

North Carolina State Bar



2025
Pictorial
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Photo Not
Available

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State Bar Staff

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Payroll and Benefits Administrator, Ext. 210
Coordinates employee benefits and payroll functions for the State Bar. Employed with Bar: 2021. Education: BA in business administration, Baruch College.

**JOY BELK**

Managing Director, Paralegal Certification, Ext. 291
Manages the paralegal certification program. Employed with Bar: 2013. Education: MA, Liberty University; BA, East Carolina University; paralegal certificate, Meredith. Related experience: over 15 years of paralegal experience. Spouse's name: Walter

**LORI BROOKS**

Paralegal, Ext. 232
Assistant to deputy counsel, Client Security Fund, and the Authorized Practice Committee. Employed with Bar: 2003. Education: BA in history, Barton College.

**JESSICA ARNOLD**

Deputy Counsel, Ext. 213
Prosecutes lawyers in disciplinary cases. Employed with Bar: 2022. Education: BA, political science, North Carolina State University; BA, Spanish, North Carolina State University; JD, Campbell University. Related experience: almost nine years in private practice. Spouse's name: James

**LEXI BILSKI**

Administrative Assistant, Office of Counsel, Ext. 275
Administrative assistant to the staff of the Office of Counsel. Employed with Bar: 2024. Education: BA in psychology and criminal justice, University of South Carolina.

**DELIA M. BROWN**

LAP Operations Coordinator, Ext. 269
Coordinates all operating procedures of the LAP program, including CLE, communications, LAP outreach, and database operation. Employed with Bar: 2014. Related experience: supervisory background in customer service.

**CARMEN H. BANNON**

Counsel, Ext. 283
Counsel to the North Carolina State Bar. Employed with Bar: 2006. Education: BS, Brown University; JD, UNC. Related experience: associate adjunct professor of law at UNC; 2020 president, Wake County Bar Association.

**COLLEEN BISHOP**

Administrative Assistant, IOLTA, Ext. 216
Assists the IOLTA department with daily functions and operations of the program. Employed with Bar: 2021. Education: BA in criminal justice, Elizabeth City State University. Related experience: legal assistant and client specialist.

**BECKY CARROLL**

Chief of Staff, Office of Counsel, Ext. 234
Assistant to Office of Counsel. Employed with Bar: 2005. Education: BS in criminal justice and criminology, Barton College. Spouse's name: Jonathan

**TODD BASCOM**

Intake Coordinator, Ext. 297
Receives, reviews, and distributes incoming grievances and written inquiries. Employed with Bar: 2019. Education: BA in criminology, MA in forensic psychology, John Jay College (CUNY); Paralegal Certificate, UNC-Chapel Hill. Related experience: 12 years as a paralegal and insurance fraud investigator.

**PETER BOLAC**

Executive Director, Ext. 282
Sworn in as executive director/secretary in 2024 and is also the State Bar's legislative liaison. Previously served as trust account compliance counsel and as the State Bar's assistant executive director and director of the Board of Continuing Legal Education. Employed with Bar: 2010. Education: BA, Wake Forest; JD, University of Memphis. Spouse's name: Corey

**MARITZA CASTAÑEDA**

Administrative Assistant, Ext. 228
Schedules and tracks random audit reports, prepares TAC audit packets, and assists TAC participants. Employed with Bar: 2024. Education: Bachelor's degree in political science, NCCU. Related experience: Paralegal/legal assistant.

**KELLY BECK**

Assistant Director for Membership and CLE Compliance, Ext. 246
Tracks and enforces attorney compliance with the membership, IOLTA, CLE, and judicial district bar requirements. Employed with Bar: 2007. Education: BS in education from NCSU.

**MATT BROCK**

Senior Accountant, Ext. 202
Performs A/P functions for the Bar and provides assistance to the controller. Employed with Bar: 2018. Education: BA, University of Mary Washington, Fredericksburg, VA. Related experience: former North Carolina state auditor and accountant at UNC. Spouse's name: Michelle

**CHOUNG CHHAN**

Facilities Manager, Ext. 211
Manages facilities, security, and parking. Employed with Bar: 2021. Education: BS, UNC-Charlotte. Related experience: 20 years of hotel and retail building management. Spouse's name: Tam

**JOE COMISSO**

Director of Investigations, Ext. 200
Responsible for managing State Bar investigations. Employed with Bar: 2009. Education: BS in accounting, George Mason University. Related experience: special agent and supervisor with IRS Criminal Investigation, 1988-2009.

