

**Dorothy Hairston Mitchell**

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**ACADEMIC BACKGROUND**

J. D.

North Carolina Central University School of Law, Durham, NC, May, 2002

B.A., Political Science/English

North Carolina Central University, Durham, NC, May, 1999

**AREAS OF EXPERTISE AND TEACHING**

Juvenile Delinquency Law

Abuse, Neglect, Dependency Law

Criminal Law

Educational Long Term Suspensions Policies and Law

Family Law

Real Estate

Diversity, Equity & Inclusion

**BAR ADMISSIONS**

North Carolina State Bar, Admitted March 2003

United States Middle District of North Carolina, Admitted June 2003

**LEGAL EXPERIENCE**

*District Court Judge*

January 2022-present

**Durham County, North Carolina, Judicial District 14**

Appointed by North Carolina Governor Roy Cooper December 3, 2021.

Responsible for presiding over district court criminal and civil cases.

*Legal Director*

**Center for Child & Family Health, Durham, NC**

October 2019-December 2021

Responsible for advising Center clinicians, administrators, and staff on legal issues and concerns and providing training and presentations on various topics.

***Court Appointed Appellate Counsel*** February 2018-December 2021  
Appointments made by the **NC Office of the Parent Defender**, Durham, NC  
Responsible for representing and counseling parents in abuse, neglect, dependency appeals, performing legal research, drafting, and filing appellate briefs.

***Assistant Public Defender*** February 2013-June 2016  
**Durham County Public Defender's Office**, Durham, NC  
Responsible for representing and counseling indigent clients in areas of criminal law and civil abuse, neglect, dependency matters and juvenile delinquency matters, Adult Drug Treatment Court and supervising students under the North Carolina State Bar Rules Governing the Practical Training of Law Students.

***Attorney*** May 2004-January 2013  
**Law Office of Dorothy Hairston**, Durham, NC  
Responsible for full operation of the general law practice, providing legal representation to clients in various areas of criminal defense and civil litigation and supervising office staff of paralegals/legal assistants, receptionist and legal interns.

***Paralegal/Associate Attorney*** September 2002-May 2004  
**Tracy Hicks Barley & Associates (dissolved)**, Durham, NC  
Responsible for legal research, drafting legal memorandum and providing other office assistance as a paralegal. Responsible for providing legal representation to clients in various areas of criminal and civil law as an associate attorney.

***Legal Intern*** January 2001-March 2002  
**Law Office of Dana G. Jones**, Durham, NC  
Responsible for legal research, drafting legal memorandum, interviewing clients and assisting attorneys with trial preparation and performing receptionist duties.

***Legal Intern*** May 2001-December 2001  
**Gary, Williams, Parenti, Watson & Gary**, Stuart, FL  
Responsible for legal research, drafting legal memorandum, interviewing potential clients, and assisting attorneys in trial preparation.

***Legal Intern*** May 2000-August 2000  
**North Carolina State Property Office**, Raleigh, NC  
Responsible for reviewing and making revisions to the State Property Office's section of the Administrative Procedures Act, drafting legal pleadings for the office staff attorney, attending legislative meetings and Council of State meetings and taking notes for other office personnel.

***Legal Assistant*** March 1997-May 1999  
**James E. Rogers, P.A.**, Morrisville, NC  
Responsible for interviewing potential clients, preparing files for attorneys, maintaining personal injury files, preparing and drafting settlement brochures, and providing receptionist support.

*Legal Assistant*

June 1993-August 1995

**Lewis & Daggett, Attorneys at Law (partnership dissolved)**, Winston-Salem, NC  
Responsible for preparing records for paralegals to draft personal injury settlement brochures, copying files, preparing exhibits for trials, and running office errands.

**TEACHING EXPERIENCE**

*Clinical Associate Professor/Supervising Attorney*

July 2016-December 2021

**North Carolina Central University School of Law**, Durham, NC

Responsible for teaching substantive law courses, served as the Supervising Attorney for the Juvenile Law Clinic, responsible for supervising students under the North Carolina State Bar Rules Governing the Practical Training of Law Students, and responsible for advising law students.

