

People's Alliance PAC 2018 Questionnaire for North Carolina Trial Division Judicial Candidates

Please return this completed form along with a resume or biographical statement describing your education, work history, community service, and prior political experience as soon as possible, but by **July 20, 2018** at the latest. Please note that following this deadline, the Durham People's Alliance PAC may publish your responses to this questionnaire and your resume.

You may e-mail your responses to Tom Miller at tom-miller1@nc.rr.com or mail them to Tom at 1110 Virginia Avenue, Durham, NC 27705

Thank you for completing this questionnaire and your willingness to serve the people of North Carolina.

Candidate's name: Amanda Maris

Judicial office sought: District Court Judge

Address: Post Office Box 52525, Durham NC 27707

E-mail address: info@amandamarisforjudge.com (website: www.judgeamandamaris.com)

Phone: 919-695-3799

When answering this questionnaire, please repeat the questions in your response document with each question numbered and organized as it appears here. Type your responses in italics, bold, or a different font to distinguish your responses from the questions. Please do not use colors. Please respond to questions using your own words and cite outside sources when applicable. You may explain your answer to every question, but please be concise.

About you:

1. Are you conservative or liberal? Please choose one and then explain your answer.
Progressive/Liberal - I am a person who embraces progressive values.
2. Please describe how your religious and/or philosophical beliefs may affect your conduct and decision making if you are elected. **Canon 2 of the The N.C. Code of Judicial Conduct requires, in part, that a judge promote public confidence in the integrity and impartiality of the judiciary. My religious beliefs will play no role in my judgments or orders in court. My philosophical beliefs will impact my conduct and decision making in court in a general sense: I believe that all people should be treated with dignity and respect and that no party or individual should receive more favorable or disparate treatment.**
3. Have you ever been convicted of a criminal offense (other than a minor traffic or minor drug offense)? If the answer is yes, please describe the circumstances and the outcome. **NO**
4. Have you personally ever been a party in a civil legal proceeding? If the answer is yes, please explain the circumstances and the outcome of the case. **NO**
5. Describe your current community involvement. As a judge, do you envision any community involvement beyond the specific duties of the office? If yes, please describe that involvement.

Engaging in the community is essential to my judicial philosophy. It is important to me to find time to engage on significant issues where I'm able and build partnerships between the courts and key stakeholders to improve the justice system together.

I currently serve on the board of Rebound - Alternatives for Youth, a nonprofit organization focused on supporting high school youth at risk of suspension or on a short-term suspension. I was on the board of the Durham County Teen Court & Restitution Program for a decade and continue to be invested in issues and work that affects our youth and aims to prevent the school-to-prison pipeline, including the formation of a School-Justice Partnership in Durham to expand on existing diversionary efforts for youth in our public schools and courts, including the Misdemeanor Diversion Program. I also intend to continue to volunteer as a Teen Court judge when I can.

This year, I have been spearheading the development of an exciting initiative to include a new court-referral program that will increase access to expunctions, certificates of relief and driver's license restoration in Durham. It is a joint effort with the City of Durham and several community partners including area law schools and local nonprofits doing this type of legal work. The program, likely called the DEAR (Durham Expunction and Restoration) program, will be a first of its kind in the state and will hopefully inform trends on these issues statewide. In general, I intend to pursue future initiatives to increase access to justice in other ways over the years.

I am also a member of my synagogue, Judea Reform Congregation, the Jewish Community Center (JCC) and recently, the Carolina Jews for Justice - all involve community engagement within and outside of the Jewish community. I am open to a variety of opportunities for community collaboration and engagement so long as approved by the Code of Judicial Conduct.

About your practice of law:

6. Please describe your practice as a lawyer. Describe the areas of your practice and your specialties. Describe the diversity of your client base as a part of your answer.

Before becoming a judge, I was an Assistant Public Defender in Durham for over 10 ½ years representing indigent, low-income persons facing incarceration. A great number of my clients were African-American and people of color generally with a smaller number consisting of members of the Latinx community, many of whom were undocumented. A minority of my clients were Caucasian. As an attorney, I practiced criminal law (in District and Superior Court) and regularly practiced in juvenile delinquency court. When I began the practice of law as a sole practitioner (3-4 months total), I practiced in criminal court, juvenile delinquency court and child support court.

