

# *“Partnering to Preserve and Protect”*

## DAY THREE

**Wednesday, May 19, 2021**

**9:30AM – 4:00PM EST**

“MDT/Team Building” **9:30 – 9:45**

Welcome

**9:45 – 10:45**

**Morning Keynote:** “USDOJ HelpVul Pilot Project - Present and Future in North Carolina”  
*Geoffrey Rogers and Sally Reisch of Hunter College in NYC*  
*Sarah Maness-Smith of NC DHHS,*  
*John Maron of the NC Department of the Secretary of State*

**10:45 – 11:00**

Break

**11:00 – 12:00**

**Three concurrent morning breakout sessions:**

**BREAKOUT A:** “MDTs for Addressing Elder Abuse: Why They Matter”  
*Pamela B. Teaster, Ph.D. and Stacy Carey*

**BREAKOUT B:** “APS: Real Stories, Real Impact and Community Collaboration”  
*Sarah Maness-Smith, Karey Perez, and April Black, all of NC DHHS*

**BREAKOUT C:** “Taking it to the Next Level by Establishing a Forensic Center”  
*Angela Rosato, MBA*

**12:00 – 1:00**

Lunch

**1:00 – 2:00**

**Three concurrent afternoon breakout sessions:**

**BREAKOUT D TOPIC:** “The NC Experience with MDTs”  
*Shawn Hosier (Special Victims Unit-High Point Police)*  
*Lori L. Wickline (ADA-High Point)*

*Diane Hayden (Program Manager-DHHS)*

*Heather Magill (Elder Justice Specialist Coordinator, Guilford County Family Justice Center)*

*Moderated by Meredith Smith, JD (Associate Professor, UNC School of Government)*

**BREAKOUT E:** “Unlocking Information Sharing to Produce Better Outcomes”  
*Aimee Wall, JD, and Raj Premakumar, JD*

**BREAKOUT F:** “Taking It to the Next Level by Establishing an Elder Financial Safety Center”

*The Honorable Brenda Hull Thompson, Judge, Julie Krawczyk, JD, and Kinsey Stango, JD*

<b>2:00 – 2:15</b>	Break
<b>2:15 – 3:30</b>	<p><b>Afternoon Keynote:</b> “Let Me Gamble and Drink in Peace-A Case Study and Discussion of Self-Determination, Alcohol and Substance Abuse and ‘Soft Tools’ to Prevent and Address Elder Abuse”</p> <p><i>Abby Adams, JD</i>  <i>Paula Kohut, JD</i>  <i>Shevel Mavins, MSW</i>  Moderated by <i>Meredith Smith, JD</i></p>
<b>3:30 – 4:00</b>	Closing Remarks/Adjourn

## SESSION DESCRIPTIONS AND SPEAKER BIOGRAPHIES

### DAY THREE

May 19, 2021

#### **MORNING KEYNOTE:** “USDOJ HelpVul Pilot Project - Present and Future in North Carolina”

*Geoffrey Rogers and Sally Reisch of Hunter College in NYC*

*Sarah Maness-Smith of NC Department of Health and Human Services (DHHS)*

*John Maron of the NC Department of the Secretary of State*

This session will focus on HelpVul, a project that aims to address barriers for reporting and addressing suspected financial exploitation in North Carolina (and other locations).

Participants will:

- Come away with an enhanced understanding of the prevalence of financial exploitation among older and vulnerable adults today
- Identify relevant issues related to financial institutions reporting financial exploitation
- Talk about challenges encountered by financial institutions when they collaborate with Adult Protective Services on financial exploitation cases
- Explore past, present, and future HelpVul implementation in North Carolina
- Learn about the HelpVul project and how to get involved

**Geoff Rogers** has more than two decades of professional experience helping individuals and organizations learn, manage, change, and seize new opportunities. Prior to joining Brookdale in 2007 as director of Learning and Development, Geoff was director of operations for the New York City Home Energy Assistance Program (HEAP). He has also worked in advertising, publishing, and marketing, and served as a director of special projects, director of training, and director of operations for New York City Adult Protective Services. Geoff’s unusual background spanning creative industries, public administration and management consulting informs his work at Brookdale to develop learning opportunities that engage a diverse array of human services professionals. Geoff has a BA in European history and English from Colby College.