**MARTIN COOLIDGE**

Investigator, Ext. 294
Investigates grievance matters for Office of Counsel. Employed with Bar: 2014. Education: BA in criminal justice, American Military University. Related experience: under-sheriff and police captain, FBI National Academy #203, investigator and consultant in private sector. Spouse's name: Tammy

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Prosecutes lawyers in disciplinary cases. Employed with Bar: 2021. Education: BA, University of Dayton; JD, State University of New York at Buffalo. Related experience: 18 years in indigent criminal defense litigation. Spouse's name: Mike

**JENNIFER DUNCAN**

Director of Print and Digital Communications, 910/397-0353; FAX 919/791-9309
Responsible for State Bar publications and websites. Employed with Bar: 1997. Education: BS in marketing, Indiana University; MBA, Butler University. Related experience: advertising, marketing, and publishing. Spouse's name: Michael

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Prosecutes lawyers in disciplinary cases. Employed with Bar: 2024. Education: BA, The University of Tennessee; JD, Cumberland School of Law. Related experience: assistant DA 1993-1997; Criminal Division, NC Department of Justice 1997-2024. Spouse's name: Joe

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**TYLER GIBBENS**

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Investigates grievance matters for Office of Counsel. Employed with Bar: 2017. Education: BA, Michigan State; FBI National Academy #232. Related experience: Raleigh PD, 1984-2011 (retired). Since 2011 worked in private sector as security senior manager, investigator, and security consultant. Spouse's name: Jody

**B. TESSA HALE**

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Prosecutes individuals engaged in the unauthorized practice of law, as well as lawyers in disciplinary cases. Employed with Bar: 2022. Education: BS, University of Florida; JD, UNC. Related experience: attorney at Legal Aid of North Carolina, associate director at criminal justice reform nonprofit EmancipateNC.

**STEPHANIE HAMPTON**

Fee Dispute Resolution Facilitator, Ext. 243
Facilitates agreements between attorneys and their clients when a dispute over fees arises. Employed with Bar: 2023. Education: BA in psychology, Virginia Tech. Related experience: over 8 years administrative and legal experience.

**CANDACE HOFFMAN**

Assistant Director, LAP, Ext. 290
Employed with Bar: 2020. Education: BA, Meredith College; JD, Thomas Jefferson School of Law. Related experience: seven years as an assistant attorney general representing various sections of the Department of Health of Human Services, including the Mental Health Licensure and Certification Section.

**CRYSTAL HOLLANDER**

HR Administrator, Ext. 299
Assists with HR services, policies, and programs for the State Bar. Employed with Bar: 2024. Education: UNC Greensboro, PHR Certification in 2021. Related experience: ten years experience in HR.

**MARY L. IRVINE**

Executive Director, IOLTA, Ext. 217
Responsible for administration of NC IOLTA program. Coordinates activities to accomplish board decisions. Employed with Bar: 2014. Education: BA and JD, UNC. Related experience: UNC Center on Poverty, Work, and Opportunity; NC Network of Grant-makers. Spouse's name: Nick Byrne

**DAN LABARCA**

Program Manager, IOLTA, Ext. 214
Oversees NC IOLTA grantmaking process. Employed with Bar: 2021. Education: BA, University of California at Berkeley; MA, University of Hawaii. Related experience: 10 years program management experience at Institute of International Education. Spouse's name: Deidre

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**TAMMY JACKSON**

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**STEPHAN LAMPERT**

Investigator, Ext. 207
Investigates grievances for the Office of Counsel. Employed with Bar: 2022. Education: BA in accounting and BA in business management, North Carolina State University. Related experience: Cary PD 1994-2020, NC Office of State Auditor 2021.

**JEANNETTE MARTIN**

Receptionist, Ext. 221
Welcomes guests to the State Bar and answers incoming phone calls. Performs other support duties as required. Employed with Bar: 2023.

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Of counsel to the State Bar. Employed with Bar: 2005. Education: BA and JD, UNC. Related experience: private practice of law 1986-2005.

**CAROLINE LASSITER**

Event Manager, Ext. 244
Responsible for planning meetings and events of the Bar and maintaining records of officers, councilors, boards, and commissions. Employed with Bar: 2021. Education: BA, NC State University. Related experience: North Carolina Administrative Office of the Courts; US Senate.

