

# PEGGY D. NICHOLSON

Duke University School of Law  
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## Academic Appointments

### **Duke University School of Law**

*Clinical Professor of Law (Teaching)/Supervising Attorney*

Durham, NC  
January 2020 – Present

- Work with Clinic Director to manage Children’s Law Clinic and co-teach Children’s Law Seminar
- Supervise student-attorneys and summer interns in their representation of low-income clients in the areas of special education, school discipline, and public benefits
- Develop opportunities for students to engage in systemic litigation, policy advocacy, and community outreach to expand Clinic’s impact and expose students to a variety of lawyering approaches
- Teach and co-teach additional courses:
  - **Children and the Law** (LAW 309)
  - **Readings: The School-to-Prison Pipeline** (LAW 611.36)
  - **Lawyering for Systemic Change: A School Policing Case Study** (LAW 884)

## Law School & Public Service

- Mentor, Public Interest and Public Service Law Certificate program (PIPS), Duke Law School
- Convener & Participant, NC Special Education Roundtable
- Supervising Attorney, NC Clemency Pro Bono Project, Duke Law School
- Participant, Faculty Curriculum on Anti-Racism. Duke Office of Faculty Advancement. January 2021

## Professional Experience

### **Southern Coalition for Social Justice**

*Youth Justice Project Director*

Durham, NC  
2016 –2019

- Directed Youth Justice Project’s day-to-day operations and long-term strategic planning
- Provided legal advice and representation on a variety of youth justice issues, including school discipline, school policing, court referrals, and racial discrimination
- Collaborated with directly impacted communities, as well as state and national partners, to advocate for local, state, and national policy changes to dismantle the school-to-prison pipeline
- Lead community outreach and education efforts, including development of publications, presentations, and advocacy tools
- Supervised legal externs, interns, and volunteers

### **Legal Aid of North Carolina**

*Supervising Attorney*  
*Staff Attorney*

Durham, NC  
2015 – 2016  
2011 – 2015

- Worked in organization’s education justice project to represent low-income students and parents in areas of special education, school discipline, school discrimination, and other general education matters
- Supervised staff attorneys, pro bono attorneys, legal externs, and interns on education cases
- Conducted community education and outreach across the state on school-to-prison pipeline issues

## Education

### **University of Virginia School of Law**

*Juris Doctor*

Charlottesville, VA

May 2011

- Honors: *Order of the Coif*
- Hardy Cross Dillard Scholarship (full tuition merit scholarship)
- Herbert L. Kramer/Herbert Bangel Community Service Award (public service award for graduating student who has contributed the most to the community)
- Dillard Legal Writing Fellow (teaching assistant for Legal Research & Writing Program)
- Outstanding Student Writing Award, Mid-Atlantic People of Color Legal Scholarship Conference

### **University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill**

*Bachelor of Arts, Majors in Political Science and African Studies*

Chapel Hill, NC

May 2007

- Honors: *Phi Beta Kappa*
- Highest Honors awarded for senior thesis
- Carolina Scholar (full merit scholarship)

## Publications

### **Journal Articles:**

- *The Children Are Our Future (Not Our Future Criminals): Protecting South Carolina's Youngest Citizens by Setting a Minimum Age of Juvenile Court Jurisdiction*, 75 S.C. L. REV. 883 (2024)
- *Too Young To Suspend: Ending Early Grade School Exclusion by Applying Lessons from the Fight to Increase the Minimum Age of Juvenile Court Jurisdiction*, 11 BELMONT LAW REV. 334 (2024)
- *When Virtual Discipline Becomes Virtual Suspension: Protecting the Due Process Rights of Virtual Learners*, 50 J.L. & EDUC. 133 (2021)
- *Racial Justice and the School-to-Prison Pipeline*, 47 CLEARINGHOUSE REV. J. OF POVERTY LAW & POLICY 204 (September-October 2013)
- *The Public Outrage Phenomenon & Limits on Remedying the Effect of Implicit Racist Attitudes on Capital Charging Decisions*, 18.1 VIRGINIA J. OF SOCIAL POLICY & LAW 133 (2010)

