



## Building on the Legacy

*Producing Practice-Ready Attorneys*

Stories from the Practice Front: Civil, Criminal, Bankruptcy, Tax, and Dispute Resolution

Our Students at the Supreme Court

First Legal Eagle Commencement Reunion

*of Counsel* is a magazine for alumni and friends of North Carolina Central University School of Law.

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# *of*COUNSEL Table of Contents



## Readings and Features

- 04 Letter from the Dean
- 05 Practice-Ready Attorneys
- 12 Susie Ruth Powell and “The Loving Story”
- 13 John Britton, Charles Hamilton Houston Chair
- 13 Foreclosure Grant

## At School Now

- 16 Supreme Court Trip
- 18 Most Popular US News & World Report
- 18 PILO Auction
- 20 Graduation

## Alumni Events

- 22 Dean’s Welcome Reception
- 22 Alumni Receptions
- 24 First Legal Eagle Commencement Reunion

## Also In This Issue

- 15 Faculty Spotlights
- 25 Alumni News
- 28 Donor List

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# Letter from the Dean

Dear Alumni:

As I complete my first year as Dean of your law school, I want to thank you for the tremendous support and the well wishes that you have shared with me as I endeavor to follow in a tradition of great service to our students. I am truly honored to be the Dean of North Carolina Central University School of Law and have the opportunity to be part of building on the great legacy that defines our school. My first year has been a year of immense accomplishment, change, and opportunities.



*Dean Phyliss Craig-Taylor*

In January, we were privileged to receive an \$800,000 grant to provide critical foreclosure assistance to individuals across North Carolina. The funds were provided by the N.C. Housing Finance Agency and originated from a landmark national mortgage settlement with the country's five largest loan servicers. This is indeed a great accomplishment that will enable us to provide critical legal services to our surrounding communities. In March, U.S. News & World Report ranked NCCU School of Law the sixth most popular law school in the nation. The most popular ranking is based on the percentage of accepted applicants that enroll. In addition, your law school also ranked number four in clinical opportunities and was lauded as one of the most diverse law schools.

This year, we welcomed three new members to our administrative staff. Donald R. Corbett, an award-winning professor, now serves as Associate Dean for Academic Affairs and teaches in the areas of Torts, Advanced Torts, and Critical Race Theory. Our new Associate Dean for Finance and Administration is Frank Toliver Jr. Prior to joining the law school, he served as Vice President for Business and Finance at The Charlotte School of Law and has held senior financial positions in other institutions of higher education. Laura Shepherd Brooks is our new Associate Dean of Student Services. Prior to joining NCCU School of Law, she served as a Director of Academic Affairs at New York Law School and Assistant Secretary to the New Jersey Board of Bar Examiners.

Finally, I want to share with you the tremendous opportunity we have to impact our greatest asset, our students. We are currently enhancing our bar exam preparatory program to achieve record breaking bar passage numbers by the year 2016. This year, Kelly Burgess '06 joined us as our Director of Bar Preparation. In this capacity, Attorney Burgess is working with our students beginning in the 1L year to prepare them to pass the bar. In addition, we are enhancing our curriculum to support bar exam success.

Thank you for helping to make my first year as Dean a year of great achievement.

In Truth and Service,



Phyliss Craig-Taylor  
Dean and Professor of Law

## Readings & Features

# Practice-Ready Attorneys

### Willie E. Gary (Civil)

Willie Gary chose the law instead of armed resistance to the racism he endured growing up in the 1950s South. Although he has achieved the pinnacle of success as head of his own national firm of Gary, Williams, Finney, Lewis, Watson &



*Willie E. Gary '74, The Gary Law Group, Civil Litigation*

Sperando, P.L., Gary is no less passionate about the fight for justice today than he ever was, regardless of the race of the injured party. "I fight for their rights, to stop suffering, and to bring major corporations down to their knees when they're caught doing wrong," said Gary.

His firm litigates civil cases in 45 states and has earned numerous multi-million dollar settlements — none more spectacular than Gary's \$500 million verdict in *O'Keefe v. Loewen*. The Loewen Group was the second-largest funeral home corporation in North America until it was found to have engaged in predatory business practices against local businessman Jeremiah O'Keefe of Biloxi, Mississippi. The Loewen Group had the opportunity to settle for \$5 million, but the company chose to contest the case against O'Keefe in a Jackson court, with Gary serving as opposing counsel.

In reference to his media venture, the Black Family Channel, which has been fraught with public discord between Gary and some of his high-profile partners, Gary acknowledged the error in thinking "that because you're good at law, you're good

at everything else.” He said, “To go into the TV business was probably the worst decision I ever made.... I am a lawyer, a trial lawyer. I was born to try cases.”

In that arena, Gary is as busy as ever. His office serves 1,000 clients and fields up to 1,300 calls a day, many of them seeking Gary’s personal attention. His days are full interacting with plaintiffs and staff, and traveling. “It’s Savannah today, mediation in Houston later this week, Phoenix for another mediation, and a trial in Jacksonville, Florida.”

When asked for a final comment, he answered, “I’m Willie Gary, sharecropper’s son. I went to NCCU School of Law and look at me now. I have lawyers working for me from Harvard, Yale, and Princeton, and who signs their paychecks?”

### Gray Ellis (Civil)

Gray Ellis’ goal was always to become a family lawyer. He wanted to help families cope with crises that were often the worst times in their lives, in whatever way best protected the children. He worked briefly as an attendant at a mental health facility and then as a juvenile court counselor prior to enrolling at NCCU School of Law. With his law degree in hand, Ellis began a family law practice that has earned him recognition as a rising star in the field. He attributes his success to his ability to keep above the emotional fray that attends family



*Gray Ellis '01, Founder, Ellis Family Law*

law cases. “It’s high drama from morning till night,” said Ellis. “The real key to survive is to be ready for anything, anticipate everything, and shut it off at 5:00 p.m.” He contrasts his calm professionalism with the tendency of some attorneys to identify with their clients’ positions, and yell and scream at opposing counsel. “You can’t do that,” said Ellis. “It shouldn’t be personal to us. When you lose that distance, you can’t give the best advice.”