As a judge, I have been assigned to Family Court twice monthly (two non consecutive weeks) since August last year. I also began presiding twice monthly in child support court last August and now preside there once a month for one week, rotating through the district criminal (and traffic) courts the remaining week monthly.

7. Please describe a case you have handled as an attorney or judge that best illustrates the abilities and temperament you would (or do) display as a judge. Please describe a case you handled where you did not exemplify, perhaps, the model temperament of a judicial figure.

There are countless cases that have impacted me over the years as a lawyer and a judge. I will describe a case early on in my career that helped shape my perspective on the judicial system.

As a relatively new public defender, I was assigned a case of a 16-year old client with no prior record charged with a firearm offense. At the time, this offense was not one that the District Attorney's office would offer a deferred prosecution agreement on (that would have permitted an "earned" dismissal). Our only choices for resolving the case were plea or trial.

The facts I can share generally are that the client was in a car where a gun was found. He was the closest person in proximity to where the gun was found of those in the vehicle - he was charged. He had no knowledge that the gun was there and had recently switched seats in the car with another teen prior to the officers' arrival on scene. The progression of this case once he became my client was slow. We met three times before the trial, and I watched my client's innocence disappear as he realized that the one boy in the car who was his friend would not testify for him willingly. The other two boys were not well-known to him and had gotten a ride in the car prior to my client becoming a passenger. He did not want to involve them and was fearful of them.

It became increasingly clear to me that not only did I need to win this trial to keep his record "clean." I needed to win this trial so that my client would have some faith in the justice system and feel and be exonerated. He was innocent, and while his innocence was presumed, he didn't feel that "the system" would help him. We had the trial, and he was found not guilty. I ran into his mother a few years later, and she told me he was in college and doing well. They were able to expunge that charge from his record, but I know that he was changed by the experience in negative and positive ways.

His case taught me how fragile our youth are in the justice system, and that sometimes the job of an attorney goes beyond zealous advocacy and a good client relationship consistent with the Rules of Professional Conduct. Sometimes the job of the attorney is to save a life or a child's (or client's) outlook on their own life and place in the world. I was a new lawyer when I represented this very young man in what seems like ages ago, but I remember him and his mother like it was yesterday. I am now a judge and have assumed a new role of impartiality and neutrality. However, I continue to be sensitive to all who come before me and their humanity, knowledgeable about the law and procedure, and acutely aware of the impact my decisions, words and acts can have on real lives.

As for a case in which I may not have displayed the model temperament of a judge, I don't have one that stands out but every judge's emotions do sometimes get the best of them when hearing a case, especially with cases containing upsetting or difficult subject matter. I know that there have been occasional times when I am delivering a ruling and either the words or tone of my words convey that I am upset in some way, but I do my very best to generally keep my feelings to myself, remain neutral and disallow any feelings from affecting my judgment and rulings, striving to always remain impartial and professional from the bench. No judge is perfect in this way though, and I am no different. I do think some emotion and empathy is appropriate to convey as a judge as the law is not without concern for humanity.

8. Have you ever been publicly or privately disciplined by the North Carolina State Bar or any other professional or occupational licensing authority in North Carolina or any other state? "Disciplined" should be read to include reprimands, censures, and warnings in addition to license suspension, surrender, revocation, and disbarment. Is the State Bar or any governmental authority considering a complaint against you at the present time? Have you ever been found in contempt of court? For each "yes" answer, please tell us what happened and describe the outcome of the matter. **NO**
9. Please describe the nature and extent of any pro bono work you have done. Is there a pro bono matter to which you have contributed that best illustrates your values?

Yes, after about a year as an Assistant Public Defender in 2008, I wanted to do more for the legal and general community. I attended my first Public Service Committee Meeting within the Durham County Bar Association. At the meeting, there was a request for the committee to assist Legal Aid of NC in Durham with a growing demand for expunctions. I volunteered to lead the effort with another private attorney.

We founded a quarterly expunction clinic with Legal Aid for the public which may have been the first in the state. I prepared the materials to train other attorneys who would staff the clinics, and organized the clinics. I continued to maintain the clinics in the years that followed with other private attorneys and expanded them in number with the help of the NCCU Law Criminal Litigation Clinic.

Founding and managing this clinic, and the work I am doing now as a judge in a partnership with other court, government and community partners, to create the first court-referral program in NC on expunctions (see my answer to number 5 please) illustrates the value I place on access to justice for all, community, teamwork and helping others. It also illustrates that I understand the impact of the law and the many collateral consequences stemming from the justice system.

