

# NCCentral UNIVERSITY

## School of Law

#### LEGAL EAGLE BRIEF | MARCH 2023 | ISSUE 16

#### **INTERIM DEAN MALIK C. EDWARDS**

#### WOMEN IN HISTORY: FRANCES OLEE PIERCE REDDIX Grandlady of the Monroe Civil Rights Movement



Frances Olee Pierce Reddix was a Louisiana civil rights icon and the mother of NCCU Law Professor Brenda Reddix-Smalls. Throughout her nearly ninety-five-years of life, she was committed to promoting racial justice, and serving as a catalyst in her community. She was one of the first Black school teachers at Nevile High School and one of the first Black instructors at the University of Louisiana Monroe (formerly known as Northeast Louisiana State College) a school she helped integrate.

Frances Olee Pierce Reddix

She filed a lawsuit to integrate the

Fire Department of the City of Monroe and rechartered the local NAACP at a time when NAACP membership was illegal in Louisiana.

For more than 70 years, she and her husband, the late Dr. John Ira Reddix teamed up and organized the Monroe, Louisiana Civil Rights Movement. Monroe is the eighth-largest city in the state of Louisiana, and is the parish seat of Ouachita Parish.

Reddix and her husband were instrumental in the desegregation of Monroe Public Schools in the years following the 1954 Brown v. Board of Education Supreme Court decision.

Later, she and her husband used their personal resources to challenge voter suppression contributing to the testimony that led to the passing of the 1965 Voting Rights Act. Reddix and her husband were the masterminds behind the famous Jimmy Andrews v. Monroe City Schools case that contributed to the integration of Monroe City Schools.

Reddix was a devoted member of Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Inc. She died on January 9, 2023, just a few months shy of her 95th birthday. She was a wife, educator, activist, dignitarian and a loving mother of four daughters, who share her passion for advocacy and vow to continue her legacy.

As we transition from Black History Month to Women's History Month, it is fitting that we recognize the struggles of Frances Olee Pierce Reddix and countless others who have fought for people of color to have a seat at the table, an equal voice in our democracy, and equal pay in our economy.

More on the life of Frances Olee Pierce Reddix can be found at Monroe Free Press

#### STUDENT ORGANIZATION SPOTLIGHT Women's Law Caucus

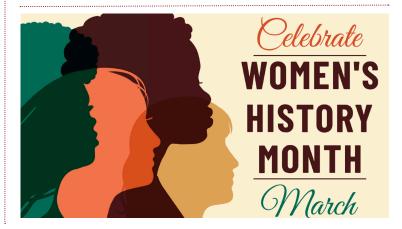


WLC members along with Professors Lydia Lavelle and Nichelle Perry visited the North Carolina Supreme Court to see Justice Robin Hudson preside over her last case before retirement.

The Women's Law Caucus (WLC) provides a supportive network that aids in professional development and offers students a community of women that are invested in their success. Women law students, law professors, attorneys, judges, and NC Supreme Court Justices join together to share their journeys and to offer support, mentorship and guidance.

The organization hosts several events throughout the year including Wine Down Wednesday. Wine Down Wednesday held biweekly offers a safe space for students to gather and discuss goals, fears and to uplift each other. Recently WLC held a panel on the state of women's healthcare. Senator Batch discussed the creation of legislation to protect women's rights. General Counsel Susanna Birdsong spoke on how she advocates for clients and works with the opposing side. Dr. Matthew Zerden spoke on how doctors work around the law to make sure their patients are safe. WLC launched a domestic violence campaign during the month of October. Members posted purple domestic violence facts on the first floor so that students visiting professors could learn more about the impacts of domestic violence.

Other events include a can food drive held in October. Goods from the drive were donated to Interact of Wake County, a domestic violence center. In March, WLC will host their annual judge's forum and annual tea and women faculty appreciation.





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#### **CLINIC CORNER - Criminal Defense Clinic**

Dionne R. Gonder-Stanley

Sr. Clinical Professor, Supervising Attorney for the Criminal Defense Clinic & Competition Teams Coordinator



"I had two lawyers before now. One is well known. You all have done more to help me and are running circles around what they did."

"My other lawyers work in this county. I have not seen them in months. [When you came from Durham to see me in jail,] I learned more about my case and my legal options than I have from them. I can tell you are about the people."

Dionne R. Gonder-Stanley

people."

These paraphrased comments from recent clients reveal that Professor Dionne Gonder-Stanley and students of the Criminal Defense Clinic take seriously their goal of providing high-quality legal representation to individuals who face criminal charges in Durham's District Court. As they take the lead in all aspects of client representation, the students demonstrate daily what "Truth and Service" look like when applied to criminal defense work.

This Spring 2023 semester, the Criminal Defense Clinic has represented twenty-five clients to date. Clinic students will also educate community members about their rights at "The More You Know!" – a program on March 16 at 5:30 pm in Room 1106 at the School of Nursing. The Criminal Defense Clinic will present on topics such as "Wrong Place, Wrong Time: Probable Cause," "They Did That, Not Me: Accomplice Liability," and "What Do You Do When You See Blue: Police Interactions." Members of the University and Durham communities may hear from these committed, serviceoriented clinic students at that time.