It is the breadth of his experiences that surprises Ellis. When he began practicing, he thought he would work primarily in the background, in the role of mediator. While he does engage in mediation, he is making a name for himself as a litigator. Ellis was lead counsel in a case presented to the North Carolina Court of Appeals that resulted in a new interpretation of divorce law. Until Ellis’ appeal, divorcing couples had to wait until one of the pair had vacated the matrimonial home before a pronouncement could be made regarding the initial custody and support of children. Now, that determination can be made in advance of the legal separation, ensuring greater certainty and a smoother transition for the children. Ellis is currently pursuing a similar precedent regarding the “bed and board” provision of divorce law that would enable one spouse to force out the spouse who has committed marital misconduct but refuses to leave.

Given his even temperament and penchant for scholarly work, everyone should watch out for this soaring Eagle. Ellis may someday grace the bench or a classroom podium.

### Glenn Adams (Criminal)

As a senior partner in a law firm in one of Fayetteville’s leading law firms, Glenn Adams is expected to assume a leadership role in the community. As an African-American senior partner, that responsibility is magnified tenfold. Adams understands and accepts the mantle of service. He was inspired to study law by the presence of Judge Arthur Lane, a Black civil rights attorney living in his neighborhood when he was growing up.



*Glenn Adams '84, Senior Partner, Adams, Burge & Boughman, PLLC, Criminal Law*

In part, this is why it was important to Adams to manage his own practice. He said, “I always thought there should be a firm in which African-Americans were up front as an example and role model.” Adams is called upon to represent his community by politicians and colleagues in the legal profession, and asked for advice and counsel on almost any subject by fellow African-Americans.

There is a downside. “You’re always on,” said Adams. “Black lawyers are always on duty. Other attorneys don’t get that.”

Adams represents defendants in criminal, juvenile, and traffic court. His busy days begin with staff and client meetings before court at 9:00 a.m. Often, there are negotiations with district attorneys until the mid-afternoon, and then it’s back to the office for a wrap-up with staff on case progress, and more meetings with clients. Evenings are spent participating in community meetings or events. Former Governor Jim Hunt recognized Adams’ unselfish commitment to service with the award of the Order of the Long Leaf Pine in 1998.

Now and in the future, Adams intends to focus more of his attention on the needs of young black lawyers. He organizes monthly forums to teach them about the business and operational side of the practice, and also to dispel courtroom myths. He is attempting to re-create something akin to the meetings of the North Carolina Black Lawyers Association

that he attended when he was just starting out. “You got to meet the Chamberses, the Bectons, and the Timmons-Goodsons of the world,” said Adams. “Those face-to-face meetings were monumentally helpful to me.”

### James D. “Butch” Williams (Criminal)

When the call went out to the School of Law alumni to suggest who should receive recognition as one of the top practicing attorney in their ranks, the answer came back resoundingly in favor of choosing James D. “Butch” Williams.

Williams seemed destined for greatness early on. As a third-year law student, when he had trouble reaching Attorney Kenneth Spaulding to request an internship, Williams waited for hours to speak with the senior partner as he left his office one evening. Spaulding agreed to take him on, saying, “Anyone who was that drive deserved the placement.”



*James D. “Butch” Williams '79, Senior Partner, The Law Offices of James D. Williams Jr., Criminal Law*

With his law degree in hand, Williams was immediately admitted to the bar, and then the U.S. Marine Corps as an infantry officer and judge advocate. When his tour ended, Spaulding welcomed him back as an associate. “Within one year, I made him a partner,” said Spaulding. “That’s how good he was.”

Williams remained with Spaulding for 10 years and opened his own practice in criminal, sports, and entertainment law in 1996. He was one of the defense attorneys in the Duke lacrosse, Michael Vick, and Wesley Snipes cases, and he has represented numerous NFL and NBA draft picks and Pro Bowl players. Despite a recent illness, Williams was engaged in the NFL draft again this year.

“As much as he is a great lawyer, he’s even a greater person,” said Lowell Siler ’79, classmate, friend, and former colleague. “It’s remarkable how much free legal services he has provided to NCCU students and to so many others who needed his help.” Siler attributes Williams’ success to this generous spirit, his striving for perfection, and his impeccable honesty and integrity. “Young lawyers may think that the way to success is to be slick, fast, and loose with the truth,” said Siler, “but the way Butch did it was the right way — by being totally honest.”

While classmate and NCCU School of Law Assistant Dean Pamela Glean ’79 appreciates Williams’ nearly 20 years of service as an adjunct professor, she claims his greatest accomplishment to date is his recovery, “Now, he’s tackling his illness just like everything else in his life — full steam ahead.”

### Ciara L. Rogers (Bankruptcy)

As a child, Ciara Rogers wanted to be a doctor; that is, until she learned that doctors have to give shots and look at blood. At that point, Rogers quickly moved to the next profession on her list and decided to become a lawyer.

Rogers came to NCCU School of Law with the intention to study small business law until she took a class with Associate Professor Susan Hauser. Hauser’s passion for bankruptcy changed the direction of Rogers’ career. “Bankruptcy touches on every other aspect of the law and it never gets boring,” said Rogers.

Shortly after graduation, Rogers clerked for Bankruptcy Court Judges J. Rich Leonard and Randy Doub, and was subsequently invited to join the law firm of Oliver Friesen Cheek PLLC, in New Bern, North Carolina. “Our cases don’t

fit the stereotype of people who’ve run up their credit card debt frivolously,” said Rogers.

