



CLASS NOTES: THE OFFICE OF STUDENT AFFAIRS



Students attend Professionalism Dinner on March 15

The Office of Student Affairs is excited about several spring events planned to celebrate our students and their many achievements - including graduation! The annual law school awards ceremony will be held on Thursday, April 13, from 5:30 p.m. to 7 p.m. in the Moot Courtroom.

This ceremony allows law school faculty and administration to recognize students who have excelled in the classroom, the courtroom, and the community. We are also thrilled to celebrate our May 2023 graduates! The Law School will hold a hooding ceremony for graduating students on Friday, May 5th at 4 p.m. at King's Park in Durham, NC, followed by the University's commencement for graduate and professional students on Saturday, May 6, at 2 p.m. in the McDougald-McLendon arena on campus.

We're proud to announce that in March, the Office of Student Affairs resumed our Professionalism Dinner. The annual event, which was canceled in recent years due to COVID, was held on Wednesday, March 15, at the University Club in Durham, NC. Guest speakers for the event included Attorney Fred Williams, former NCCU Law professor, and Attorney Mel Wright Jr, Executive Director of The Chief Justice's Council on Professionalism. During the event, alumni facilitators led students in engaging discussions about hypothetical scenarios related to professionalism. The discussion was moderated by Professor Phyliss Craig-Taylor.

The Office of Student Affairs works closely with the Student Bar Association, student organizations, coordinates extracurricular activities, and fosters interaction between students and faculty. Questions? Please contact us. We're here to help!



Dean Carol Chestnut
Office of Student Affairs

DEAN EDWARDS NAMED TO 2023 LAWYERS OF COLOR POWERLIST

Dean Edwards was named to the Lawyers of Color's Power List 2023. The Lawyers of Color is a nonprofit organization dedicated to promoting diversity in the legal profession and advancing democracy and equality in marginalized communities. The power list recognizes the most influential minority attorneys and allies in the nation.



Dean Malik C. Edwards

"I am honored to have received this distinction bestowed by the Lawyers of Color Foundation," said Edwards. "As dean of the NCCU School of Law, I am dedicated to promoting a diverse and inclusive law school environment that pursues initiatives to increase access, admission, retention and graduation of leaders in the legal profession."

Edwards previously served as associate dean for faculty affairs and scholarly enrichment and John D. Fassett Professor of Law at NCCU School of Law. He is an interdisciplinary scholar whose work explores the use of social and systemic supports to understand racial disparities and to develop remedies to address these disparities. His scholarship includes law review articles, peer-reviewed journals, and book chapters that explore the use of social science evidence in equity contexts. Edwards connects his scholarship to his teaching of constitutional law, property, administrative law, and education law.

Edwards is committed to increasing minority representation in the legal profession through collaborations across NCCU's campus and among historically Black colleges and universities (HBCUs). He has been successful in gaining extramural funding to support NCCU School of Law's pipeline programs. As principal investigator, he helped NCCU become the first HBCU to receive a Law School Admission Council PLUS grant. Edwards has also worked with units across the university's campus on Title III and HBCU - Undergraduate Program (HBCU-UP) grants.

Edwards received a Ph.D. from the University of Pennsylvania's Graduate School of Education in the Education Policy Program and a J.D. from New York University School of Law.

Upcoming Events

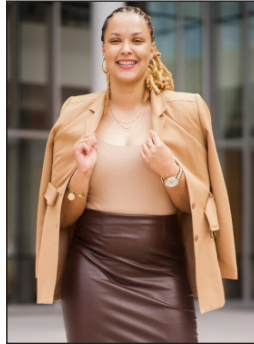
- April 5:** NCLAP Visit 9:30 a.m. - 11:30 & 1 p.m. - 3 p.m. 2nd Fl.
- April 13:** Awards Ceremony | 5:30 p.m. - 7 p.m. Moot Courtroom
- April 15 :** SJREI Gala | 6 p.m. NCCU Student Center
- April 20:** Last Day of Classes Upper Classman
- April 25:** Last Day of Classes 1L Class
- May 5:** Hooding Ceremony | Kings Park Intl. Church 4 p.m.
- May 6:** NCCU Commencement Ceremonies



STUDENT SPOTLIGHT

Amber Creft 2L

Amber Creft, 2L, is a native of Charlotte, North Carolina, and a graduate of UNC-Charlotte. One of the reasons she chose NCCU School of Law is because of her father, alumnus Frank Christmas Creft '89. Creft is following in her father's footsteps and honoring his legacy.



Amber Creft 2L

Creft lost her father when she was just four years old. He worked as an attorney and practiced real estate, business, estate planning and personal injury matters. Creft aspires to become an attorney and carries her father's memory with her each and every step of the way. "I believe the system that saw blacks as three fifths of a person at its foundation is the same system that treats us the same today," said Creft. "I believe the system is broken. I don't want to be an attorney to defend the law, I want to be an attorney to change it."

