

District 18 Professionalism CLE
February 2, 2024
Chatham County Justice Center, Courtroom 3-A

BIOGRAPHIES OF PRESENTERS

1. **The Honorable Allen Baddour:** Allen Baddour has been a Superior Court Judge in District 18 (Chatham and Orange Counties) since 2006, and became Senior Resident in 2020. He was an Assistant District Attorney in Chatham County from 2001-2006, and began his law career in 1997 in a small general practice focused on criminal defense and civil litigation. He serves in several roles with the Conference of Superior Court Judges, including as a member of the Board of Governors, chairing the Pattern Jury Instruction Committee, and as a member of the Education Committee. He serves on the Membership Committee of the North Carolina Bar Association, and on the Chief Justice's Remote Proceedings Task Force. Baddour is a graduate of the UNC School of Law (1997) and received his B.A. from UNC-CH in 1993. He has recently moderated a panel of Superior Court Judges navigating ECourts, and served on a panel addressing the role of AI (Artificial Intelligence) in the practice of law.
2. **The Honorable Samantha Cabe:** A native of Swain County, Judge Cabe received her undergraduate degree from Western Carolina University in 1997 and her J.D. degree from the University of North Carolina School of Law in 2002. She was in private practice from 2002 to 2016 with the law firms of Northern & Blue and Holcomb and Cabe. Prior to law school, she worked as an accountant. Judge Cabe was elected to serve as a District Court Judge in Judicial District 15B in 2016. On July 31, 2020, Chief Justice Cheri Beasley appointed her as the new Chief District Court Judge for Judicial District 15B.
3. **The Honorable Dana Hackney, Chatham County Clerk of Court :** Dana Hackney began her career in the Chatham County Clerk's Office in 1999. She earned her paralegal degree and was certified by the NC State Bar Board of Paralegal Certification in 2015. Hackney was appointed Clerk of Superior Court by Judge Carl M. Fox in 2018. She was elected Chatham County Clerk of Superior Court that same year and was re-elected in 2022. Today, Hackney is Chatham County's 21st Clerk of Superior Court and only the 2nd female to serve in this position. On the state level, Hackney currently serves as a member of the Rules of Recordkeeping Committee at the NCAOC, and Co-Chair of the Resource Committee and a member of the Executive Committee of the Conference of Clerks of Superior Court.
4. **Candace Hoffman, LAP Field Coordinator:** Candace Hoffman is a licensed North Carolina lawyer and recovery enthusiast. Candace comes to LAP from the Department of Justice, where she worked in health care, representing the North Carolina Department of Health and Human Services. Her work exposed her to the challenges and complexities of the mental health and substance abuse treatment fields. Before taking this position as LAP Field Coordinator, Candace was a LAP volunteer for six years. Candace lives in Raleigh with her husband, two daughters and two beagles.

5. **The Honorable Mark Kleinschmidt, Orange County Clerk of Court :** Mark Kleinschmidt received a Bachelor of Arts in Education from the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill and after teaching high school for several years, received his J.D. degree from UNC School of Law in May 2000. Kleinschmidt served on the Chapel Hill Town Council from 2001 to 2009. He was elected Mayor of Chapel Hill in November 2009. In 2018, Kleinschmidt was elected as Orange County's Clerk of Superior Court and was re-elected in 2022. Kleinschmidt has served the last two years on the Executive Committee of the Conference of Clerks of Superior Court (CCSC) and serves as chair of the CCSC Joint Bar/Clerk Task Force, and the CCSC Human Resource Committee. Prior to being elected Clerk, Kleinschmidt practiced law for more than 18 years, first at the Center for Death Penalty Litigation, then as Executive Director of the Fair Trial Initiative and finally with the firm Tin Fulton Walker & Owen. He also continues to serve as an adjunct professor at the UNC School of Law teaching trial advocacy and at the Friday Center where he teaches Trusts and Estates in the UNC-Chapel Hill Paralegal Certificate Program.

6. **James "Jimbo" Perry, Attorney at Law:** Mr. Perry is the Executive director of the Chief Justice's Commission on Professionalism (CJCP). He succeeded Melvin Wright who held the position since November 1999. Mr. Perry is Of Counsel with Perry, Perry, & Perry in Kinston. Perry studied at the University of North Carolina School of Law where he graduated in 1980. Immediately after graduation, he worked in private practice then transitioned into the role of assistant United States attorney in the United States Attorney's Office in Raleigh until 1985. Perry moved back to his hometown of Kinston to work with his father, mother, sister, and uncle in private practice after founding the firm Perry, Perry, & Perry where he continues to work today. Perry is the recipient of the Citizen Lawyer Award, John B. McMillan Distinguished Service Award, Tommy Jarrett Service Award, QC Honors Recognition, Southern Star Recognition, and the 2021 Chief Justice's Professionalism Award.