**Sally Reisch’s** background is in clinical and academic research. At Brookdale, Sally coordinates a Department of Justice grant and manages a multidisciplinary team comprised of government, private sector, and financial industry partners who are working together to create a web platform to address financial exploitation of older adults. Prior to joining Brookdale, she ran a National Cancer Institute grant-funded training program at Memorial Sloan Kettering Cancer

Center. The program aimed to educate oncology clinicians in Meaning-Centered Psychotherapy for terminally ill patients. Sally has worked as an associate producer for an independent film company. Her BA in English is from Rutgers University.

**Sarah Maness-Smith** is the Adult Services Program Administrator for the NC Department of Health Human Services, Division of Aging and Adult Services. She is responsible for the development and delivery of training curriculum to all one hundred county Departments of Social Services adult services sections and disinterested public agent guardians. She is also responsible for the programmatic monitoring of Social Services Block Grant (SSBG) funded programs in county Departments of Social Services such as Adult Protective Services, Guardianship, Special Assistance In Home case management, Medicaid Administrative Claiming and In-Home Aide certification. Prior to joining the Division, she served as Supervisor for Adult Services with Montgomery County Department of Social Services and temporary Program Manager for the Montgomery County Council on Aging. She has participated in various workgroups and committees around Adult Protective Services, Guardianship and issues affecting older and vulnerable adults. Sarah is a graduate of the University of North Carolina at Greensboro.

**John Maron** is the Director of the Investor Protection and Education Services Program with the Securities Division of the North Carolina Department of the Secretary of State in Raleigh. He joined the Division in April 2005. Prior to this, he served five years as Director of Constituency Services for former US Senator John Edwards, three years as Human Resources Manager at Integrated Laboratory Services in Research Triangle Park, NC, and eight years as a staffer for US Representative David Price. He is a Co-Chair of the NC Senior Consumer Fraud Task Force, an Executive Committee member of the North Carolina Partnership to Address Adult Abuse, and serves as Secretary of State Elaine Marshall's representative on the Governor's Advisory Council for Latino/Hispanic Affairs and the Governor's Financial Literacy Council. He is Vice-Chair of the Alerts and Advisories Project Group for the North American Securities Administrators Association. He graduated with a Bachelor of Arts degree from the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill. He is married with two daughters. Contact him at (919) 814-5560 or [jmaron@sosnc.gov](mailto:jmaron@sosnc.gov).

### **Morning Concurrent Breakout Sessions**

#### **CONCURRENT BREAKOUT A: "MDTs for Addressing Elder Abuse: Why They Matter"**

*Pamela B. Teaster, Ph.D., and Stacy Carey, Kentucky Local Elder Abuse Coordinating Council*

A nationally recognized researcher will share the numbers and more behind the success stories. These are reasons why having a local elder abuse MDT improves APS outcomes. This session will review the scholarly literature and outcomes of MDTs, providing attendees with additional support for securing commitments to undertake and participate in MDTs. Dr. Teaster will be joined by Stacy Carey, representing Kentucky's Local Elder Abuse Coordinating Councils.