### **Book Chapters:**

- *School Discipline*, in GUIDE TO STUDENT ADVOCACY IN NORTH CAROLINA 215 (Jason Langberg, Christine Bischoff & Barbara Fedders, eds., 2015)

### **Policy & Research Publications:**

- *Discipline in North Carolina's Charter Schools*, Duke Children's Law Clinic, August 2021
- *Racial Equity Report Cards*, Southern Coalition for Social Justice, 2016-2019
- *White Paper: The State of Discipline in NC Schools*, Southern Coalition for Social Justice, April 2018
- *Issue Brief: Misdemeanor Diversion Programs*, Southern Coalition for Social Justice, October 2016

### **Opinion**

- *Students with Disabilities Have Unique Needs, Should Not Be Short-Changed during Pandemic*, NC Policy Watch, September 21, 2020
- *Suspensions spell disaster*, Herald-Sun, December 17, 2017
- *Stemming Suspensions – Let's Keep Students in School*, News & Observer, August 28, 2016
- *Data Show Lakeview School's Reputation is Earned*, Herald-Sun, January 7, 2016
- *Step One Is Done for DPS, But Now What?*, Herald-Sun, December 13, 2013

## Selected Presentations

### **Academic & Continuing Legal Education:**

- Panelist: *Child Welfare 101*, Duke Law School, March 18, 2024
- Presenter: *Symposium: Circumstances of Youth: Current Endeavors in Juvenile Justice Administration*, South Carolina Law Review, February 23, 2024
- Panelist: *NC School-Prison Pipeline: From the Classroom to the Courtroom*, Duke Divinity School, November 13, 2023
- Presenter: *Symposium: Learning Together: Modern Developments in Education Law*, Belmont Law Review, September 29, 2023
- Moderator: *Family Regulation Teach-In*, Duke Law School, September 13, 2023
- Poster Presentation: *Using Winter Terms to Expand Social Justice Course Offerings (But Not Your Stress)*, 2023 AALS Conference on Clinical Legal Education April 27, 2023, San Francisco
- Guest Lecturer: *Education & Civil Rights: School-to-Prison Pipeline*, NC State University College of Education (repeat lecturer)
- Guest Lecturer: *Education Law*, Duke Law School (repeat lecturer)
- Moderator: *Educational Inequity in North Carolina: Lessons from Leandro*, Duke Law School, November 10, 2022
- Panelist: *Careers in Child Advocacy*, Child Advocacy Research & Education, University of Virginia School of Law, June 22, 2022
- Panelist: *Delivery of Special Education Services During COVID*, Conference on Race, Class, Gender and Ethnicity, University of North Carolina School of Law (April 2, 2022)
- Panelist: *Building a Career in Child and Family Policy*, Duke Center for Child & Family Policy, February 4 2022
- Panelist: *Disability Rights and Advocacy*, Duke Law ACLU, September 27, 2021
- Presenter: *School-to-Prison Pipeline*, Duke PLUS Program, June 28, 2021
- Guest Lecturer: *Racial Equity in NC Schools*, NC State University: Oak Fellows Program, November 2019
- Guest Lecturer: University of Virginia School of Law: Juvenile Justice Seminar, November 2019
- Guest Lecturer: *Racial Equity in NC Schools*, Greensboro College, September 2019
- Keynote Speaker, Virginia Law Review: Faculty Luncheon, August 2019
- Presenter: *Handling Discipline & Special Education Matters in Public School*, Wake County Bar Association, November 2017
- Co-Presenter: *Zealously Advocating for the Enforcement of Civil Rights: Obstacles, Opportunities, and Strategies*, Legal Aid of North Carolina Annual Task Force Meeting, November 2017
- Presenter: *How a Child Ends Up Tried as an Adult in North Carolina*, NC Advocates for Justice, May 2017
- Guest Lecturer: *Challenging Inequality in Youth-Serving Institutions*, NC State University, October 2016
- Guest Lecturer: *Special Education Law*. Wake Forest School of Law, Education Law, March 2016