**BRIT MCINNIS**

Executive Assistant, Ext. 271
Assists executive director and associate director/chief ethics counsel. Employed with Bar: 2024. Education: BA in government and public policy, University of Baltimore.

**BARBARA KERR**

Archivist, Ext. 250
Scans and inputs data for various departments. Employed with Bar: 2000. Education: Kaplan University, AAS in human services, Advanced Career Training - Information Processing Specialist certificate. Related experience: five years Aetna Life & Casualty.

**JOE LATONA**

CLE Clerk, Ext. 253
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**BETH McLAMB**

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**CATHY KILLIAN**

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Responsible for delivering strategic communication plans, products, and initiatives. Employed with Bar: 2024. Education: BA in communications, NC State University. Related experience: served 27 years in the Marine Corps.

**SUZANNE LEVER**

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Answers ethics inquiries, supports district bars, and serves as counsel to CLE and membership. Employed with Bar: 2004. Education: BA, Drew University; JD, Seton Hall University School of Law. Related experience: private practice for five years, adjunct professor of law at NCCU. Spouse's name: Tony

**PHILLIP B. MCWILLIAMS**

Professional Organization Coordinator, Ext. 225
Assists in all phases of membership including dues, inactive status, reinstatements, and registration of professional organizations and pro hac vice. Employed with Bar: 2016. Related experience: 14 years with Austin Community College.

**ROBYNN MORAITES**

Director, LAP
312 Rensselaer Ave., Suite 100
Charlotte, NC 28203, 704/503-9695
Employed with Bar: 2011. Education: BS, FSU; MRP and JD, UNC. Related experience: background in medical education and program development; admitted to the bar in 2004.

**BRIAN P. D. OTTEN**

Associate Director and Chief Ethics Counsel, Ext. 226
Counsel to Ethics Committee and other boards and committees. Employed with Bar: 2007. Education: BA and JD, UNC. Related experience: law clerk, US District Court and Supreme Court of North Carolina. Spouse's name: Kelly

**RYAN C. MEISNER**

Deputy Counsel, Ext. 118
Investigates grievance allegations and prosecutes lawyers in disciplinary cases. Employed with Bar: 2022. Education: BA, University of North Carolina; JD, Campbell University. Spouse's name: Blake.

**PAT MURPHY**

Senior Deputy Counsel, Ext. 206
Prosecutes lawyers in disciplinary cases. Employed with Bar: 2012. Education: BA, Appalachian State University; JD, Campbell University. Related experience: assistant DA 1982-1984; NC Dept. of Revenue 1984-1986; NC Dept. of Justice 1986-2012. Spouse's name: Beth

**CAROLYN PAGE**

Investigator, Ext. 285
Investigates grievance matters for the Office of Counsel. Employed with Bar: 2016. Education: BS, North Carolina State University. Related experience: special agent with the NC State Bureau of Investigation, 2005-2015. Spouse's name: Burns

**DIANE MELCHING**

Senior Administrative Assistant, Ext. 287
Provides administrative support for ACAP, fee arbitration, and investigations. Employed with Bar: 2003. Education: attended Roanoke College. Related experience: 22 years of service with the Federal Bureau of Prisons (secretarial, investigative, and human resources). Spouse's name: Barry

**ELIZABETH MYERS**

Paralegal, Ext. 251
Assistant to Office of Counsel and trust account compliance counsel. Employed with Bar: 2022. Education: BA, Meredith College; paralegal studies certificate, UNC. Related experience: paralegal, Prisoner Legal Services. Spouse's name: Frank

**ANNE PARKIN**

Director, Trust Account Compliance Program, Ext. 259
Manages the random audit and trust account compliance programs. Employed with Bar: 2013. Education: certificate in credit union management. Related experience: auditing, banking, accounting, management.

**DOTTIE K. MIANI**

Deputy Clerk of DHC, Ext. 241
Maintains DHC records. Employed with Bar: 1984. Education: BA, Sacred Heart College. Related experience: worked full time for State Bar accounting department for four years.

**ALEX NICELY**

Senior Deputy Counsel, Ext. 281
Prosecutes lawyers in disciplinary cases. Employed with Bar: 2018. Education: BA, University of Nevada, Reno; JD, Boston University. Related experience: assistant district attorney for six years, assistant public defender for one year, private practice for one year.

**DAWN PATTON**

Public Liaison, Ext. 278
Provides support to investigators and field auditor. Employed with Bar: 2005. Related experience: customer service manager for eight years, 12 years administrative experience in all office areas.