Concerning law and policy:

10. What is your position on the death penalty?

Death penalty cases are not heard in District Court. Since such cases will not come before me as a District Court Judge, I can share that I oppose the death penalty and believe it should be abolished

11. What, if anything, should be done to improve access to the courts for people with limited financial means?

There are numerous things that could be done to increase access to the courts for people with limited financial means. My efforts to create the DEAR program (see answer to number 5 please) is one solution for the relief the program plans to offer pertaining to collateral consequences of a criminal record including employment, education and housing. I would also like to see initiatives to increase access to our civil courts with a more user-friendly filing system (perhaps e-filing) and court forms so that navigating the court system without a lawyer in family court or child support court, for example, would not be so daunting. I am particularly concerned about access for Spanish-speaking low-income parties and have ideas for improving language access in the future. Any court in which a person must represent themselves can present an additional barrier to the relief sought, and those with limited financial means will often be without representation where the law does not automatically afford them the right to apply for a court-appointed lawyer.

12. North Carolina incarcerates an extraordinary number of people, including persons convicted of non-violent crimes. Those who are incarcerated are disproportionately people of color. What would you (do you) do in your role as judge to address the issues of mass incarceration and racial bias in the administration of justice?

First and foremost, I recognize that the justice system today was borne out of a time when racial difference and discrimination was enshrined in our law and buttressed with

additional laws over the past two centuries that has not been dismantled or flushed from our present day court system.

As a judge now, I work to ensure that my own judgments are free of racial bias (understanding that we all possess implicit biases that we are not always aware of even when we believe we are) - What this means is that I follow the law controlling each courtroom and render decisions based on the evidence presented. I also take affirmative steps to make sure my consciousness is awakened by continuing to educate myself on issues of racial bias and mass incarceration, including reading and partaking of racial bias trainings. I have also reviewed and hope to see more judges using measures taken in other jurisdictions to address racial bias in judgments with racial equity bench cards.

I think all court officials not limited to judges should engage in race equity training (see also 19) and have reoccurring opportunities for such trainings and related seminars. I would like to see new programming put in place to promote these trainings and seminars for court actors.

13. Would you (do you) assess or strike Failure-to-Appear fees in cases involving traffic offenses? Would you have a bright line rule?

A judge is not the one responsible for assessing the FTA fee which is administratively assessed 20 days after the FTA by the clerk's office unless removed by a subsequent motion and order. I routinely listen to motions to strike a called and failed and remit the associated FTA fee whenever a party or lawyer makes such a motion, and like any motion, I listen to the motion and decide at each request whether it is appropriate to strike the FTA fee considering why the person missed court and incurred the FTA fee and other arguments made, including financial limitations and constraints the party is facing.

A judge is not permitted under the NC Judicial Code of Conduct to have a bright-line rule if it is one that would indicate a guaranteed ruling on a motion. A judge must always consider any motion when it is made without forming a decision on the ruling before the motion has been made to the judge in order to remain neutral and impartial. I am always willing to hear motions to strike FTA's or FTA fees because the underlying reason for a FTA may be legitimate but will reserve judgment until I have heard the motion and related arguments from all parties.

14. What guidelines would you (do you) use to determine whether pre-trial confinement is appropriate for a defendant?

The current state law gives judges guidelines to consider when deciding whether pre-trial confinement is appropriate or required, specifically N.C. Gen. Stat. 15A-534. Some of those provisions require either a secured bond or house arrest with electronic monitoring if certain concerns are present, (see subsection (b): "...such release will not reasonably assure the appearance of the defendant as required; will pose a danger of injury to any person; or is likely to result in destruction of evidence, subornation of perjury, or intimidation of potential witnesses"). Other provisions give a judge more discretion and the ability (or requirement) to impose an unsecured bond, written promise to appear or a custody release (see (b) also and (c)).

As a judge bound by the law, I start with the law in imposing pre-trial conditions or bail. I also consult with the local bond schedule or “presumptive bond” guidelines. Then I consider the particular evidence available (weight of) surrounding the offense, the nature of the offense, the threat to a victim or the community if the person charged is released, history of FTA or indication of flight or the contrary in community & familial ties including length of residence, employment, criminal record, present intoxication, mental health, age and disability of the defendant and the financial means of the defendant - all considerations I am required to consider under the state law, for the most part.

