilcy Burton '99  
 Michael A. Bush '00  
 Capital Community Foundation  
 Carol Chestnut  
 Christin Cotten '11  
 Yiioshi DeBerry  
 Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Inc.  
 William Dudley Jr. '08  
 Florence DuPavevich '06  
 Bartina Edwards '04  
 LeRoy Etheridge '84  
 Ezech Law Firm, LLC  
 Arminta Foushee  
 Steven Fowler '99  
 Catherine Frederick '13  
 Geoffrey Gledhill '75  
 Thomas Goddard '03  
 Denaa Griffin '13  
 Blake Hamlin '11  
 Elsa Hampton '98  
 Teresa Hardison '07  
 Oneshia Herring '10  
 Trasha N. Hickman '02  
 Sonja Hole '85  
 Jaimey Howard '14  
 Paul Jackson  
 Lisa Johnson  
 Lisa Johnson-Tonkins '03  
 Emma Kinyanjui '03  
 Lisa Kirscht '98  
 Stacy Lee '09  
 Stanley Lee II '09  
 Andrea Leslie-Fite '07  
 William Lloyd '87  
 Michael Lockridge '02  
 Catherine Mader '11  
 Shawnda Martin '15  
 Jo Ann McCants '90

Andre McDavid '12  
 Paula McGrann '01  
 Thomasine E. Moore '74  
 Victor Motley '81  
 William Moultrie '14  
 Michael Mulvey '16  
 Thomas Neagle '02  
 Michelle Newkirk  
 Douglas Okorocha '08  
 Michael Onufer '13  
 Natalee Ott '15  
 Janice Joyner Panza '86  
 Dean Phelps '11  
 Melanie Phelps '00  
 Harold Pope '83  
 Cynthia Putnam '08  
 Jody Putnam  
 Takeisha Redd '03  
 Terriss R. Richardson '10  
 P. Demond Richardson '99  
 Thomas Ringer Jr.  
 Frances Shabazz '98  
 Michael Shay '05  
 Keith Smith '01  
 Archie Smith III '76  
 Thomas Snell '03  
 Deyaska Spencer '13  
 Stanley Sprague '74  
 Justin Sutton '14  
 Lisa Szyz '09  
 Donna Taylor '00  
 Veronica Taylor  
 Leah Thompson '07  
 Kristina Thompson '08  
 Julie Tucker '04  
 Stephen Walker '06  
 Debby Willis '86  
 Kaleb Wingate '14  
 Trish Wray '07  
 Tamela Young '94



# Alumni News

**Melanie Bates '11** was selected for the 2015 National Black Lawyers – Top 100, an honorary invitation-only organization comprised of many attorneys who take a leadership role within the legal field.

**David S. Brannon '90** has released his third book, ... an ALIEN SATELLITE is scanning the Earth.

**Lyle Burnham '12** has recently accepted a position as a Regional Traffic Safety Resource Prosecutor with the North Carolina Conference of District Attorneys.

**Tiffany G. Cox '13** was appointed as a Magistrate in Wake County in April of 2015.

**Ira Foster '88** was named the recipient of the State Bar of Georgia Dan Bradley Award.

**Willie E. Gary '74** set a world record this year by winning the largest award in history in an over \$23 Billion victory over R.J. Reynolds Tobacco Company.

**Tina Herbert '00**, who now serves as the Director of the Office of Business Opportunities for the City of Columbia, SC, also had the distinction

of recently serving as the President of the SC Bar Young Lawyers Division and was recognized recently as the SC Bar Young Lawyer of the Year.

**Simone Hylton '08** was recently promoted to Senior Assistant District Attorney and currently handles homicide cases and serious injury by motor vehicle cases.

**Kelvin Jacobs '13** was appointed as the Assistant General Counsel of UNC-Pembroke.

**Dot Killiam '87** recently retired as Assistant General Counsel of the South Carolina Department of Social Services. Attorney Killian was responsible for all contract and full time attorneys in the 46 counties, three regional attorneys, a legal performance coach, and a new beginner lawyer program, which she developed in 2012-13. In February 2015, Dot reopened her private practice in Fort Mill, South Carolina, and in April 2015, she graduated from Union Presbyterian Seminary, Charlotte, N.C. with a Master of Divinity degree.

**Steven Parker '05** has recently been promoted to Senior Claims Counsel within Fidelity National Title Group. In addition, he was installed as the new Chair of the American Bar

Association Title Insurance Litigation Committee.

**Jeneé Peace '14** received the Outstanding Law Student Service Award from the North Carolina Bar Association Law-Related Education Committee for her leadership of the Lawyers 4 Literacy program at W.G. Pearson Elementary School.

**Kayla N. Price '14** joined Hatcher Legal, PLLC as an associate attorney in May of 2015.

**The Honorable Terri Woodward Sharp '00** won the 2014 election to her seat as the Clerk of Superior Court for Craven County after having been appointed to the position in 2012 and doing an outstanding job in it.