### **Community Outreach & Education:**

- Presenter: *Talking Social Justice: A Conversation with Peggy Nicholson of the Duke Children's Law Clinic*, Cisco, June 20, 2024
- Co-Presenter: *Pediatrics Grand Rounds: Addressing Children's Health By Keeping Them in School*, Wake Health, January 2, 2024
- Co-Presenter: *Pediatrics Grand Rounds: Addressing Children's Health through Medical-Legal Partnership*, Duke Health, August 22, 2023
- Interviewee: *The Legal Eagle Review*, North Carolina Central University, May 14, 2023
- Panelist: *The Block is Hot: Understanding the Legal Protections for Educators in this Current Political Moment*, we are Let's Talk Racism Conference, March 17, 2023
- Presenter: *Pediatrics Grand Rounds: Special Education Law & Clinical Practice*, Brody School of Medicine, East Carolina University, March 9, 2022

- Presenter: *Advocating for the Rights of Students*, NC School Psychologist Association Fall Conference, October 25, 2021
- Presenter: *Special Education Advocacy*, Lincoln Community Health Center: Pediatric Rounds, October 7, 2021
- Presenter: *Advocating for Students with Disabilities*, Family Services Network of NC, March 4, 2021
- Presenter: *Education Law 101*, Black Parents Connect!, November 2020, June 2020
- Panelist: *Addressing Racial Discipline Disparities in Schools*, Color of Education Conference, October 2019
- Presenter: *Systemic Challenges to Disciplinary Placements in Alternative Education*, NC Legal Strategies Collaborative Convening, September 2019
- Co-Presenter: *Racial Inequity and the School to Prison Pipeline*, Fayetteville NAACP, September 2019
- Presenter: *Racial Inequity in WSFCS's School-to-Prison Pipeline*, St. Paul United Methodist Church, August 2019
- Co-Presenter: *Racial Inequity in Rowan-Salisbury Schools School-to-Prison Pipeline*, Actions in Faith & Justice, March 2019
- Presenter: *Dismantling Barriers for Reentering Youth*, National Partnership for Juvenile Services, September 2018
- Panelist: *School Safety: Dismantling the School-to-Prison Pipeline*, National Juvenile Justice Network: Annual Forum, July 2018
- Presenter: *Racial Inequity in CHCC's School-to-Prison Pipeline*, Chapel Hill CFRE Conversations on Equity, June 2018
- Presenter: *Best Practices to Reduce School Suspensions*, Durham Crime Cabinet, January 2018
- Co-Presenter: *Discipline in the Classroom*, NC Bar Association, Justice Teaching Institute, August 2017
- Presenter: *Caged Bird: School-to-Prison Pipeline Analysis and Solutions*, NC Coalition Against Sexual Assault Young Advocates Institute, July 2016