The law asks that I consider: “In determining which conditions of release to impose, the judicial official must, on the basis of available information, take into account the nature and circumstances of the offense charged; the weight of the evidence against the defendant; the defendant's family ties, employment, financial resources, character, and mental condition; whether the defendant is intoxicated to such a degree that he would be endangered by being released without supervision; the length of his residence in the community; his record of convictions; his history of flight to avoid prosecution or failure to appear at court proceedings; and any other evidence relevant to the issue of pretrial release.”

Whether a person has “FTA’d” before, is charged with a felony and on probation, or was out of jail on pretrial release at the time the present offense is alleged to have occurred all also have additional requirements for a judge when setting pretrial conditions and bail in subsections (d1), (d2), and (d3) of the same statute discussed herein.

15. What is your position on bail? What, if any, changes need to be made to the current bond schedule?

Please see my answer to 14 for the law I consult when setting bail and consider my position to be that as a judge I am bound by the current law when deciding what type of pretrial release or bail to set. Should the legislature adopt or amend our current law to consider a bail system or method of assuring a person’s presence in court and the safety of our community that is different than our current bail system, I would utilize that method. I am currently not as educated as I would like to be on all of the alternative bail systems nor in the appropriate role in our state government to suggest an alternative other than those legally authorized at this time. I am educating myself further and actively engaged on this issue currently however.

Significantly, I do always consider whether the pretrial program is an option for release from jail when a written promise or unsecured bond alone is not appropriate (for more serious offenses or when a victim or the community safety is at risk, etc.). The Pretrial Release Program in Durham is an excellent resource that can be used more often to enable release from jail when there are safety concerns for a victim or the community, or for the defendant’s welfare to ensure additional monitoring and safeguards without incarceration or pretrial confinement.

The current bond schedule or local presumptive guidelines could benefit from some study and assessment by all relevant stakeholders. They could be adjusted to include revisions related to the statutory considerations incumbent for a judge, offer more discretion to an individual judge “or

exceptions to the rules” under certain facts and circumstances and could include or suggest an ability to pay assessment. All statutory considerations must be in a judge’s mind when addressing bail and we cannot get lost in the consideration of the nature of offense (class level) alone. The current bond schedule could include language designed to prevent that.

16. What can be done to improve language access for defendants, victims, and witnesses during court proceedings? **In general, we could use an additional full-time Spanish language interpreter and could benefit from new technology to interpret documents accurately and more instantaneously. Many court forms are available in Spanish, but some documents and forms are not available, and in this day and age, everything should be in English and Spanish and readily accessible in all of our courts. We do have the ability to interpret all languages on a “language line” for spontaneous needs. Otherwise, there is a process to request interpreters needed in advance. With Spanish, advance needs are not always known and a delay can occur for parties that should not.**

17. What changes, if any, would you make to the local rules of court and why?

Not all courts possess formal local rules and for those that do, they are not consistently used or applied. Family Court local rules were recently revised and are in pretty good shape, but if the family law bar (attorneys) or parties had concerns about the rules, I would review them upon request. Some minor tweaks may be called for in those rules.

Our local rules for each court are ultimately set by the Chief District Court Judge, however I am willing to review any rules in courts I preside in regularly. The child support court has a set of rules that likely need to be revised as they relate to contempt and enforcement. I intend to do my part to address revisions to comport better with the law on contempt and the needs of the parties in that courtroom in the future after input from all parties can be compiled and considered.

18. Should judges be appointed or elected in North Carolina? If you believe judges should be appointed, who should appoint them? If you believe judges should be elected, what system should be employed to elect them? Should judicial elections be partisan?

Elections are the preferred method at this time given that a judicial appointment process cannot be confidently said to be based on merit and qualifications of a candidate over partisan interests if it were established now. This is evident in the multiple pieces of legislation that passed the state legislature since last year which overtly injected partisanship into our judiciary, an otherwise independent and nonpartisan branch of government.

Accordingly, judicial elections should not be partisan as party politics has no place in our decisionmaking. It is awkward however to consider these issues given legislation was passed last year to make judicial races partisan. The law now dictates that a (D) or (R) appear by our name on the ballot when what we do in the courtroom is not permitted to be partisan by the NC Judicial Code of Conduct or the very nature of the judicial system to be fair and free from private influence. Making elections partisan takes away from our staunch duty to remain impartial and neutral and muddies the water of judicial independence and the integrity of our court system as a whole.