**Courses Taught:**

Juvenile Law (Fall/Spring/Summer)

Criminal Law (Spring 2016/Fall)

Pleadings & Practice: Abuse, Neglect, Dependency Law (Spring)

Legal Reasoning & Analysis (Fall 2016)

**Law School Committees:**

Faculty Hiring, 2020-2021

Faculty, Staff, and Student Affairs, 2020-2021 (Chair, 2020)

Social Justice & Racial Equality Initiative, 2020-2021 (Chair, 2021)

Student Performance Evaluation (SPEC), 2019-2021

Student Disciplinary, 2016-2021 (Chair, 2019-2021)

New Initiatives, 2016-2021

Evening Program Advisory Committee, 2019-2020

Law School Relations & External Affairs, 2016-2018

Curriculum, 2016-2017

**University Committees:**

Committee on Student Conduct, 2016-2021

BRITE Program Strategic Planning, 2018-2019

*Instructor*

May 2012-Present

**Duke University Continuing Studies**, Durham, NC

Responsible for teaching courses to paralegal studies students.

**Courses Taught:**

Family Law (Fall/Spring/Summer)

Real Estate Law (Spring 2016)

Essential Skills (Summer 2012)

**Adjunct Professor/Supervising Attorney**

January 2008-May 2010

**North Carolina Central University School of Law, Durham, NC**

Responsible for supervising law students in the Juvenile Law Clinic and the Civil Litigation Clinic under the North Carolina State Bar Rules for Governing the Practical Training of Law Students and for teaching various areas of law.

Courses Taught:

Juvenile Law (Fall/Spring)

North Carolina Long Term Suspensions (Fall/Spring)

Civil Litigation (Fall/Spring)

## **PRESENTATIONS**

***Engaging Parents at all Stages***, 2021 Virtual Parent Attorney Conference  
UNC School of Government, August 19, 2021, Chapel Hill, NC, Virtual

***TF-CBT (Trauma Focus-Cognitive Behavioral Therapy) & The Legal Process***, NC Child Treatment Program TF-CBT Learning Collaborative, June 9, 2021, Durham, NC, Virtual

***Moving Beyond Diversity Towards Racial Equity in the Workplace***, NC CTP Advanced Training Conference: Reconnecting & Sustaining, NC Child Treatment Program, May 18, 2021, Durham, NC, Virtual

***Motions and Discovery***, 2021 Intensive Parent Defender Virtual Training  
UNC School of Government, March 4, 2021, Chapel Hill, North Carolina, Virtual

***TF-CBT (Trauma Focus-Cognitive Behavioral Therapy) & The Legal Process***, NC Child Treatment Program TF-CBT Learning Collaborative, Learning Session 3, December 7, 2020, Durham, NC, Virtual

***Being an Effective Advocate, Even During a Pandemic***, 2020 Parent Attorney Conference,  
UNC School of Government, August 24, 2020, Chapel Hill, North Carolina, Virtual

***Interviewing and Counseling Youth***,  
Office of the Juvenile Defender, July 24, 2020, Durham, North Carolina, Virtual

***Teaching Practical Skills & Clinical Education During a Pandemic***, Co-presentation with  
Dionne Gonder-Stanley, CALIcon2020, June 3, 2020, Virtual

***Transfer Hearings***, 2020 Intensive Juvenile Defender Training,  
UNC School of Government, March 4, 2020, Chapel Hill, North Carolina

***Interviewing and Counseling Youth***, NC Juvenile Defender Enhancement Training,  
Office of the Juvenile Defender, February 26, 2020, Raleigh, North Carolina

***Taking Your 1<sup>st</sup> Abuse, Neglect, & Dependency Case***, Practical Skills University, November 2, 2019, Durham, North Carolina

***Common Ethical Dilemmas in Representing Crossover youth with School-Based Issues***, NC Bar Association Juvenile Justice & Children's Rights Lunch and Learn, NC Bar Association, May 9, 2019, Raleigh, North Carolina

***Promoting Client's Objectives: Strategizing Disposition***, 2019 Intensive Parent Defender Training, UNC School of Government, March 7, 2019, Chapel Hill, North Carolina