Creft serves as community service director for the Civil Rights Society and a 2L Student Bar Association Representative. She was recently elected as the new SBA president for 2023-24. "When it's our turn to leave the Nest, I want us to return and give back. The experience we have here at NCCU School of Law is the experience we will leave with." Upon graduation, Creft plans to pursue a career in civil rights public interest law, real estate and housing discrimination and consumer protection.

NCCU SCHOOL OF LAW RANKED AMONG TOP 20

Enjuris ranks NCCU School of Law among the top 20 ABA-accredited law schools for women.

- Northeastern University School of Law
- North Carolina Central University School of Law**
- Howard University School of Law
- Florida A&M University College of Law
- American University Law School
- Vermont Law School
- The District of Columbia School of Law
- Atlanta's John Marshall Law School
- Loyola University Chicago School of Law
- Seattle University School of Law
- CUNY School of Law
- Elon University School of Law
- Suffolk University Law School
- New England Law
- University of St. Thomas School of Law
- Loyola Marymount University School of Law
- Barry University Law School
- University of Southern California School of Law
- Belmont University Law
- University of Hawaii Law

APRIL IS STRESS AWARENESS MONTH



Stress Awareness Month happens each April. Many of us struggle with stress—at school, at work and in our personal life. Like any problem, stress requires a strategic approach to conquer, or at least manage. Depending on your stage in law school, this month can bring a flood of emotions. For 1L's, you may be nervous about your first final exam period. For 2L's, you know what lies ahead of you, but that doesn't mean it is going to be easy to cope with. For 3L's, you may be thinking about graduation, the bar, and leaving the Nest. Regardless, this period will likely bring about stress.

Stress is real, but we always have a choice—we can let it consume us or we can learn to control it. Adopting healthy sleeping habits, nutrition, and having a strong support system can prevent your stress levels from becoming unhealthy. It is also important to realize that healthy coping mechanisms for stress are not a "one size fits all." One person's positive activity may not work for the next person. Therefore, it is important to reflect and be sure to choose the best remedy for you. If you are experiencing stress or anxiety, please contact Director Brett Bowers in the Office of Wellness at 919-530-5156.

ALUMNI SPOTLIGHT

The Honorable Shamioka Rhinehart '01 Investiture Ceremony



Photo Contributed by Roy Rice

The Honorable Shamioka Rhinehart, Superior Court Judge for Durham District 14A was sworn in on Sunday, March 19, by North Carolina Justice Michael R. Morgan '79. The investiture ceremony took place in Durham.



CLINIC CORNER - Legal Clinic Fair

Nakia Davis, Associate Dean of Clinical Education and Experiential Learning



It is said that at the beginning of each academic year, Dr. James E. Shepard would tell students that “[t]he Eagle is no common, ordinary barnyard fowl [and] while a Sparrow clings to its flock, an Eagle soars alone.” The Clinical Legal Education Program (CLEP) is committed to teaching students that practical skills training and experiential learning is vital to soaring. Our clinical directors and administrative staff work diligently to uphold the law school’s mission to provide a practice-oriented legal education that is of quality.

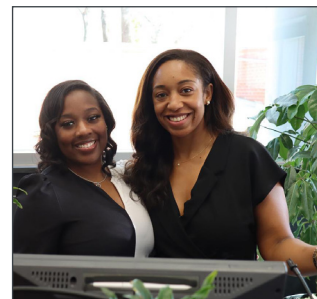
Our curriculum provides a diverse body of clinical offerings which give our students opportunities to pursue justice for actual clients who are traditionally underserved and under-represented by the legal profession. Students are able to apply what they have learned in their substantive courses to real world legal issues. Such practical experience is also advantageous during internships and externships and may provide a strong foundation as we transition to the NextGen bar examination.

On March 15, CLEP hosted a Clinic Fair for our students to introduce them to the “clinical experience,” while enjoying great food, games and prizes. Students were also provided information on how our eight robust clinical offerings serve the community at large. Approximately 100 students attended the fair and a great time was had by all. We anticipate scheduling the Clinic Fair each spring semester before the registration period begins.

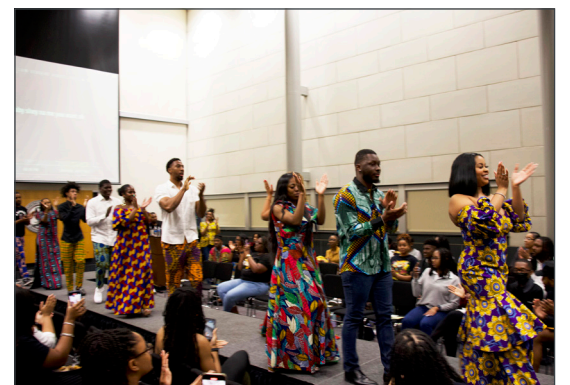
Questions about CLEP? Visit the clinic located on the ground floor or email Associate Dean, Nakia C. Davis at ndavis@nccu.edu.



2023 LAW WEEK HIGHLIGHTS



A group of people are talking at a social event. A man in a dark jacket with a university logo is in the foreground, talking to a woman. The background is a dimly lit room with blue lighting.



2023 LAW WEEK BANQUET