With the onset of the subprime mortgage crisis, Rogers’ clients include commercial and residential builders and building supply company owners, couples undergoing divorce, retirees who lost the corpus of their retirement fund, and those with serious medical conditions who lost their health insurance when they lost their jobs. Rogers knows that people find themselves in need of bankruptcy relief for all kinds of reasons. “Many clients have been brought to bankruptcy despite their best efforts,” said Rogers. “It’s humbling, but also inspiring when I can help turn things around for people.”

Rogers warns that the next crisis is around the corner, and it is student loan debt, adding, “It’s very difficult to discharge student loans.” CNBC reported that delinquency in student loan payments surpassed that of credit card debt for the first time in the third quarter of 2012. A menacing combination of high debt and failure to earn the degree, particularly among students who attended for-profit colleges, is directly contributing to high nonpayment rates. According to the U.S. Department of Education, students attending for-profit colleges have double the default rate of students who attended public universities. “Student loan default is the next housing bubble, and now is the time to prepare for it,” said Rogers.



*Ciara L. Rogers '09, Associate, Oliver Friesen Cheek PLLC, Bankruptcy Law*

### Diana Santos Johnson (Bankruptcy)

“I didn’t come from a family of lawyers, so I didn’t really know what one did,” said Diana Santos Johnson. It was not until an internship at the Land Loss Prevention Project that she learned how she could help people as a lawyer by using the law to preserve property that had been in families for generations. She found it so rewarding, she returned to Land Loss after graduation from NCCU School of Law. As an attorney there, she learned how bankruptcy laws — particularly Chapter 12 — can assist farmers to restructure their debt and avoid the loss of their family farms.



*Diana Santos Johnson '09, Legal Aid of North Carolina, Inc., Bankruptcy Law*

The experience at Land Loss inspired Johnson’s interest and current work in foreclosure prevention and defense at Legal Aid of North Carolina, Inc. “Our clients are right on the cusp of losing their homes,” said Johnson. She spends most of her days on the phone with banks to arrange loan modifications, in court representing homeowners at foreclosure hearings, or evaluating them for bankruptcy with the ultimate goal of saving their home. Johnson finds foreclosure prevention work satisfying because it results in “more success and happier clients” than she encounters with some of the other cases she pursues.

In addition to mortgage foreclosure and bankruptcy work, Johnson also handles other civil cases involving unemployment

insurance benefits, public benefits, and housing matters for clients who may not have knowledge or understanding of their rights in these areas. “As long as the economy is in crisis,” said Johnson, “there are many more people who qualify for our services than we can begin to assist.”

In 2007, the Raleigh *News & Observer* stated that for every client served, eight were turned away, and that was before the foreclosure crisis. “We accept cases according to a triage system of guidelines and cannot help everyone who qualifies for our services,” said Johnson. “Most people don’t realize that there’s no guarantee of legal services for civil matters. You have no right to an attorney to help you save your home.”

### Nina E. Olson (Tax)

Nina Olson began her professional career as an artist, and she plans to return one day to designing textiles and clothing. For now, she serves at the pleasure of the Secretary of the Treasury. As the National Taxpayer Advocate, she is the lone voice at the IRS speaking on behalf of the American taxpayer in her testimony and twice-yearly report to Congress. In the Annual Report of December 2012, Olson railed against the 4-million-word tax code, and decried Congress’s propensity to cut the only unit of government that returns seven dollars for every dollar invested. She told Congress that underfunding the IRS also cripples responsiveness to the taxpayer who may have been the victim of identity theft or a mistaken assessment, increasing cynicism and decreasing compliance.

The journey from starving artist to head of a government unit of 2,200 employees began with that byzantine tax code. Olson learned to navigate the tax return as a self-employed artist, and became the go-to person for tax assistance in her artistic community. That facility turned into a small business in tax preparation. She enrolled in law school to gain a greater understanding of the code, and she chose NCCU for the flexibility of our evening program. “The Law School at NCCU really did make it possible for a single parent to go to law school,” said Olson. “It was hard and long, but it was the only way I could have become a lawyer.”



*Nina E. Olson '91, National Taxpayer Advocate, Tax Law*

Rather than hold the tax return until the deadline, Hamilton conducts a continuous audit for Wal-Mart Stores in concert with the IRS throughout the year. Certainty about Wal-Mart's tax liability in the future adds security to its planning and decision-making in the present.

"As you complete significant transactions, you are also having a discussion with the IRS at the same time," explained Hamilton. "Traditionally, audits are after the fact. In this case, by allocating resources early, we are getting things done in real time." Hamilton has only three people on his team, but he works with many cross-functional teams that submit to his office income, employment, and excise tax information.

Hamilton earned his master's degree in tax law from the University of Florida, but he gives enormous credit for his success to the four years he worked outside the practice of law in a family-owned, automotive sales company, JM Family Enterprises Inc. Prior to that experience, he encountered business colleagues who questioned his decision-making because his training was in the law rather than business. At JM Family, "someone finally sat the leadership down and let them know a law degree is akin to an MBA in terms of processing information."



*Wayne A. S. Hamilton '90, Senior Director, Wal-Mart Stores Inc., Tax Law*

Olson completed her formal education at Georgetown University Law Center, earning a master's degree in law and taxation. Next, she established the first low-income taxpayer clinic in the country that was unaffiliated with a law school. It was in this capacity that she was first called to testify before Congress regarding the tax challenges faced by the poor, and it led to her job as the nation's advocate.

"Not a day goes by that I don't confront the distrust that results from how the IRS treats taxpayers," Olson said. "But I'm fortunate to be in a job where I can make a difference."

## Wayne A. S. Hamilton (Tax)

The Wal-Mart Corporation tends to dominate *Fortune* magazine's annual list of America's largest companies, based on gross income. According to [dailyfinance.com](http://dailyfinance.com), if Wal-Mart, with its \$400 billion in annual sales, were a country, it would have the 25th largest economy in the world.