**DOUGLAS MILLER**

Investigator, Ext. 263
Investigates grievance matters for Office of Counsel. Employed with Bar: 2018. Education: BBA in accounting, Campbell University; NC CPA license. Related experience: 28 years combined federal and state criminal investigative experience. Spouse's name: Debra

**LORI NICOLICCHIA**

Accreditation Coordinator, Ext. 248
Maintains CLE records for NC attorneys; reviews all courses submitted for CLE approval. Employed with Bar: 2003.

**FRED PATTON**

Investigator, Ext. 266
Investigates grievance matters for the Office of Counsel. Employed with Bar: 2010. Education: BA, Wake Forest University. Related experience: special agent with the NC State Bureau of Investigation, 1987-2010.

**CLAIRE U. MILLS**

Finance Director and Operations Manager, IOLTA, Ext. 215
Maintains and establishes relationships with attorneys and banks to assist with compliance, maintains financial records. Employed with Bar: 1990. Education: NCSU/animal husbandry.

**EMILY OAKES**

Attendance/Compliance Coordinator, Ext. 247
Maintains CLE records for NC attorneys; assists NC attorneys with mandatory CLE requirement compliance. Employed with Bar: 1999. Spouse's name: JR

**WONDELLA PAYNE**

Paralegal, Ext. 296
Assistant to Office of Counsel. Employed with Bar: 2007. Education: BA in English, Shaw University; paralegal certificate, Meredith College.

**AALIYAH PIERCE**

Compliance Coordinator, Ext. 273
Maintains records for NC Certified Paralegal Program and assists with the annual recertification process. Employed with Bar: 2011. Education: associates degree, Strayer University. Related experience: 10 years at Dex One. Spouse's name: TJ

**JOAN RENKEN**

Administrative Assistant, Office of Counsel, Ext. 295
Administrative assistant to the staff of the Office of Counsel. Employed with Bar: 2009. Related experience: 10 years as executive assistant to director of hospice program.

**KATHRYN SHIELDS**

Deputy Counsel, Ext. 235
Prosecutes lawyers in disciplinary cases. Employed with Bar: 2023. Education: BA, East Carolina University; JD, NCCU School of Law. Related experience: 12 years in civil litigation at the NC Department of Justice. Spouse's name: Dan

**JENNIFER PORTER**

Senior Deputy Counsel, Ext. 262
Prosecutes lawyers in disciplinary cases. Employed with Bar: 2003. Education: BA, The American University; JD, Georgetown University Law Center. Related experience: attorney in US Air Force Judge Advocate General's Corp 1997-2016; private practice 2001-2003. Spouse's name: Michael

**LIZZY ROBBINS**

Public Liaison, Ext. 264
Responds to public inquiries and complaints about lawyers. Facilitates communication between clients and lawyers. Employed with Bar: 2023. Education: BA in justice and philosophy at Mount Mary University. Related experience: three years at the Wake County Courthouse Clerk's Office as a deputy clerk.

**JAYA SINGH**

Controller, Ext. 252
Manages finance and accounting operation for NC State Bar. Prepares budgets and financial statements. Employed with Bar: 2006. Education: BS, NC Wesleyan College. Related experience: over ten years experience in accounting. Spouse's name: Arun

**AMBER POSADA**

Administrative Assistant, ACAP, Ext. 242
Provides administrative support for ACAP and the Fee Dispute Resolution Program. Employed with Bar: 2024. Education: BA in psychology and English, UNC-Chapel Hill.

**JAY'LA SANCHEZ**

Accounting Assistant, Ext. 230
Responsible for accounts receivables and expense reports, assists the controller. Employed with Bar: 2024. Education: BS in accounting, UNC Pembroke. Related experience: bookkeeping and financial manager.

**JENNIFER SLATTERY**

Grievance Manager, Ext. 205
Oversees grievance process and serves as Grievance Committee liaison for the Office of Counsel. Employed with Bar: 2008. Education: BS in criminal justice, Radford University; paralegal certificate, Duke University.

**ROBERT POWELL**

Investigator, Ext. 201
Investigates matters for the Client Security Fund. Employed with Bar: 2021. Education: BS, UNC; MPA, NCSU. Related experience: over 27 years with Raleigh Police Department working local, state, and federal criminal investigations. Spouse's name: Lisa

**SYLVIA SANTANA**

Fee Dispute Resolution Facilitator, Ext. 260
Facilitates agreements between attorneys and their clients when a dispute over fees arises. Employed with Bar 2021. Related experience: over 10 years experience with NY State Department of Correctional Services.