Professor and the Director of the Center for Gerontology at Virginia Tech, **Pamela Teaster** is the North American Representative of the International Network for the Prevention of Elder Abuse, Immediate Past President of the Board of Trustees for the Center for Guardianship Certification and serves on the Editorial Boards of the Journal of Elder Abuse and Neglect and the Journal of Trauma, Violence, and Abuse Review. Also, Dr. Teaster is a Fellow of the Gerontological Society of America and the Association for Gerontology in Higher Education and is a recipient of the Isabella Horton Grant Award for Guardianship (National College of Probate Judges), the Rosalie Wolf Award for Research on Elder Abuse (NAPSA), the Outstanding Affiliate Member Award (Kentucky Guardianship Association), and the Distinguished Educator Award (Kentucky Association for Gerontology). Former president of the National Committee for the Prevention of Elder Abuse, she has received continuous funding for over 20 years from public and private sources. Her areas of scholarship include the abuse of elders and vulnerable adults, guardianship, end-of-life issues, ethical treatment of older adults, and public policy and public affairs. She has published over 200 scholarly articles, reports, and book chapters and is the editor/author of six books.

**Stacy Carey** has served as Branch Manager of Adult Protective Services in the Department for Community Based Services within the Kentucky Cabinet for Families and Children since 2019. In this position, Stacy provides support to the Adult Protective Services teams across the state through case consultation, case reviews, technical assistance, training, and development of standards of practice. Stacy has served in DCBS for 20 years and has seven years' experience working as an investigative worker for both Adult and Child Protective Services. Before being promoted to APS branch manager, she joined the branch as a field consultant in 2007.

Stacy also provides training to DCBS staff and community partners on Adult Protective Services-Kentucky Revised Statute 209. As a consultant within the branch, Stacy served as the liaison for the statewide Local Coordinating Councils on Elder Abuse. In this role, she has enabled a network of communication for the councils to share their ideas and accomplishments throughout the state. Stacy also kept the councils updated on national and state news pertaining to elder abuse prevention efforts and public awareness.

A 2000 graduate of Eastern Kentucky University with a bachelor's degree in social work, Stacy is a member of the National Adult Protective Services Association (NAPSA).

### **CONCURRENT BREAKOUT B: "APS: Real Stories, Real Impact and Community Collaboration"** *Sarah Maness-Smith, Karey Perez, and April Black of the NC DHHS*

This session will discuss the effects of APS, the importance of data collected and why community collaboration is essential. The co-presenters will discuss APS statistics and what it means as well as identify possible groups and other community members that can be involved in the fight against abuse, neglect and exploitation of older and vulnerable adults.

**Sarah Maness-Smith** is the Adult Services Program Administrator for the NC Department of Health Human Services, Division of Aging and Adult Services. She is responsible for the development and delivery of training curriculum to all one hundred county Departments of Social Services adult services sections and disinterested public agent guardians. She is also responsible for the programmatic monitoring of Social Services Block Grant (SSBG) funded programs in county Departments of Social Services such as Adult Protective Services, Guardianship, Special Assistance In Home case management, Medicaid Administrative Claiming and In-Home Aide certification. Prior to joining the Division, she served as Supervisor for Adult Services with Montgomery County Department of Social Services and temporary Program Manager for the Montgomery County Council on Aging. She has participated in various workgroups and committees around Adult Protective Services, Guardianship and issues affecting older and vulnerable adults. Sarah is a graduate of the University of North Carolina at Greensboro.

**Karey Perez** serves as Adult Services Section Chief for North Carolina's Division of Aging and Adult Services (DAAS). A passionate social services advocate, Karey possesses over a decade of professional, programmatic, and leadership experience in social work principles, techniques, and practices which she applies to implement viable solutions impacting community issues. She is responsible for the administration and management of the Aging and Adult Services social work programs and the Special Assistance programs administered by the 100 county Departments of Social Services (DSS). As Adult Services Section Chief, Karey ensures DSS Aging and Adult Services Programs are operated in accordance with Federal and State laws, policies and rules adopted by the Social Services Commission, and verifies exceptional service delivery to clients. Her devotion for community service is evident in her compassionate engagement with individuals and communities. An alumna of Methodist University, Karey completed her Bachelor of Science degree in Psychology with a concentration in Clinical and Counseling.