***Review and Permanency Planning Hearings***, 2019 Intensive Parent Defender Training, UNC School of Government, March 7, 2019, Chapel Hill, North Carolina

***Abuse, Neglect, Dependency Court Overview: From Petition to TPR***, Law to the People, November 28, 2018, Durham, North Carolina

***Dispositional Case Plans***, 2018 Abuse, Neglect, Dependency, & Termination of Parental Rights: A Course for District Court Judges, UNC School of Government, August 8, 2018, Chapel Hill, North Carolina

***Advocacy: Making a Case for the Recovering Client***, 2016 Parent Attorney Conference, UNC School of Government, August 11, 2016, Chapel Hill, North Carolina

***Overview of Abuse, Neglect, Dependency Court***, Durham County Bar Association, Young Lawyers Division, June 23, 2015, Durham, North Carolina

***Review and Permanency Planning Hearings***, 2015 New Parent Attorney Conference, UNC School of Government, March 13, 2015, Chapel Hill, North Carolina

Various Workshops Leader, 2014 Advanced Juvenile Defender Training, UNC School of Government, March 12-14, 2014, Chapel Hill, North Carolina

***Gathering the Facts: Investigation and Discovery in A/N/D Cases***, 2013 Parent Attorney Conference, UNC School of Government, August 15, 2013, Chapel Hill, North Carolina

Various Workshops Leader, 2013 Advanced Parent Defender Training, UNC School of Government, March 13-15, 2013, Chapel Hill, North Carolina

***Marijuana Detection and the Adult Drug Treatment Court Process***, Durham County Refresher Course, Part IV, George H. White Bar Association, November 2, 2012, Durham, North Carolina

## **PROFESSIONAL SERVICE & ACTIVITIES**

North Carolina Indigent Defense Services Commission, *Commissioner*, 2017-current  
Chair (elected 2021)  
Previously Vice-Chair (2019-2021)

Juvenile Committee  
Executive Committee  
Personnel Committee  
Long Term Planning Committee

North Carolina State Bar Council, *Councilor*, 2016-current

Committee Assignments:

Committee to Study Anti-Discrimination Language in Rules and Preamble (2020-current)

Grievance Committee (2019-2021)

Appointments Advisory (2018-current)

Communications Committee (2018-present (Chair, 2020-current)

Proactive Management Based Regulation Committee (2018-current)

Committee to Study ABA Rules Amendments to Model Rules on Advertising (2019-2020)

Authorized Practice Committee (2016-2020)

Distinguished Service Committee (2016-2020)(Vice-Chair, 2019-2020)

Ethics Committee (2016-2018, 2022-current)

Rule 1.19 Amendments Subcommittee (2021-current, Chair)

Diversity and Inclusion Committee (2020-current)

16<sup>th</sup> Judicial District Bar Association Board of Directors, 2007-current

Director, 2007-2012, 2015-present

President, 2014-2015

Vice President, 2013-2014

Secretary, 2012-2013

Durham County Bar Association Board of Directors and Durham Bar Foundation, 2007-current

Director, 2007-2012, 2015-present

President, 2014-2015

Vice President, 2013-2014

Secretary, 2012-2013

George H. White Bar Association, 2003-present

Member, 2003-present

Vice President, 2008-present

Chair of Scholarship and Honoree Banquet Committee, 2008-present

Chair of Political Action Committee, 2008-present

Exchange Family Center Board of Directors, *Director* 2018-2020

Global Scholars Academy, Board of Directors, *Director*, 2014-present, elected *Vice-Chair*, 2021

Durham County Teen Court, *Judge*, 2003-present

## **PROFESSIONAL MEMBERSHIPS**

Durham County Bar Association

14<sup>th</sup> Judicial District Bar Association

George H. White Bar Association

North Carolina Association of Women Attorneys  
Durham Orange Women Attorneys (DOWA)  
American Bar Association  
National Association of Drug Court Professionals  
Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, Incorporated

**AWARDS & RECOGNITIONS**

2018 North Carolina Central University “40 Under 40” Alumni Honoree and Award Recipient  
2017 Professor John Rubin Award for Extraordinary Contributions to IDS Training Programs