It should come as no surprise that Wal-Mart would have a complex relationship with the IRS. Wayne Hamilton '90 is the man who mediates that "arranged marriage." He supervises Wal-Mart's Compliance Assurance Process Audit or CAP.

Hamilton looks forward to finding opportunities to give back and to encourage greater minority participation in the field of tax law. "The question becomes, how do you use your influence and your position to have a greater influence in your community?" said Hamilton. "You have to have meaning to your life outside of your day-to-day job."

## Ann M. Shy (Dispute Resolution)

Ann Shy's original motivation to learn about the law was to strengthen her arguments so that she could promote change in health policy and regulation. With an executive master's degree in health policy and administration, she knows all about objective science. She also knows that science can be relegated to the back seat when legislating issues involving sex, sexuality, and women's health.

However, with Shy's introduction to dispute resolution at NCCU School of Law, she redirected her career to this field of legal practice. Alternative dispute resolution (ADR) seeks to avoid the typical adversarial approach and resolve problems in a manner that better preserves the relationship between the parties in conflict. "I focus on two things," said Shy, "the rules, and the dance of negotiation to move everyone forward." Still, when ADR fails, she does not hesitate to take the fight to court.

Shy struggles with the inability of low-income clients to pay for her services, saying, "There is no insurance card for legal fees." She finds herself subsidizing those who cannot pay the high out-of-pocket costs. "It's a challenge for me to keep a good mix of clients and keep the lights on," Shy said. She explains that Legal Aid is so underfunded that its attorneys can take only the most serious cases. "But routine separation and divorce can really change people's lives," said Shy.



*Ann M. Shy '09, Solo Practitioner, Ann Shy Firm PLLC, Dispute Resolution*

When Shy wants a break from legal disputes, she turns to prisoner reentry mediation. She engages prisoners in confidential discussions about the supportive relationships they need in place to help ensure their successful transition to life outside of prison. Then she brings them together with their significant others to hammer out detailed behavioral and outcome agreements, to be initiated upon their release. Shy was awarded a grant to establish reentry mediation here in North Carolina, modeled after a program in Maryland.

Now, Shy would like to bring together her skills in ADR and her public health background to engage in conflict resolution for FEMA during emergencies like our recent, devastating storms. "When there is a crisis, you can't afford to have conflicts going on along the chain of command," said Shy.

# The Loving Story: A Conversation with Susie Ruth Powell



Assistant Dean Pamela S. Glean '80 introduces Susie Ruth Powell

On November 7, 2012, NCCU School of Law students, faculty, and staff had the privilege of engaging in an insightful conversation with former NCCU Law Professor Susie Ruth Powell about her role as co-author of HBO's award-winning documentary film, *The Loving Story*.

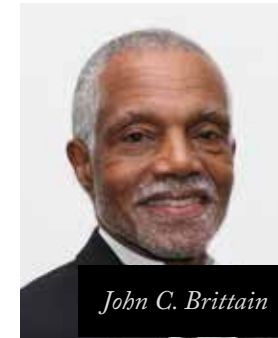
The film, which has also won a Peabody Award and received three Emmy Award nominations, is based on the story of Richard and Mildred Loving. The Lovings were an interracial couple who lived in Virginia in the 1950s, and their legal struggle to live as husband and wife. Powell discussed the importance of the case, *Loving v. Virginia*, 388 U.S. 1 (1967), a landmark civil rights decision of the United States Supreme Court that invalidated laws prohibiting interracial marriage.

Powell shared insight into the making of the film and the filmmaker's successful efforts to document the personal struggle and great sacrifice that the Lovings endured to live as a married couple. She also shared clips from the program, and told the rapt audience how the case was brought by Mildred Loving, a Black woman, and Richard Loving, a White man, who had been sentenced to a year in prison in Virginia for

marrying each other. Their marriage violated the state's anti-miscegenation statute, the Racial Integrity Act of 1924, which prohibited marriage between people classified as "White" and people classified as "Colored." The Supreme Court's unanimous decision held this prohibition was unconstitutional, overturning *Pace v. Alabama* (1883), and ending all race-based legal restrictions on marriage in the United States.

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. Soon after passing the Ohio bar, she sued the United States on behalf of poor people living in substandard federal housing in the case *Garden Valley Tenants Association v. James Lynn*. Powell practiced poverty law in North Carolina and Ohio, and taught contracts and trial practice at NCCU School of Law. Powell is currently focusing on a fictional account of the Wilmington Race Riots of 1898, the seminal event that ushered in Jim Crow to North Carolina.

## Charles Hamilton Houston Chair: John C. Brittain



NCCU School of Law is honored to have John C. Brittain serving as the Charles Hamilton Houston Chair for constitutional and civil rights law. Professor Brittain is a strong advocate of civil rights with an emphasis on pursuing the comparability and competitiveness for historically black colleges and universities (HBCUs). Indeed, he earned a bachelor's degree (1966) and juris doctor (1969) from Howard University. He is admitted to practice in Connecticut, Mississippi, California, and associated federal courts. He is currently a part of a legal team representing private plaintiffs in a federal lawsuit against the State of Maryland, based upon Maryland, denying certain historically Black institutions of higher learning – Morgan, Coppin, Bowie, and Maryland Eastern Shore Universities, comparable and competitive opportunities with traditional white universities.

Brittain is a tenured professor of law at the University of the District of Columbia, David A. Clarke School of Law. In the past, he has served as Dean of the Thurgood Marshall School of Law at Texas Southern University in Houston, a veteran law professor at the University of Connecticut School of Law for 22 years, and the Chief Counsel and Senior Deputy Director of the Lawyers' Committee for Civil Rights Under Law in Washington, D.C., a public interest legal organization started by President John F. Kennedy to enlist private lawyers to take pro bono cases in civil rights.