19. Should race bias training be mandatory for persons involved in the justice system? What should this training consist of and for whom should it be required? Have you any special training in issues related to racial disparities and equities?

Yes, absolutely. Please see my answer to question 12 also. I took a multi-day training with the Greensboro Race Equity Institute which was transformative and led to my decision to become a judge. All court actors need this or similar training. I have also taken training for attorneys in the past that addressed disparities in our court system based on race and how to defend clients in cases with racial bias present.

20. How have (or will) you address legislation that requires notice to be given to all impacted governmental agencies before a judge waives costs and fines for a criminal defendant? Under what circumstances should a court waive costs and fines?

This is a significant question. I am currently chairing a task force within the Durham Crime Cabinet that came about in part because of concerns about the impact this new law. I am comfortable with the notice that the AOC gives monthly as compliant with the new notice law, and so, I consider an ability to pay assessment for the individual before me and whether I can make findings of just cause based on the motion made before I waive costs and fines. I am very aware that court fines and fees can be exhortitant and often insurmountable obstacles to the indigent.

21. Should data of prosecutors' individual and office-wide juror challenges be collected and published as a method of identifying and neutralizing bias during the peremptory challenge process?

This is a good, probing question and some data of this nature could prove beneficial to addressing explicit and implicit biases in jury selection. A system that identified prosecutors by an assigned number that remained confidential may allow the most accurate data to be collected. If it were not anonymous, the data may be skewed and less helpful for the goal articulated here.

22. What are the risks and benefits of pre-trial diversion in criminal cases? For what offenses and for which offenders is diversion appropriate? Are their program models you favor?

Please see my answer above to question 15. The pretrial program in place now in Durham has its own criteria and safety/risk assessment tool. A judge can nonetheless refer an individual to them for consideration outside the established criteria.

There are many more benefits than risks to utilizing pretrial services, and I try to use the program whenever an individual would benefit from their services or a victim or the community would benefit from additional supervision of the person charged. I often tell defendants the pretrial program is "like being on probation" before the court date. It is frequently used without any secured/money bond.

It may not be necessary for some minor offenses to use the program, but sometimes a particular case calls for extra safeguards be it domestic violence or an individual who is young or suffering from some mental disability or disorder. It can also be appropriate for more serious offenses with greater risk to the community such as mid to lower level felonies depending on the offense and

other factors about the case and individual, and requesting electronic monitoring in this context with pretrial services is a good tool. It could be appropriate for very serious offenses in conjunction with a secured bond and monitoring or house arrest to provide extra supervision.

A lot of this question's answer is very case-specific. I did recently meet with a representative of the national Pretrial Justice Institute and was very interested in the work they are doing across the nation to increase access and use of pretrial services. This may be an issue we explore in the task force I am on that I described earlier. I think expanding pretrial access is a part of the solution to decreasing pretrial confinement, and Durham courts should consider an expansion.

23. Yes or No Questions – please indicate your answer the following questions by underlining “YES” or “NO.” If you wish to explain or elaborate your answer to any question, please use no more than 100 words to do so.

- a. Do you support legislation designed to protect gay, lesbian, and transgender people from discrimination in housing, employment, public accommodation, and access to government processes, benefits, and services? **YES**
- b. Do you support legislation which excuses magistrates, judges, and other government officials from performing their duties because of their religious beliefs? **NO**
- c. Do you support the continuation and expansion of local funding that addresses substance abuse and mental health treatment, including a Drug Treatment Court and Mental Health Court? **YES, these courts and services are crucial.**
- e. Do you support the expanded use of restorative justice practices in shaping outcomes in criminal cases? **YES, I think restorative justice is another solution to some of the issues the justice system has been stymied with for years, and if done well, can offer holistic and meaningful reparation for both a victim and defendant and a real opportunity to heal or rehabilitate a party and a community.**
- f. In questions of pre-trial release, do you support the use of a screening instrument, calibrated to prevent discrimination, to determine substantial risk of flight and danger to the community, as recommended by the Pretrial Justice Institute? **YES**

