



### SOCIAL JUSTICE AND RACIAL EQUITY INSTITUTE

*By Assistant Professor Ansel Brown and  
Associate Clinical Professor Scott Holmes*



We are excited to begin introducing the work of our new Social Justice and Racial Equity Institute at NCCU School of Law. We are at the beginning stages of clarifying our mission, values, and operations. We welcome input from the Legal Eagle Community as we start the work of our Institute. We are considering our mission and hope to leverage interdisciplinary problem solving to advance a just, wholesome, and prosperous society where all people have equitable opportunity to realize their full human potential and dignity.

Systemic and institutional inequities, especially in matters of race, remain significant barriers for people and communities working to reach their full potential. We seek to advance racial equity by engaging in holistic, interdisciplinary problem solving that offers concrete proposals, policies, initiatives, and legal solutions that help to repair and reverse the legacy of racial injustice.

The SJREI hopes to build collaboration between experts in a variety of disciplines to develop a comprehensive analysis of social problems and systems rooted in the history of racism and develop policy proposals, solutions, and legal strategies driven by data and contextualized by that history in order to repair and reverse the harm of racial injustice.

The efforts of SJREI can be understood historically as part of a "Third Reconstruction" that seeks to build upon the efforts and lessons of the First Reconstruction of the post-Civil War era and the Second Reconstruction of the Civil Rights Movement of the 1960s. Along those lines, we are excited that Rev. Dr. William J. Barber II has agreed to be a guest lecturer on February 18, 2022 to discuss his vision of our work to advance the Third Reconstruction. See Rev. Dr. William J. Barber II and Jonathan Wilson-Hartgrove, *The Third Reconstruction: How a Moral Movement is Overcoming the Politics of Division and Fear* (2016).

We welcome the support of the entire Legal Eagle community however you are led, and look forward to updating you regarding our work in the future.

### STUDENT ORGANIZATION SPOTLIGHT Civil Rights Society

The Civil Rights Society was established to encourage the continued need for activism, advocacy, discussion, research, writing, and legal representation for civil and human rights issues. Through community service initiatives, programs, and internship opportunities, the Civil Rights Society's goal is to develop individuals from diverse backgrounds who are committed to public service and to meet the needs of communities that are underserved and underrepresented in the legal profession.



The Civil Rights Society is taking affirmative steps to create a just society. The group will host two upcoming events including: the Civil Rights Roundtable to be held in February to discuss career opportunities in the Civil Rights sector and the annual Black Girl Magic Panel which highlights black women who have impacted the community.

The 2021-2022 Civil Rights Society board members include: President, Destiny Smith; Vice President, Chazle' Woodley; Secretary, A'Kira Thomas; Community Service Chair, Zaria Henderson; Communications Director, Courtney Cannon; 2L Representative, Anaya Wallace and; 1L Representatives, Amber Cleft and James Whitaker.

#### Announcements

- **New Faculty** - Welcome visiting Professor John Baumunk
- **Final Call for Article Submissions Of Counsel Magazine**
- **Virtual CLE Program** - February 11th 1 p.m. - 4:30 p.m. Must register to attend
- **World Social Justice Day** - February 20
- **Virtual Book Talk with Professor Jonathan Augustine** Details forthcoming
- **Black History Month Events** - Visit [nccu.edu](http://nccu.edu) for a full listing of events for Black History Month
- **2L Class Council Legal Eagle of the Month** - The 2L Class has selected Henry Stockard as the 2L Legal Eagle of the Month



### STAFF SPOTLIGHT

#### Michelle Gordon Library Technician Assistant The Gift of Time

In 2007, Gordon began giving watches to the students at NCCU School of Law when her personal collection had grown too large. At first she gave a few watches a way each year. Then it became 10-15 watches. Now she gives out 30-60 watches a year with the help of Watch Gang. Watch Gang is a subscription services Michelle joined because of her great passion for watches. She enjoys giving the gift of time and Watch Gang helps her do this at an even greater pace by sending her watches that she can share with others. In 2020, Gordon's love of gifting students with watches as they prepare to enter the law profession resulted in her receiving the N.C. Department of Human Resources' Governor Award of Excellence in Customer Service.



NCCU Law School students display their watches received from Gordon.



### THOUGHT LEADERS NEWS CLIPS

**Roland Martin's Daily Digest on Supreme Court Nominees**  
Guest: Dean Browne C. Lewis Aired Jan. 24, 2022

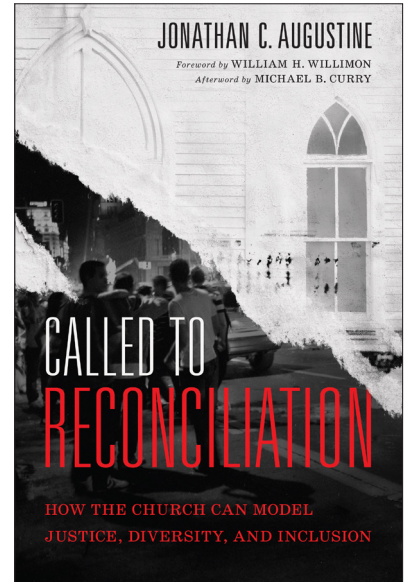
**CNN Traffic Stop: Dangerous Encounters** Aired Jan. 30, 2022  
Guest: Associate Clinical Professor Scott Holmes



### FACULTY SPOTLIGHT

#### Assistant Professor Jonathan Augustine Authors New Book

Congratulations to Professor Jonathan Augustine on his new book titled: *Called to Reconciliation: How the Church Can Model Justice, Diversity and Inclusion*. The book will be released February 8, 2022. Nationally recognized speaker and church leader, Augustine demonstrates that the church is called and equipped to model reconciliation, justice, diversity, and inclusion.



### "I LOVE MY HBCU LAW SCHOOL INITIATIVE"

North Carolina Central University is participating in "I Love My HBCU Law School" on February 10, with the only remaining five HBCU law schools: Howard University School of Law, Texas Southern Thurgood Marshall School Law, Florida A&M University College of Law, Southern University, and The University of the District of Columbia David A. Clarke School of Law. Students will gear up in their "I Love My HBCU Law School" shirts which were sold by the SBA.



If you would like to share your good news, career promotions, recognitions, or other points of pride, please email us at: [ncculawdevelopment@ncu.edu](mailto:ncculawdevelopment@ncu.edu)  
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