**ELIZABETH STARNES**

Deputy Counsel, Ext. 254
Prosecutes lawyers in disciplinary cases. Employed with Bar: 2020. Education: BA, University of Virginia; JD, Campbell University. Related experience: law clerk, NC Court of Appeals. Spouse's name: Alex

**LEE RAMOS**

Director of Attorney Client Assistance Program and Fee Dispute Resolution Program Coordinator, Ext. 277
Employed with Bar: 2016. Education: BS in legal studies, Russell Sage College. Related experience: 24 years of law firm experience.

**SHEILA SAUCIER**

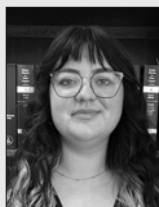
Managing Director, Legal Specialization, Ext. 265
Coordinates programs for certified legal specialists and certified paralegals. Employed with Bar: 2020. Education: BS in business administration and MBA, Salem University. Related experience: executive administrative assistant. Spouse's name: Dan

**LAUREN MAY STINES**

Managing Director of CLE, Ext. 245
Maintains CLE records for NC attorneys, oversees administration of the rules and regulations of CLE for the board. Employed with Bar: 2024. Education: BA, NC State; MS and certificate in public management/leadership, ECU. Related experience: former Wake County magistrate. Spouse's name: Fisher

**ASHLEY RATLIFF**

Agency Attorney, Ext. 502
Advises on administration and legal issues relative to the operation, administration, and regulation of the State Bar. Employed with Bar: 2024. Education: BA, Lynchburg College; JD, UNC Law. Spouse's name: Elliott

**KATIE SERUSET**

Certification Coordinator, Legal Specialization and Paralegal Certification, Ext. 255
Coordinates programs for certified legal specialists and certified paralegals. Employed with Bar: 2024. Education: BA in English and MA in literature, CSU Sacramento

**PAUL SUGRUE**

Investigator, Ext. 284
Investigates grievance matters for Office of Council. Employed with Bar: 2017. Education: BA, University of Massachusetts, Boston. Related experience: 27 years as a criminal investigator with the United States Marshals Service. Spouse's name: Trina



KATHERINE "SUSIE" TAYLOR
LAP Special Projects Manager; CLE Coordinator, 704/503-9695
Office Administration for the Western Region. Employed with Bar: 2013. Education: BA in communications, University of Arizona. Related experience: NC Certified Paralegal, associate executive director of the Mecklenburg County Bar.



CHRISTINA UREY
Facilities Assistant, Ext. 209
Receives and distributes mail, assists with building upkeep and other employee needs. Employed with Bar: 2024. Related experience: landscape gardener.



CHRIS WOODS
Investigative Analyst, Ext. 222
Assists Office of Counsel with analysis and investigative needs. Employed with Bar: 2010. Related experience: nine years in office management. Education: business school, Ennepetal, Germany.



ANGELA TOWNS
Agency Paralegal, Ext. 142
Paralegal to agency attorney and other programs, backup to DHC clerk. Employed with Bar: 2024. Education: BS, St. Augustine's College; MPS, The George Washington University. Related experience: NC Department of Justice Criminal Division. Spouse's name: Reginald



ROBERT WESTON
Deputy Counsel, Ext. 204
Prosecutes lawyers in disciplinary cases. Employed with Bar: 2020. Education: BA from UNC; JD from Campbell University. Related experience: private practice 2014-2020. Spouse's name: Pooja



DAMON ZERBY
Systems Administrator, Ext. 279
Responsible for systems and application maintenance, support, and development. Employed with Bar: 2023. Education: AA in network management, Wake Tech Community College. Related experience: retired US Veteran, five years in information technology.



WAYNE TRUAX
Investigator, Ext. 292
Investigates grievance matters for the Office of Counsel. Employed with Bar: 2012. Education: BAS, Campbell University. Related experience: SBI from 1972-1998 (retired). Since 1998 worked in the private sector as an investigator and security consultant. Spouse's name: Minnie



BRITTANY WILSON
Supervising Paralegal, Ext. 280
Assistant to Office of Counsel. Employed with Bar: 2014. Education: BA in history and government from Campbell University. Related experience: five years as a legal assistant. Spouse's name: Dillon