Your politics

- 24. How are you registered to vote? Have you ever changed your registration? If you have changed your voter registration, please explain why. **Democrat. NO.**
- 25. Who did you vote for in the 2012 and 2016 presidential and gubernatorial elections? Who did you vote for in the 2014 U. S. Senate election? **Obama & Clinton; Dalton & Cooper. Kay Hagan.**
- 26. How will you vote if the November ballot contains constitutional amendment referenda in favor of “Marsy’s Law” and the filling of judicial vacancies? **No/Against.**

Judges and judicial candidates in North Carolina are allowed substantial freedom of political speech. PA PAC believes that every question in this questionnaire may be answered fully within the scope of the applicable rules. For more information on the scope of permitted political speech for judicial candidates, we refer you to the December 17, 2015 memorandum of the Judicial Standards Commission on Permitted Political Conduct. You may find it at:

https://www.sog.unc.edu/sites/www.sog.unc.edu/files/course_materials/04%20Political%20Conduct%20Guidance%20for%20Judges%202016.pdf

Again, Thank you. **Please do not forget to provide us with your resume or biographical statement.**

AMANDA L. MARIS

District Court Judge, District 14

info@amandamarisforjudge.com

EDUCATION

Juris Doctor

May 2006 | North Carolina Central University School of Law, Durham, NC

- Law Journal published member
- Research Assistant, Prof. Cheryl Amana-Burris, Family Law (2004-6)
- Civil Litigation Clinic, Legal Aid of NC (2006);
- Environmental Law Society, President/Vice President (2004-6).

Summer 2005 | International Human Rights Law Program, Whittier Law School, Amsterdam, Netherlands

- CALI Excellence for the Future Award, highest grade, AIDS & International Law

Bachelor of Arts

May 2000 | University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill, Chapel Hill, NC

- Dean's List (Fall 1997/9)
- Sophomore Honors Program (1997-8)
- Phi Sigma Pi National Honor Fraternity
- Co-Chair, B-GLAD (1999-2000) & Founder, B-GLAD Visibility Cmte. (1997-9)

Freshman Yr. 1996-1997 | Smith College, Northampton, MA (Dean's List)

BAR ADMISSION: August 2006 | North Carolina State Bar

LEGAL EXPERIENCE

State of NC - NC Judicial Branch

District Court Judge - District 14

Durham, NC

August 2017 - present

(Appointed by Governor Cooper in 2017 after garnering majority support from the Durham legal community.)

Preside over numerous hearings and trials on a daily basis in District Court on matters pertaining to: family law, criminal and domestic violence law, motor vehicle law, child support, juvenile and civil law. Work to establish an expunction court-referral program and coordinated legal services network in Durham in a partnership between government, court and community stakeholders in order to increase access to expunctions and other forms of relief from a criminal record or driver's license suspension. One of two full-time family court judges in Durham courts. Member of the Legal Workgroup for the Statewide Reentry Council Collaborative working to come up with solutions to improve reentry services for formerly incarcerated persons prior to and upon their release.

Office of the Public Defender – District 14

Asst. Public Defender

Durham, NC

January 16, 2007 - July 2017

Litigated and disposed of cases in juvenile delinquency court, traffic court and criminal (and domestic violence) court. Accumulated significant trial experience in district and superior court with numerous bench and jury trials. Represented clients on a wide range of misdemeanor and felony offenses: probation violations, motor vehicle/DWI, assaults, violent crimes, property, weapons and drugs.

Acted as the public defender in the first **Misdemeanor Diversion Program** in NC founded in 2014.

N.C. Central University School of Law

Adjunct Professor of Law (Legal Writing)

Durham, NC

August 2015 – June 2016

Instructed first-year law students on the building blocks of legal writing and analysis. Courses taught included: Legal Reasoning and Analysis & Legal Research and Persuasion.

Amanda L. Maris, Attorney at Law

Private Attorney

Durham, NC

October 2006 – January 2007

Represented clients in district court on criminal, juvenile and child support matters.

N.C. Central University School of Law

Research Assistant to Prof. Cheryl Amana-Burris

Durham, NC

August 2004 – January 2006

Researched family law topics as directed. Prepared an annual update of legislative changes to the N.C. family law statutes. Conducted research to support law journal articles and other writings.