He also has been the president of the National Lawyers' Guild, a member of the Executive Committee and the Board of the ACLU, a long-time member of the National Conference of Black Lawyers (NCBL), and legal counsel to the NAACP at the local level and national office of the General Counsel. In 1993, the NAACP awarded Professor Brittain the coveted William Robert Ming Advocacy Award for legal service to the NAACP without a fee. The Ming Award was named in honor

of a former African-American law professor at the University of Chicago and a brilliant civil rights lawyer who closely worked with Thurgood Marshall.

The Charles Hamilton Houston Endowed Chair was established by Frank Anderson and Susan Powell to bring a prominent civil rights law professor to the School of Law to lecture in the areas of constitutional and civil rights law. The Chair has been held by such attorneys as Judge Charles Becton, Fred Gray, Julius Chambers, Alvin Chambliss, Jr., and Janelle Byrd-Chichester.

## NCCU School of Law Receives Grant to Provide Foreclosure Aid

The NCCU School of Law received \$800,000 to provide critical foreclosure assistance to individuals across North Carolina. The funds are provided by the N.C. Housing Finance Agency and originate from a landmark national mortgage settlement with the country's five largest loan servicers.

Through the new Consumer Financial Protection Clinic, the law school will provide foreclosure defense and prevention services to citizens in the Durham area and across the state through its nationally recognized legal clinic and TALIAS (Technology Assisted Legal Instruction and Services), a high definition video-conferencing project. The TALIAS project enables clinic attorneys to meet with clients at four partner universities, Elizabeth City State, Fayetteville State, N.C. A&T, and Winston-Salem State, as well as at Legal Aid and Legal Services offices across the state.

"This grant builds on the foreclosure services the school provided last year through TALIAS," said Phyliss Craig-Taylor, Dean of the School of Law. "It strengthens the law school's strong history of delivering legal and educational services to economically and legally vulnerable communities."



*Distinguished alumni award presented at the first Legal Eagle Commencement Reunion*

North Carolina Central University  
School of Law  
Distinguished Alumni Award  
Presented to  
Attorney Ralph K. Frasier, Sr.  
Class of 1985  
Legal Eagle Alumni Reunion  
May 10, 2013

# Faculty Spotlights



## Professor Susan E. Hauser

received the 19th Annual Award for Excellence in Teaching from the UNC Board of Governors on May 11, 2013. “This is really a tremendous honor, and it is the highest award available to me as a teacher. It is a university-level teaching award, awarded to one person on each of the 17 UNC institutions every year.” Additionally, in October of 2012, Professor Hauser received the Editors’ Prize from the American Bankruptcy Law Journal. “The ABLJ is a peer-reviewed journal, and there actually is a Board of Editors that votes on this prize. The Editors’ Prize is awarded to the best article from the previous year, and this is the top thing out there in the world of bankruptcy professors. I was happy just to publish an article in this journal, and I was completely floored to get this.”



## Professor Irving Joyner

Operating under the theme that “Power concedes nothing without a demand,” the Institute of the Black World (IBW) 21st Century awarded Professor Irving Joyner its Legacy Award during its annual conference on November 17, 2012, at Howard University in Washington, D.C. This Legacy Award specifically targeted Professor Joyner’s successful efforts in pursuing and obtaining justice for the Wilmington Ten and for his lifelong efforts and dedication to civil rights and equal justice. The award was presented by Dr. Ron Daniels, President of IBW.



## Professor Gregory Malhoit

was the December 2012 recipient of the Order of the Long Leaf Pine, one of the most prestigious awards presented by the governor to individuals who have a proven record of extraordinary service to the state. State employees can be awarded the Order if they have contributed more than 30 years of dedicated and enthusiastic service to the state of North Carolina. Contributions to the community and extra effort in their careers are some of the criteria for selection of recipients.



## Dean Phyliss Craig-Taylor

was named one of the 100 most influential Black lawyers for 2013 in *On Being a Black Lawyer Power 100*. She was saluted, along with the other honorees, for her efforts to advance diversity in the legal profession.



## Students Visit the U.S. Supreme Court

Edited by Brenda D. Gibson '95

Professor April Dawson's Supreme Court Seminar class had the opportunity to observe oral arguments firsthand this spring on a trip to the Supreme Court arranged by Dawson. The students were also able to meet with the Clerk of the Supreme Court, General William Suter. Attendee Kristi Strawbridge (Class of 2014) provided an account of her experience:

The visit to the Supreme Court benefited us as students and our law school. Professor Dawson, through her contacts and networking with Supreme Court officials, was able to obtain reserved seating for our class to hear oral arguments. Observing these arguments reinforced what we had learned during our in-class discussions about the workings of the Court. Hearing the questions posed by the Justices during oral argument helped me to realize that the level of preparation for both the advocates and Justices is great. Additionally, it made me appreciate that attorneys arguing a case (in any court) needed to have knowledge beyond the particular issues presented to be effective advocates. It gave me a new appreciation for both the advocates and the Justices.

It was quite impressive that officials at the Supreme Court took time out of their busy schedules to recognize us during

our visit. Professor Dawson's continued interest in providing our students with the opportunity to observe court proceedings before our nation's highest court does not go unappreciated.

We all have gained a great respect for this prestigious institution that we study in great detail in many of our law school courses. Our experiences at the Court could not have been taught in a classroom or learned by reading a textbook. Taking this course has inspired a new interest in appellate law, and my trip to the Supreme Court will certainly inspire me in my continued study of the law.

After this trip, we can all share our experiences with our fellow students. Hopefully, they will be inspired to take the class and the trip, as well.