**April Black** graduated Summa Cum Laude from the University of North Carolina at Pembroke. Prior to joining the Division of Aging and Adult Services team, she was a dedicated public servant in the field of social work at a county DSS for over a decade. April excels and thrives in creating innovative solutions utilizing technology and served as a lead team member in designing, developing and implementing the Division of Aging and Adult Services SharePoint site. April also serves on the Virtual Training Advisory Group providing support and guidance internally for virtual training adaptations. The efforts of this group were acknowledged during the COVID pandemic with an invitation from Microsoft to share the successful innovations in training efforts adapted by the Adult Services unit. In her free time, April enjoys serving at church, cruising and hiking at state and national parks with her husband and 5 children who range in ages from 5 - 21.

## **CONCURRENT BREAKOUT C: "Taking it to the Next Level by Establishing a Forensic Center"**

*Angela Rosato, MBA*

This session examines the forensic center as a mechanism for addressing abuse. The Riverside County Elder Abuse Forensic Center will be showcased. Specific topics will include: 1) What is an EAFC, 2) How EAFCs differ from other MDTs, 3) How the Riverside County EAFC was established, 4) Riverside County EAFC Team and Services, and 5) How EAFCs serve to improve collaboration and case outcomes.

Currently serving as the Coordinator for the Elder Abuse Forensic Center with Riverside County Department of Public Social Services, Adult Services Division, **Angela Rosato** has over 12 years of professional experience in the adult protective services field specializing in Multi-Disciplinary Team facilitation. Prior to her work with Riverside County EAFC she served as a District Coordinator for Riverside County DPSS, Adult Services Division, CARE Program (Curtailling Abuse Related to the Elderly) an award winning program which provides MDT meetings, elder abuse training, education and advocacy for elder and dependent adult victims of consumer fraud and abuse.

Angela is also a P.O.S.T. Certified Instructor and team teaches on the topic of elder and dependent adult abuse investigations at the Ben Clark Training Academy for law enforcement and provides training on EAFC related topics with her staff development unit for APS social worker induction training. Angela received her Bachelor of Arts in Sociology with an emphasis in Social Work from the California State University, San Bernardino and earned her Master's in Business Management from the University of Redlands. She also holds a Certificate in Aging from the Boston University, School of Social Work.

### **Afternoon Concurrent Breakout Sessions**

#### **CONCURRENT BREAKOUT D: "The NC Experience with MDTs"**

*Shawn Hosier (Special Victims Unit-High Point Police)*

*Lori Wickline (ADA-High Point)*

*Diane Hayden (Program Manager-DHHS)*

*Heather Magill (Elder Justice Specialist Coordinator, Guilford County Family Justice Center)*

*Moderated by Meredith Smith, JD (Associate Professor, UNC School of Government)*

This session features professionals currently doing collaborative work in Guilford County, North Carolina. They discuss successes they have achieved and challenges they have overcome or are working to overcome. The group will share real life examples of how collaboration made for a better outcome.

**Detective Shawn Hosier** has been in the field of law enforcement for 24.5 years. Shawn has spent most of his career in investigations. He has been a detective with the Special Victims Unit for the past five years. The special victim unit is currently housed in the Family Justice Center. Shawn is married with two teenage sons.

[shawn.hosier@highpointnc.gov](mailto:shawn.hosier@highpointnc.gov)

**Lori Wickline** is a graduate of Elon University and West Virginia University College of Law. She began her career as a prosecutor in Alamance County in 2005 and moved to Guilford County in January 2019. Lori specializes in Special Victims' Crimes including child sexual/physical abuse, domestic violence, elder abuse, neglect and exploitation and murder cases. [Lori.L.Wickline@nccourts.org](mailto:Lori.L.Wickline@nccourts.org)