N.C. Assoc. of Black Lawyers' Land Loss Prevention Project

Intern

Durham, NC

May – November 2005 (Excl. July)

Worked independently on matters involving: predatory lending, foreclosure, partition, mortgages/liens, property ownership among multiple heirs/property disputes, encroachments, mistaken boundaries and nuisance law. Drafted pamphlet for the public entitled “A Citizen’s Guide to Environmental Justice.”

N.C. Trusts for Public Lands, American Planning Association

(N.C. Chapter), N.C. Sierra Club, N.C. Wildlife Federation

Legislative Intern to Lobbyis

Raleigh, NC

March; May – August 2004

Researched prior legislation and matters relevant to targeted legislation. Compiled manual on House Bill 1213: Billboard Compensation. Drafted handouts and materials. Directly informed legislators of positions on pending legislation. Attended committee meetings.

Sharon Thompson Law Group

Legal Assistant

Durham, NC

July 2001 – January 2003

Assisted in drafting estate planning documents. Prepared court forms, exhibits, and trial materials in family and estate law cases, incl. divorces, adoptions and custody disputes.

Young, Moore & Henderson, P.A.

Paralegal

Raleigh, NC

June 2000 – March 2001

Drafted pleadings, discovery, and case evaluation letters in residential & commercial stucco construction cases involving faulty EIFS (exterior insulating finishing systems). Summarized depositions and managed documents for trial. Responded to new client inquiries. Trained litigation team to use new software.

Legal Aid of North Carolina

NCCU Civil Litigation Clinic

Durham, NC

January 2006 - May 2006

Assumed cases from initial intake in the areas of: landlord-tenant law, consumer debt collection, and divorce. Engaged in settlement negotiations, prepared settlement letters and appeared in family court.

Wake County Guardian Ad Litem Program

Guardian ad Litem

May 2000 – May 2002

Investigated a juvenile case of neglect. Interviewed relatives, foster parents, teachers, and case workers and reviewed records. Monitored the children's environment to ensure their health and well-being. Submitted detailed court reports and testified.

Domestic Violence Advocacy Program

Intern

Durham, NC

Fall 1999

Assisted the Domestic Violence Advocate in interviewing victims and organizing case files.

ACADEMIC INSTRUCTION & PRESENTATIONS

Adjunct Professor of Law (Legal Writing), N.C. Central School of Law (Aug. 2015 – June 2016).

Expunctions in North Carolina, Law to the People, LLC, CLE (Nov. 2015), Presenter.

Defending Probation Violations, Durham County Bar Assoc. YLD CLE (June 2015), Presenter.

New Misdemeanor Defender Training, UNC School of Government (2010-2016 annually*), Faculty. Lead multi-day workshops for new public defenders and private counsel. *except 2013

Impeachment by Prior Omission or Inconsistent Statement, UNC School of Government, 2012 Spring Public Defender Conference, Co-Presenter with John C. Donovan.

Defective Pleadings I Have Known in District Court, UNC School of Government, 2011 Spring Public Defender Conference, Co-Presenter with John C. Donovan.

Expunctions in North Carolina, George H. White Bar Association CLE (2011), Presenter.

PUBLICATIONS

Clean Air, Clean Conscience: Evaluating the Early Action Compact Program under the Shadow of the Clean Air Act in the Five-Year Wake of Whitman v. American Trucking Ass'ns, Inc., 28 N.C. Cent. L. Rev. 260 (2006).

PROFESSIONAL ASSOCIATIONS & CIVIC INVOLVEMENT

NC Conference of District Court Judges, Member.

State Reentry Council Collaborative, Legal Workgroup Member.

14th Judicial District Bar, Member.

Durham Orange Women's Association (DOWA), Member.

N.C. Association of Women Attorneys (NCAWA), Member.

Durham County Bar Association, Member.

Public Service Committee (2007-2017)

- Co-Founded a quarterly public expunction clinic with Legal Aid of NC in Durham.

Durham Crime Cabinet

Chair, Task Force on Court Fines & Fees (*prese*

t) - newly formed subcommittee.

Representative for Public Defender's Office (2009-2017)

- Member of **The Mental Health and Criminal Justice Advisory Team**, Member of **The Mental Health Court Planning Committee**.

Durham County Teen Court & Restitution Program, Past Board Chair & Member, Teen Court Judge, Mentor (2009-2018).

Rebound – Alternatives for Youth, Board Member, Durham, NC (Aug 2016 – *present*).