General Suter (center), Prof. April Dawson (far right), and students at the Supreme Court

### PILO Auction

The Public Interest Law Organization hosted its first annual silent auction and banquet in November at the law school. The event allowed students, alumni, and PILO affiliates to network and raise stipend funds for students interested in public interest work.

Professor Gene Nichol, director of the UNC Center on Work, Poverty and Opportunity, was the keynote speaker. Items for auction were donated by law school professors and local businesses. Donations included gift baskets, gift cards from spas, basketball tickets, an iPod Touch, a \$500 Kaplan bar prep scholarship for a 3L, and many lunches and dinners by professors. The big ticket item was Professor Fred Williams' hair – he donated his locks to PILO. An anonymous bidder won with a \$200 bid and donated the haircut to the PILO Board. The banquet was sponsored by Attorney Geoffrey Simmons.



Geoffrey Simmons, Professor Page Potter, and Larry Brown Jr. at the PILO auction.



Professor Gene Nichol (center) with members of the PILO Board

### NCCU School of Law Voted Most Popular by U.S. News & World Report

NCCU School of Law was voted "Most Popular" by *U.S. News & World Report* for a second consecutive year. The law school was ranked number six, just behind Yale and Harvard University. The ranking is an improvement from last year, when it was ranked tenth.

The *U.S. News* surveys 200 fully ABA-accredited law schools based on the school's self-reported data regarding, among other things, academic programs and makeup of the student body.



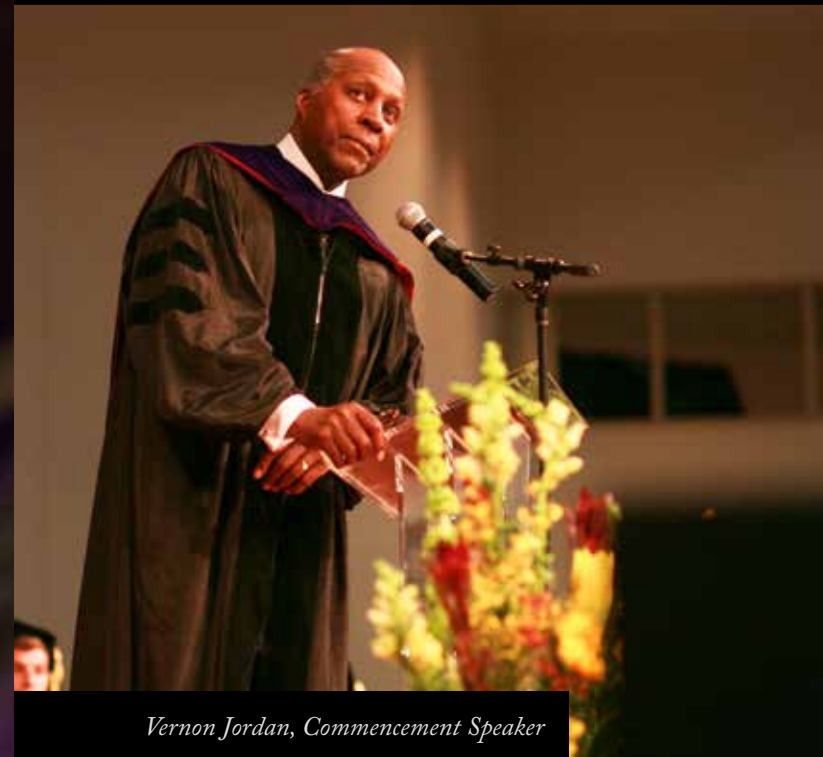
## 2013 Commencement Ceremonies

Commencement exercises for the Class of 2013 were held on May 11 at King's Park International Church in Durham. Vernon Jordan, lawyer, business executive, and renowned civil rights activist, served as the keynote speaker. Jordan is a leading figure in the civil rights movement, and was chosen by President Bill Clinton as a close adviser. He has become known as an influential figure in American politics. Jordan spoke to the 156 graduates about his career beginnings, the challenges he faced due to the social climate of the time, and life lessons learned along the way.

*Frances McDuffie '13 and Carol Mclean '13*



*Megan Albaugh '13, Dayo Aladeniyi '13, and Krystle Acevedo '13*



*Vernon Jordan, Commencement Speaker*



*Victoria Neal '13 and Nana Nti '13*



*James Smith '69, Ruth Franks '73, and Rev. Charles Miller '73*

# Alumni Events

## Welcome Reception for Dean Phyliss Craig-Taylor

**N**CCU School of Law, faculty, staff, alumni, and friends welcomed Phyliss Craig-Taylor as the new Dean with a reception on September 21, 2012. Dean Craig-Taylor, a veteran educator, rejoined the law school after having served as a professor of law from 2000-2006.



*Donald Gwin, Patsy Matthews '86, Dean Phyliss Craig-Taylor, and Gerald Taylor*



*Dean Phyliss Craig-Taylor with family*

### Alumni Receptions

With the gracious assistance of alumni, NCCU School of Law hosted the following receptions this year:

#### Elizabeth City, NC

The Elizabeth City Alumni Reception, hosted by G. Wendell Spivey '76 and The Honorable J. Carlton Cole '87, was held at Montero's Restaurant on October 2, 2012.

#### Fayetteville, NC

The Fayetteville Alumni Reception, hosted by Glenn Adams '84 and Mike Williford '83, was held at the law firm of Adams Burge & Boughman on October 3, 2012.

#### Washington, D.C.

The Washington, D.C., Alumni Reception, hosted by Akela Crawford '11, Donna Douglas '84, Stephen Redmon '87, and the Honorable Sommer Murphy '08, was held at the 1331 Lounge & Bar at the JW Marriott on November 9, 2012.



*Akela Crawford '11, Stephen Redmon '87, and Hon. Sommer Murphy '08*

#### Atlanta, GA

The Atlanta Alumni Reception, hosted by Senator Leroy Johnson '57, was held at his home on November 15, 2012.