### **Selected Media Appearances**

- *After 30 years of special education funding limits, NC parents want change.* WRAL. January 22, 2023
- *Here's how Wake County parents got their children the education they're owed: 'We tried for years.'* ABC11. October 28, 2022
- *Law against 'disorderly conduct' in schools led to unfair student arrests, judge rules.* Education Week. October 11, 2021
- *Many North Carolina schools don't track interactions with police.* WFAE. September 24, 2021
- *Criminalizing kids and a look at school discipline.* WFAE: Charlotte Talks with Mike Collins. September 14, 2021
- *Q&A with Peggy Nicholson.* News Not Noise with @JessicaYellin (Instagram News account with 500K+ followers). April 6, 2021
- *Early court involvement for children correlates with higher rates of dropping out of school, getting in trouble later on.* News & Observer. March 8, 2021
- *Study highlights disparities in school discipline.* Spectrum News. July 22, 2020
- *Raise the age is no panacea for North Carolina youth.* Juvenile Justice Information Exchange. October 24, 2019
- *Some NC lawmakers want schools to repeal student discipline policies.* News & Observer. April 26, 2019
- *Several legislative bills aim for safer NC schools.* News & Observer. February 15, 2019
- *One year after Parkland, NC lawmakers call for more school cops and mental health staff.* Herald Sun. February 14, 2019
- *Armed police officer needed at every NC school,* News & Observer. February 8, 2019
- *Every NC school should have a police officer, group recommends in report to governor,* Herald Sun. February 7, 2019
- *Racial Disparities in Student Discipline and One Mother's Fight for Change.* WUNC: The State of Things. February 6, 2019
- *Despite progress, racial equity in the classroom is still elusive.* WFDD. January 28, 2019
- *Report details inequity in student suspension rates.* News & Observer. January 19, 2019

- *Racial discrimination complaint regarding Ashley Academy prompts investigation.* Winston-Salem Journal. January 4, 2019
- *Trump may roll back Obama school discipline rules.* News & Observer. December 22, 2018
- *Our all-female school board now led by an African-American woman. Members of Winston-Salem/Forsyth board say they want to focus on equity.* Winston-Salem Journal. December 14, 2018
- *Some NC schools want more officers to patrol hallways. Not everyone thinks it's a good idea.* WUNC. March 29, 2018
- *Some rural NC school districts plan to use armed volunteers.* News & Observer. March 25, 2018
- *Report shows Chapel Hill-Carrboro and Durham school suspensions in black and white.* Herald Sun. January 23, 2018
- *Report cards point out racial disparities in schools across the state.* Winston-Salem Journal. January 18, 2019
- *Black students more likely to be suspended in some school systems.* News & Observer. January 16, 2018
- *Youth Justice Project: North Carolina can do more to improve juvenile justice system.* NC Policy Watch. October 31, 2017
- *New report: one million days in classroom lost to school suspensions in North Carolina.* NC Policy Watch. May 17, 2017
- *North Carolina raises the age for adult prosecution, but not in all cases.* Facing South. July 14, 2017
- *The state budget's raise the age provision isn't everything advocates wanted, but it's a start.* Indy Week. June 28, 2017
- *Rolesville High School incident – Activists want feds to take immediate action in Wake.* News & Observer. January 6, 2017
- *Asheville schools work to address racial disparities.* Citizen Times. October 13, 2016
- *Student advocates worry Wake suspension rules will put students off track.* WUNC. June 10, 2016
- *Complaint filed against Durham Public Schools for high suspension rates of kids with disabilities.* Indy Week. March 19, 2014
- *DPS reviewing recommendations on school discipline.* Herald Sun. January 9, 2014
- *Durham schools to aid suspended students with disabilities.* News & Observer. October 23, 2013
- *Complaint yields new program for students with disabilities.* Herald Sun. October 23, 2013
- *Suspensions bring injury.* News & Observer. June 21, 2013
- *Durham schools acknowledge concerns and vow cooperation.* Herald Sun. April 18, 2013
- *Bias complaint targets schools.* News & Observer. April 17, 2013
- *Schools' punishment practices subject of federal complaint.* Herald Sun. April 17, 2013
- *Wake school system agrees to ease language barrier – documents will be translated into other languages.* News & Observer. March 8, 2013
- *OCR to Investigate Wake County Discrimination Claim.* Education Week. July 5, 2012.
- *Schools accused of anti-Latino bias – civil rights filing cites lack of translations.* News & Observer. June 13, 2012

### Admissions

- State Bar of North Carolina (2011)
- Admitted to U.S. Eastern District of North Carolina
- Admitted to U.S. Middle District of North Carolina