**Diane Hayden** is an Aging and Adult Service Program Manager for the Guilford County Department of Health and Human Services/ Department of Social Services. She has 15 years' experience within Aging Services each involving Multidisciplinary Team approaches to effective social work practice. Mrs. Hayden recently received LEAN Facilitator Certification through NC State University. This project demonstrated how LEAN/ Kaizen principals can be utilized in a governmental MDT setting to identify waste, form solutions adding client value, prioritize change, and maintain results. [dhayden@guilfordcountync.gov](mailto:dhayden@guilfordcountync.gov)

**Heather Magill** is the Elder Justice Specialist Coordinator at the Guilford County Family Justice Center. Heather is a graduate of the University of North Carolina at Greensboro. Heather has experience working with specific populations including individuals experiencing homelessness, older adults, and adults with intellectual and developmental disabilities. Heather values the collaborative process in our community which strives to help vulnerable populations live a life that is free from violence and abuse. [hmagill@guilfordcountync.gov](mailto:hmagill@guilfordcountync.gov)

**Meredith Smith** is an Associate Professor of Public Law and Government at the UNC School of Government. Her work focuses on the areas where clerks of superior court serve as judicial officials, including guardianship proceedings, power of attorney proceedings, and estate administration. She also is a co-creator of the North Carolina Elder Protection Network, available at <http://protectadults.sog.unc.edu/> and co-author of the manual, the Legal Framework for North Carolina's Elder Protection System. Prior to joining the SOG, Meredith practice law in Charlotte with the law firm of McGuireWoods LLP. She earned a BA in political science and Spanish, with distinction, from the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill and a law degree, cum laude, from Georgetown University School of Law. [meredith.smith@sog.unc.edu](mailto:meredith.smith@sog.unc.edu)

### **CONCURRENT BREAKOUT E: "Unlocking Information Sharing to Produce Better Outcomes"**

*Raj Premakumar, JD, and Aimee Wall, JD*

This session will focus on the law of information sharing as it exists today, what is permissible information to share, what information must remain confidential, and what changes might be important for North Carolina to consider producing better outcomes.

**Raj Premakumar** is an Assistant Attorney General with the North Carolina Department of Justice (NC DOJ) and represents clients from the North Carolina Department of Health and Human Services including the Division of Health Benefits (NC Medicaid) and the Division of Aging and Adult Services. Prior to this, he worked in the Human Services and Medical Facilities Section of NC DOJ where he represented UNC Hospitals and UNC Healthcare. Raj earned his Bachelor of Science in Public Health degree with a concentration in Health Policy and Management from UNC Chapel Hill. He earned a joint degree in law and public health (JD/MPH) from Emory University.

**Aimee Wall** joined the UNC School of Government in 2001 and currently focuses on the role of county social services agencies in protecting adults from abuse, neglect and exploitation. She was appointed senior associate dean in July 2020. Prior to assuming this administrative role, she worked in several other substantive fields of law, including public health, social services, consolidated human services, animal services and legislative education. Prior to joining the School, she practiced health care law with Powell, Goldstein, Frazer and Murphy in Washington, DC, and served as a health policy analyst in the Office of the Secretary in the US Department of Health and Human Services. She is a member of the North Carolina State Bar and the District of Columbia Bar. Aimee earned a BA in English from Ohio State University and a JD/MPH from the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill.

### **CONCURRENT BREAKOUT F: "Taking It to the Next Level by Establishing an Elder Financial Safety Center"**

*The Honorable Brenda Hull Thompson, Judge, Julie Krawczyk, JD, and Kinsey Stango, JD*

Learn about a cutting-edge, first of its kind center leading the nation in prevention, protection, and prosecution of financial crimes; prevention of financial exploitation, frauds, and scams; and financial security of older adults. The Elder Financial Safety Center is a unique collaboration between The Senior Source, Dallas County Probate Courts, and Dallas County District Attorney's Office serving over 25,000 clients and victims with a financial impact of \$120 million, 500 protected incapacitated adults 50+, and 1,500 indictments of elder abuse. