



Associate Professor and Director of Clinical Programs, Fred J. Williams to Retire

Longtime Law School Professor Fred J. Williams is set to retire this month. Williams, an Associate Professor and Director of Clinical Programs began teaching at NC Central University Law School on January 1, 1980. He was hired by Dean Harry Groves to teach Criminal Law and Criminal Procedure.



A Durham native, Williams became the go-to source for Criminal Law and Criminal Law Procedure.

For decades, he has been an active member of the legal community and served in numerous leadership roles. Early in his career, he worked as a public defender in Fayetteville, NC. In 1985, he was appointed as a Special Superior Court Judge by NC Governor James B. Hunt. During his time on the judicial bench, he traveled to numerous counties throughout the state when called upon.

"It's been gratifying to have given students a foundation. I enjoy sharing my knowledge and educating students," he said. NC Central University is one of only six HBCU Law School's in the country. When asked what makes this Law School unique, Williams shared, "NCCU gives intelligent individuals many of whom are minorities an opportunity to attend law school by taking into consideration more than just the required standardized test scores. We know that LSAT scores are not always the best indicators of what a student can do, and I admire our Law School for having established the Performance Based Admissions Program (PBAP)." PBAP was created by Professors Mary Wright and Charles Smith nearly 30 years ago, and is offered to a limited number of applicants whose credentials do not qualify them for unconditional admission, but whose records nonetheless show promise of success.

Williams earned his Juris Doctorate from the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill School of Law and his Bachelor of Arts Degree from Duke University. A respected leader, he has inspired generations of lawyers. Among the faculty at NC Central University School of Law, there is a collective joy for Williams to enjoy a new chapter in his life, but a sense of loss of institutional knowledge. His commitment to teaching law never wavered and year after year he brought his unique spirit to every class and student he taught.

What's next for Williams? "Family, rest and relaxation, that's it," he says.

Congratulations Fall 2021 NCCU Law Graduates



Norieh Brittain • Jeremiah Brutus • Joy Clark
Rashawnda Osborne • Tabreah Tatem

ALUMNI SPOTLIGHT

Alumna, Dena J. King Sworn in As United States Attorney For The Western District Of North Carolina



Law School Alumna Dena J. King was officially sworn in on November 29, as United States Attorney for the Western District of North Carolina. Ms. King was nominated by President Joseph R. Biden Jr. on September 28, 2021, and was confirmed by the United States Senate on November 19, 2021. Chief U.S. District Judge Martin Reidingger administered the oath of office to U.S. Attorney King during a private ceremony at the federal courthouse in

Charlotte. Ms. King is the first person of color to be appointed as U.S. Attorney in the Western District.

"I am honored to serve as United States Attorney for the Western District of North Carolina," said Ms. King following the ceremony. "It is a privilege to lead a team of dedicated and talented public servants who are passionate about their work and delivering justice to the people we serve. With over 15 years in public service, U.S. Attorney King will lead an office of approximately 100 federal prosecutors and staff, located in Charlotte and in Asheville, that serves over three million residents throughout North Carolina's 32 westernmost counties, including residents of the Eastern Band of Cherokee Indian Reservation.

Best Wishes to alumni, donors, students, faculty and staff,
for a Wonderful Holiday Season and a Happy New Year!
From NCCU School of Law



UPCOMING EVENTS

Of Counsel Magazine Solicitation • December 6, 2021
Staff & Faculty Holiday Party • December 10, 2021
Fall Commencement • December 11, 2021
Law School Bldg. Closed • December 23, 2021 - January 3, 2022



Law School Awarded Two Pipeline Grants to help Underrepresented Undergrads Matriculate into Law

NC Central University School of Law has been awarded two pipeline grants to help underrepresented undergrads matriculate in law school. The **Law School Admission Council**



Law School
Admission Council

Council awarded a \$100,000 grant to create the Preparing Aspiring Law Students (P.A.L.S.). The P.A.L.S. Program will invite 30 first-generation college students and students who are economically disadvantaged. The Law School will work closely with the state's 10 HBCUs and the University of North Carolina at Pembroke, a Native American-Serving Institution. P.A.L.S. intervention is grounded in Jacquelynne Eccles's Expectancy Value Theory, which begins with an examination of the "culture milieu" or the understandings imposed by our broader society. The P.A.L.S. Program will acknowledge the existence of stereotypes regarding the performance and expectations of all applicants to law school.

The **Second Chance Legal Pipeline Program** award of \$300,000 funded by AccessLex will provide support, encouragement, and assistance to members of underrepresented communities who have demonstrated an interest in becoming lawyers by submitting law school applications that have not resulted in acceptances. NC Central University Law School is one of only a handful of law schools in the country to receive these grants. "We're excited for the opportunity to offer these programs," said Dean Browne C. Lewis. "This will be an effective way for us to help inspire the next generation of law students. Thank you to Associate Dean and Professor Malik Edwards for his diligence in securing the grants." Both programs will begin in 2022. For more information and to apply, visit law.nccu.edu.



Spectrum Hometown Debate Series



NC Central University Law School was honored to host the Spectrum Hometown Debate Series on November 9. Professor Dorothy Mitchell presented strong and compelling reasons for reform in the juvenile justice system. Several law students were in attendance.

Law Students Win Legal Derby

NC Central University Technology Law & Policy Center and the Duke Center on Law & Technology co-hosted the Legal



Design Derby Virtual Solutions Showcase. In addressing the question, "How might we carry forward the legal system's resilience during the COVID-19 pandemic to maximize access to justice?" six teams of law students presented

their creative idea in five minutes. The Legal Design Derby was open to all North Carolina law school students. Using live and asynchronous content, students developed real solutions to challenges and opportunities facing the legal system due to COVID-19. Vabrice Wilder Smiley, Brittany Burks, Hillary Teoyotl, & Lexus Real from NCCU Law School (pictured) took home first place prize, and was awarded \$250 per person. Focused on improving traffic court, their idea of "Law on Wheels" brings the justice system to those who would otherwise struggle to access it.

ALUMNI SPOTLIGHT

Legal Clinic Conference Room Named in Honor of Judge A. Leon Stanback, Jr.

The Law School dedicated its Legal Clinic Conference Room in honor of Judge A. Leon Stanback, Jr. Judge Stanback served as superior court judge for the 14th Judicial District of the Third Division of the Superior Court, in Durham County, North Carolina. He was appointed to the court in 1989 and retired in 2009. The ceremony also included tributes from longtime friend Henry McKinley "Mickey" Michaux, Jr., member of the North Carolina House of Representatives and former U.S. Attorney, and former Durham Mayor, William V. Bell. Following the event, Dean Browne C. Lewis and Michelle F. Stanback unveiled a plaque and portrait of Judge Stanback that hangs in the Clinic Conference Room.



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