



DUKE ENERGY AWARDS VETERANS CLINIC \$100,000 Private Booker T. Spicely Endowed Scholarship



L to R: Mayor Elaine O' Neal, Atty. James Williams, Professor Irving Joyner, Atty. Gretchen Engel, Cynthia Mitchell, Professor Stephen Valentine, Dean Edwards, Kevin McLaughlin, Atty. Kodwo Ghartey-Tagoe, Grace Rountree and Indira Everett

NCCU School of Law has been awarded a \$100,000 grant from the Duke Energy Foundation to establish the Private Booker T. Spicely Endowed Scholarship Fund. The scholarship will benefit law students actively involved with and enrolled in the Veterans Law Clinic, and who are working on issues impacting the legal and civil rights of veterans.

In 1944, Spicely, who was stationed at Camp Butner and on a pass into nearby Durham, was killed for allegedly failing to observe the segregated public transportation laws after boarding a Duke Power Company bus at the corner of Fayetteville and Pettigrew streets. His murder is considered among a series of outrages that contributed to rising activism in the Civil Rights Movement. During the bus ride, the driver, Herman Lee Council, told Spicely along with another Black soldier and a young woman and her son to move to the last seat for white soldiers who boarded, as public transportation was segregated in the state. According to a sworn statement by the young woman, the Black passengers were already in the back area of the bus, and not in the front as reported. The woman moved, but Spicely refused, initially asking the other soldiers why he needed to move since he was not aware of the laws of the state. When Spicely disembarked from the bus, Council followed and shot him twice. Council was tried for second-degree murder of Spicely, but acquitted by an all-white jury on the grounds of self-defense. NAACP Chief Counsel Thurgood Marshall was involved in prosecuting the case.

“Our hope is that the Booker T. Spicely Endowed Scholarship helps commemorate the legacy of Private Spicely and shines a light on a part of history that deserves acknowledgment,” said Indira Everett, director of government and community relations for Duke Energy. “Knowing the talent and character that comes out of North Carolina Central University, I look forward to the impact this scholarship will have for years to come.”

“We are honored to collaborate with the Duke Energy Foundation as we further our commitment to those who valiantly protect our country and have contributed so much to communities across North Carolina and the nation,” Interim Dean Malik C. Edwards said. The NCCU Veterans Clinic is designed to meet the ongoing needs of current and former service members in the state of North Carolina. The clinic handles benefit claims in various stages of appeals. Cases may revolve around disability claims, survivors’ benefits, pension and other issues. Services are free to those who qualify as in need or who are able to meet the financial eligibility standards as determined by the appropriate legal standards.

1L LAW STUDENTS WIN SEMIFINALS Kilpatrick Townsend Mock Trial Competition



NCCU School of Law team of six first-year law students won the semifinals and advanced to the championship at the Kilpatrick Townsend 1L Mock Trial Competition held at UNC School of Law in January.

Team members above include: Janayla Brown, Frederick Horne, Sheridan King, Lateef Manigault, Taylor Phillips, and Devonte Wilson. Congratulations to Frederick Horne, Sheridan King, Devonte Wilson, and Taylor Phillips for receiving the BEST ADVOCATE award during their respective rounds.

The Trial Advocacy Board (TAB) was created to provide students the opportunity to gain skills and experience in trial and litigation techniques. TAB sponsors mock trial competitions and students compete nationally around the country. NCCU School of Law trial teams have received national recognition. Professor Tamika Moses serves as chair and Professor Dionne Gonder-Stanley as co-advisor.





LEGAL LEGENDS FEBRUARY FEATURE

Retired Professor Cheryl Amana-Burris



Professor Cheryl Amana-Burris

Our February oral history interview features retired law Professor Cheryl Amana-Burris. Professor Amana-Burris worked at NCCU School of Law as a professor from 1995 - 2020. She taught family law, property and seminars on Bioethics, Reproductive Rights, AIDS and the Law. Professor Amana-Burris resides on the west coast and commuted for 20 years between California and Durham so that she could teach at an HBCU. Learn

more about Professor Amana-Burris and what she finds unique about NCCU School of Law. View the video series at law.nccu.edu.

CLINIC CORNER - IP Clinic

*Mimi Afshar, Associate Clinical Professor
Director & Supervising Patent and Trademark Attorney – Intellectual Property Clinic*

The Intellectual Property Legal Clinic (IP Clinic) at NCCU School of Law provides assistance with the acquisition and protection of patent and trademark rights by representing inventors, entrepreneurs, small businesses, and startup companies from the university's internal and external communities. Our IP Clinic is committed to supporting innovation & empowerment throughout the nation. The United States Patent and Trademark Office (USPTO) has certified our IP Clinic, allowing law students to substantively represent clients before the USPTO.

The IP Clinic's Patent Division has successfully provided assistance to solo inventors, businesses, and non-profits in registering 15 patents before the USPTO from the timeframe of 2018 to the present. Note that it typically takes about 3 to 5 years to obtain a patent. The Trademark Division has also provided legal assistance and representation to entrepreneurs, small businesses, and non-profits in registering several trademarks before the USPTO.

Students who participate in the IP Clinic will work directly with clients and gain practical experience in problem-solving, client management, drafting, and critical thinking skills. The IP Clinic, which is under the supervision of licensed patent and trademark attorneys has provided students, the opportunity to counsel those clients who do not have the means to hire private representation. Accordingly, due to the practical training gained in the IP Clinic, students have secured associate positions in IP law firms, corporations and the USPTO.

STUDENT ORGANIZATION SPOTLIGHT

Civil Rights Society

The Civil Rights Society (CRS) was established to promote the continued need for activism, advocacy, discussion, research, writing, and legal representation for civil and human rights issues. Through community service initiatives, exchange studies programs, clinical training, seminars, and internship opportunities, CRS supports communities that are underserved and under-represented in the legal profession. CRS hosts several events each year and partnered with NCCU School of Law's Pro-Bono Clinic and the New North Carolina Project. This project involved registering individuals in the Durham community to vote. Another phone banking event included a partnership with Forward Justice. CRS members made calls to residents that were formerly incarcerated to inform them of their right to vote in NC. Other events include the annual Black Girl Magic, Coffee Talks, and general meetings on civil rights topics.



Anaya Wallace 3L

Current members:

President: Anaya Wallace

Vice-President: Courtney Cannon

Community Service Director: Amber Creft

Community Service Committee: Kiarra Slay, Devin Rousin

Secretary: James Whitaker

Treasurer: Tekia Ritter Bazemore

Communications Director: Brie Starks

ALUMNI SPOTLIGHT

The Honorable Pat Evans '84 Receives 2022 Chief Justice's Professionalism Award

The Honorable Pat Evans '84 received the 2022 Chief Justice's Professionalism Award. Judge Evans served as a district court judge for the Fourteenth Judicial District where she presided over Civil, Criminal, Child Support, Community Life, Domestic Violence, Family, Juvenile Delinquency, Traffic, and People's Courts. She also served as the Adult Drug Treatment Court judge and is a member of the NCCU School of Law Board of Visitors.



Judge Pat Evans

Upcoming Events

February 9: Julian T. Pierce Scholarship Check Presentation

February 8: Driver's License Restoration Project 12 - 3 p.m.

March 27 - April 2: NCCU Law Week

April 15: Social Justice and Racial Equity Institute Gala

PRIVATE BOOKER T. SPICELY ENDOWED SCHOLARSHIP CHECK PRESENTATION

February 1, 2023



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