*Senator Leroy Johnson '57 and Dean Phyliss Craig-Taylor*

#### Lumberton, NC

The Lumberton Alumni Reception, hosted by Arnold Locklear '73, was held at Adelio's Restaurant on December 6, 2012.

#### Raleigh, NC

The Triangle Alumni Reception (Raleigh, Durham, and Chapel Hill alumni), hosted by Leonard Jernigan '76, A. Root Edmonson '76, the Honorable Wanda Bryant '82, the Honorable Rick Elmore '82, Victor Boone '75, William Dudley, Sr. '76, Joe Mitchiner '76, Jay Chaudhuri '99, William Polk '99, Hugh Harris '03, Robert L. Brown '04, Sarah Carr D'amato '08, and Sarah Jessica Farber '08, was held at the N.C. Court of Appeals on April 10, 2013.



*Dean Phyliss Craig-Taylor and Raleigh area alumni*



*Tonnie Villines '88 (center), Dean Phyliss Craig-Taylor, and area alumni*

### Richmond, VA

The Richmond Alumni Reception, hosted by Tonnie Villines '88, was held at the Tobacco Company Restaurant on April 12, 2013.

### New Bern, NC

The New Bern Alumni Reception, hosted by Ciara Rogers '09, Darnell Parker '96, and Anita Powers-Branch '84, was held at the law firm of Oliver Friesen Cheek PLLC on April 30, 2013.



*Dean Phyliss Craig-Taylor and New Bern area alumni*

### Asheville, NC

The Asheville Alumni Reception, hosted by Eugene Ellison '83, was held at Pack's Tavern on May 3, 2013.

### Greensboro/Winston-Salem, NC

The Greensboro/Winston-Salem Alumni Reception, hosted by Charles Blackmon '88, Angela Newell Gray '94, and Helen Parsonage '06, was held at the Sheraton Four Seasons on May 22, 2013.

### Charlotte, NC

The Charlotte Alumni Reception, hosted by Bartina Edwards '04, Norman Butler '78, Kenneth Snow '00, and Tanisha Johnson '07, was held at the Judge Clifton E. Johnson Building on May 29, 2013.



*Dean Phyliss Craig-Taylor (center), the host committee, and area alumni*

# First Legal Eagle Commencement Reunion



*Participants in the first Legal Eagle Commencement Reunion: Ralph Frasier '65, Beryl Sansom Gilmore '70, Anderson Council '69, Shelia Parrish-Spence '72, Frank Ballance Jr. '65, E. Yvonne Pugh '73, Timothy Crawford '69, Charles Miller '73, James Smith '69, Ruth Franks '73, A. Leon Stanback '68, and Dean Phyliss Craig-Taylor*

The North Carolina Central University School of Law held its First Legal Eagle Commencement Reunion on May 10 and 11, 2013.

The reunion celebration for the classes of 1948-1973 began with an awards banquet on Friday at the law school. Dean Harry Groves served as the keynote speaker. Dean Groves, while serving as Dean from 1976 until 1981, created the evening program. Groves taught in all of the buildings that have ever housed the law school, beginning in 1949. During the banquet, the Distinguished Alumni Award was presented to Senator Leroy R. Johnson '57, Ralph K. Frasier '65, and Arnold Locklear '65.

On Saturday, alumni attending the reunion were recognized during the 2013 NCCU Law School Commencement Exercises. Judge Beryl Sansom Gilmore '70 brought greetings to the graduates on behalf of attending alumni. The commencement reunion culminated with a Carolina BBQ jazz luncheon at the Hilton Garden Inn. Thank you to all of the alumni who attended and the class agents for the reunion, Judge Sammie Chess, Jr. '58, Judge A. Leon Stanback '68, and Judge Beryl Sansom Gilmore '70.



Senator Leroy Johnson '57, Hon. Sammie Chess, Jr. '58, and Dean Phyliss Craig-Taylor



Ruth Franks '73 and E. Yvonne Pugh '73



Ralph Frasier, Jr. '94 with family and friends



Senator Leroy Johnson '57, his wife Cleopatra Johnson, Hon. Sammie Chess, Jr. '58, and his wife Sandra Chess



Senator Leroy Johnson '57

# Alumni News

## Alumni Appointed to Board of Directors for the National Organization of Social Security Representatives (NOSSCR)

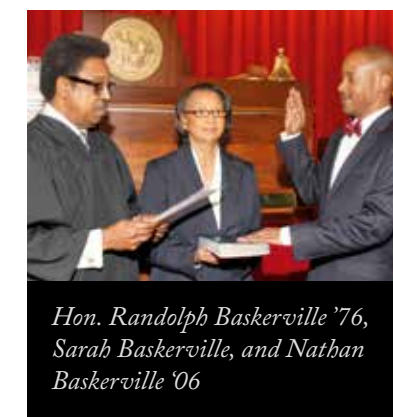
Two NCCU Law School alumni were appointed to the Board of Directors for the NOSSCR at their National Conference in Seattle, Washington. Lawrence Wittenberg '84 was reappointed as a representative of the Past Presidents Council. Wittenberg was first elected from the Fourth Circuit in 1999 and served on the Board of Directors as treasurer, secretary, vice president, and president. Rick Fleming '01 was elected to the board as the new Fourth Circuit representative.

### Nathan Baskerville '06

was sworn in as the new state representative for Vance, Granville, and Warren counties on January 9, 2013, in the N.C. House of Representatives. His father, the Honorable Randolph Baskerville '76, read the oath of office and officially swore in his son. Afterward, Baskerville joined the other

119 members of the House for the official ceremony.

Baskerville will serve on the following committees: Judiciary Subcommittee C, Appropriation Subcommittee on Transportation, Insurance, Regulatory Reform, Agriculture, and Health and Human Services.