**Rob Sharpe '97** has been appointed to serve as the Capital Defender for North Carolina.

**Mike Silver '07** was appointed to the role of deputy commissioner within the North Carolina Industrial Commission in August of 2015.

**Michael Smith '80** was appointed Senior Deputy General Manager for Hartsfield-Jackson Atlanta International Airport in May 2015. Ironically, the airport bears the name of





## NCCU School of Law in Country's Top Five for Clinical Experience

North Carolina Central University School of Law was ranked fifth in the nation by National Jurist magazine for the high percentage of students who acquire hands-on legal experience before graduation.

The report, published in the winter 2014 edition of preLaw Journal, shows that 50.1 percent of NCCU's 480 law students participated clinics in the 2013 academic year. NCCU was the only North Carolina school to rank in the top 20 for student exposure to clinical experience.

"Central has been ahead its time when it comes to giving students clinical experience," said Pam Glean, assistant dean for Clinical and Professional Skills at NCCU.

"Traditionally, many of our students have gone to work as solo practitioners rather than joining established law firms, so we have had a mission to produce practice-ready lawyers."

former Mayor Maynard Holbrook Jackson, also an alumnus of NCCU law school.

**The Honorable A. Leon Stanback '68** was recognized this past year on three occasions, first as the Man of the Year Community Service Award by the AME Church's Western Conference of N.C., secondly receiving a Special Award for Community Service from Dickerson Chapel AME Church, and lastly receiving a Special Community Service Award from Cains Chapel Baptist Church.

**Ronald Williams II '14** was appointed to the position of Assistant Attorney General within the North Carolina Department of Justice.



# ..... Alumni Receptions .....

With the gracious assistance of alumni, the North Carolina Central School of Law hosted the following receptions this year:

**The Atlanta Alumni Reception**, hosted by Senator Leroy Johnson '57, was held at his home on April 1, 2015.



**The Asheville Alumni Reception**, hosted by Eugene Ellison '83, was held at the Omni Grove Park Inn on June 18, 2015.



**The Charlotte Alumni Reception** was held on February 12, 2015 in conjunction with North Carolina Central University.

**The Durham Alumni Reception**, hosted by T. Gregg Doucette '12 and Catherine Constantinou '92, was held at the Alizarin Art Gallery on March 12, 2015.



**The Elizabeth City Alumni Reception**, hosted by the Honorable J. Carlton Cole '87 and D. Cole Phelps, was held at the Island Breeze Grill on May 13, 2015.





**The Fayetteville Alumni Reception**, hosted by Adams, Burge & Boughman and The Charleston Group Lawyers, was held at his home on December 4, 2014.

**The Greensboro Alumni Reception**, hosted by Marcus Shields '11 and Charlene Armstrong '96, was held at Stumble Stilskins on October 15, 2014.

**The Lumberton Alumni Reception** was held at Adeho's Restaurant on December 4, 2014.

**The New Bern Alumni Reception**, hosted by Ciara L. Rogers '09, was held at Oliver, Friesen, Cheek PLLC on April 28, 2015.



**The Raleigh Alumni Reception**, hosted by Leonard Jernigan '76, Victor Boone '75, and A. Root Edmonson '76, was held at his home on April 15, 2015.



**The Richmond Alumni Reception**, hosted by Tonnie Villines '88, was held at Tobacco Co. Restaurant on May 15, 2015.



**The Washington, D.C. Alumni Reception**, hosted by Stephen Redmon '87, was held at the 1331 Lounge & Bar of the J.W. Marriott on April 20, 2015.





## Why Should I Include North Carolina Central University School of Law In My Will?

*That's a pretty big question. As more and more of us are learning to practice estate planning, this is a crucial question for thoughtful donors to consider. Consider these reasons for including North Carolina Central University School of Law in your will.*

**1. It's a matter of values.** Your will is your "testament" – a testimony concerning the persons and causes important to you. When we remember a particular organization in our will, it is a powerful statement that this is something we believe in. Conversely, omitting the organization from our estate plan suggests it really wasn't an important part of our lives.

**2. It's a matter of timing.** Many gifts just can't be given during our lifetime because we still require the asset for our own use. Giving through our will enables us to give to North Carolina Central University School of Law, when we no longer have need of the gift. This often enables us to make a more substantial gift than we ever could during our lifetime.

**3. It's a matter of giving back.** Because we believe that North Carolina Central University School of Law will serve and represent those in need for another 100 years, we believe that giving to NCCU School of Law through our will is a way to provide for on-going sustainability long after we're gone. This is an outstanding way to provide endowments for future professorships and scholarships for students in need at NCCU School of Law.

**Still have questions?** We'll be glad to help you find answers. Just complete and return the response form below.

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Phone \_\_\_\_\_

Email \_\_\_\_\_

☐ I have remembered NCCU School of Law in my will.

☐ Please send me more information about charitable bequests through my will.

☐ I would like to discuss this with the Estate Planning Advisor for NCCU School of Law.



SCHOOL OF  
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North Carolina Central University, School of Law  
640 Nelson Street Durham, NC 27707  
Phone: (919) 530-5248 Website: law.nccu.edu



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