Dean Edwards and recipients of The Julian T. Pierce Memorial Scholarship: Larry T. Futrell, Shelley A. Brown and Darius York-Stephens are presented with a scholarship check. Pictured from the Julian T. Pierce Memorial Scholarship Committee are Kelvin Jacobs '13, General Counsel at UNC Pembroke, Harvey Godwin Jr., Lisa Hunt and Alex Lehmann.

#### STUDENT SPOTLIGHT Black Law Student Association

California native Delany Davis (3L) is a proud graduate of Hampton University. From a young age, she was fascinated by the idea of having a career as a problem solver. That's what being a law student feels like to Davis - being faced with complex problems and solving them to improve the overall quality of people's lives.



Delany Davis

Among the many hats she wears,

Davis serves as President of the Black Law Student Association (BLSA). She ran for the office because she takes pride in being a part of the five percent that make up all Black law students in the United States. She uplifts, encourages, and supports the advancement of Black people. Whether through the academic sphere, community service, or simple fellowship, she wants to see everyone succeed.

Set to march in May, Davis has big dreams to work with compliance and data teams at a tech company to identify and respond to statutory/regulatory data privacy obligations and better support consumers. She is also exploring options in big law to see how her passion for data privacy can conform to a litigation focused role. The opportunity to represent individuals who may have been injured or harmed by corporate misconduct is the type of work Davis is ready to take on. When she's not poring over legal briefs, she loves to read, exercise, and spend time with family.

#### **Upcoming Events**

March 6-10: Spring Break

March 15: Legal Clinic Fair | Noon - 2 p.m. Great Hall

March 15: Professionalism Dinner | 6:30 p.m. University Club in Durham

March 16: Criminal Defense Clinic "The More You Know" 5:30 p.m. School of Nursing

March 26 : Block Party | 11 a.m. - 4 p.m. Law School Patio

March 27 - April 2: NCCU Law Week

April 15 : SJREI Gala | 6 p.m. NCCU Student Center



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#### NCCU TECH LAW AND POLICY CENTER

#### FUTURE OF CONTRACTS DESIGN DERBY



Law students participated in the Future of Contracts Design Derby sponsored by the Duke Center on Law & Technology, NCCU Tech Law and Policy Center, Vanderbilt Law School, integreon, Nelson & Mullins and Latham & Watkins, LLP. During the day-long sprint, students brainstormed ideas for a better future for contract practice through innovation and design. Students explored the annoyances, risks, and challenges of contract notice provisions and how notice presents unique liabilities and challenges in contract litigation.

The teams designed prototypes of their contract notice solutions. Many focused solutions on small businesses recognizing the lack of access to legal resources, for contract review, negotiation, and contract management. Professor April Dawson, Professor Diane Littlejohn, Professor Dana G. Jones and Professor Cedric Pickett facilitated the Legal Design Derby experience.

#### IAPP RALEIGH/DURHAM KNOWLEDGENET CHAPTER & LAW STUDENT PANEL AND NETWORKING EVENT

The TLPC and the Technology & Law Student Organization are scheduled to co-sponsor the IAPP Raleigh/Durham KnowledgeNet Chapter & Law Student Panel and Networking Event on March 28. The IAPP KnowledgeNet Raleigh/Durham chapter hosts quarterly meetings to allow local privacy professionals to network and learn about a substantive issue or topic in the privacy space.

This event, which will open to law students at the local law schools as well, will allow students to attend the panel discussion, engage with privacy attorneys, and network with privacy professionals in the Raleigh and Durham area.

#### LAW AND TECHNOLOGY CERTIFICATE GRADUATES



NCCU School of Law is strongly committed to preparing students for the increasingly technology-driven legal industry, and in support of that mission, it has established the Law & Technology Certificate Program. The Law & Technology Certificate recognizes a student's successful completion of a focused course of technology and law study, including at least 15 credit hours of approved law and technology-related courses.

Ten students from the class of 2023 will be the first cohort to earn the Law & Technology Certificate. The graduates will wear black, royal blue, and silver graduation cords to acknowledge their completion of the Certificate. A recognition celebration will be held for these graduates during the week of graduation.

## DATA PRIVACY SPECIALIZATION AND IAPP PARTNERSHIP

The job market for data privacy professionals continues to grow. Businesses of all sizes need and want experienced data privacy talent; however, a "talent gap" exists because the supply of data privacy professionals has not yet met the demand for such talent. Recognizing this need within the legal tech space, the TLPC has developed a Data Privacy Specialization, which includes courses, training, and employment resources for students interested in data privacy and data security practices.

NCCU School of Law has partnered with IAPP in receiving discounts for IAPP resources in the IAPP Higher Education Student Discount Program. As of the end of February 2022, two NCCU Law Students have passed the CIPP/US exam and earned their certifications. We expect several more to earn their certifications by the end of the semester.

NCCU School of Law is also an Official Training Partner for the IAPP and will be able to offer official IAPP training for attorneys interested in securing CIPP certification. Tech Law Fellow and attorney Cedric Pickett, CIPP/US, leads the TLPC Data Privacy Specialization efforts.

#### FUTURE OF CONTRACTS DESIGN DEBRY FEBRUARY 24, 2023