Hon. Randolph Baskerville '76, Sarah Baskerville, and Nathan Baskerville '06

### DeWarren K. Langley '11

was awarded the prestigious 2013 Outstanding Citizen Spectrum of Democracy Award in honor of his vital contributions to make North Carolina's democracy and government better, specifically for his work to create genuine and meaningful opportunities to engage youth with policymakers through the Durham Youth Commission and Kids Voting Durham. The Award was conferred by the North Carolina Center for Voter Education at the Raleigh Marriott City Center on February 21, 2013.

### Gale Murray Adams '84

was elected as Superior Court Judge for the 12th Judicial District of North Carolina in the November election. She was sworn in on January 4, 2013, at the Cumberland County Courthouse. Adams served as a



Hon. Gale Murray Adams '84

federal public defender for nearly two decades and ran unopposed in the November election. She will replace the Honorable Gregory Weeks, who recently retired.

### Emily Dickens '02

accepted a position as Assistant Vice President of Federal Relations for the University of North Carolina System. Dickens served as the Director of Government and Community Affairs for the Chancellor's Office at Fayetteville State University prior to accepting the Assistant Vice President position.

### Paula Hankins '94

was elected as District Court Judge for the 13th Judicial District of North Carolina in the November election.



Hon. Paula Hankins '94

She was sworn on January 2, 2013, at the Brunswick County Courthouse. Hankins has 18 years of progressive legal experience, served as an arbitrator judge for 13 years, was awarded the 2011 N.C. Governor's Award for Volunteer Service, and serves as President of the Brunswick County Bar Association.

### Frank S. Turner '73

will become the vice chairman of the Ways and Means Committee in the Maryland House of Delegates. Turner has served as chair of the House of Delegates' Finance Resources Subcommittee since 2007.

### Aliste Harris '09

accepted a position at the Southern Environmental Law Center in the Atlanta office. Harris, who also has a bachelor's degree from Spelman College and a master's of public administration from Kennesaw State University, has worked as an attorney in the Tort Litigation and Environmental Practice Group at King & Spalding's Atlanta office since 2010. Prior to that, she was a law clerk at the White House Council on Environmental Quality, summer associate at Smith, Gambrell & Russell, and a judicial intern with the North Carolina Court of Appeals. She is also on the Georgia Conservancy Generation Green's Board.

### Chandler Vataavuk '07

has been named as one of the Ten Outstanding Young Americans (TOYA) of 2012 by the Jaycees. The TOYA Award recognizes those aged 18 to 40 who exemplify the best our country offers and has included Presidents John F. Kennedy, Gerald Ford, and Bill Clinton. Vataavuk's work as an advocate for at-risk youth was specifically honored.

### LaKeisha Randall '11

accepted the position of Senior Law Clerk at the Municipal Court for the City of Atlanta, where she will support all seven judges of the court. Randall has also recently published her first article through the American Bar Association's litigation section, and is writing a full-length article on class actions in the fall.

### William S. Eubanks II '07

was recently invited to join the faculty of American University's Washington College of Law as an adjunct associate professor of law, where he will be teaching a course on environmental law and agricultural policy. Eubanks is also an adjunct law professor at Vermont Law School and an attorney at one of the nation's leading public interest environmental law firms, Meyer Glitzenstein & Crystal, in Washington, D.C.

### Dale Deese '89

was the 2012 recipient of the Deborah Greenblatt Outstanding Legal Services Attorney Award presented at the Pro Bono Service Awards in June at the North Carolina Bar Association's annual meeting in Wilmington. Deese is the senior managing attorney for Legal Aid of North Carolina in the Pembroke office, and serves on the United Tribes of North Carolina Board and the North Carolina Indian Business Association.

### Michael R. Morgan '79

was recently entered into the National Judicial College's Hall of Honor for 20 consecutive years of faculty teaching longevity at the National Judicial College (NJC). Judge Morgan is a Superior Court judge in the General Court of Justice for the State of North Carolina, and is the first and only judge from North Carolina to have 15 or more years of service on the faculty at the NJC and to be recognized on the Hall of Honor.

### Brian O. Beverly '95

was selected for a second consecutive year as a "Super Lawyer" in the *North Carolina Super Lawyers* 2013 publication. Beverly centers his practice on the defense of transportation liability claims involving large commercial vehicles, insurance coverage litigation and medical negligence cases at Young Moore and Henderson, P.A. in Raleigh.



Brian O. Beverly '95

Super Lawyers is a rating service of outstanding lawyers from more than 70 practice areas who have attained a high degree of peer recognition

and professional achievement. The selection process is multi-phased and includes independent research, peer nominations, and peer evaluations.

### Jade M. Cobb '08

has joined Littler Employment & Labor Solutions Worldwide. Cobb focuses her practice on employment law and employment discrimination litigation. She represents employers in the litigation of claims arising under federal and state law. Prior to joining Littler, Cobb was an associate at another labor and employment firm. During law school, she completed an externship with the Honorable Judge Richard A. Elmore at the North Carolina Court of Appeals. She also completed a legal internship with a world wide tire manufacturer.

### Lorrie L. Dollar '84

was named chief deputy secretary of administration for the Department of Public Safety by Secretary Kieran Shanahan. In private practice, Dollar handled administrative and civil litigation, and transactional matters with the law firm of Stephenson, Gray and Waters. She was also appointed to the Dispute Resolution Commission in 2012, and has served as chief deputy state auditor, deputy commissioner with the N.C. Industrial Commission, and a staff attorney with the Department of Human Resources.

# Donor List

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*Commencement Reunion Honorees Ralph Frasier '65, Sen. Leroy Johnson '57, Arnold Locklear '73, Sammie Chess, Jr. '58, and A. Leon Stanback '68*

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 Yushika Walker  
 Stephen Walker '06  
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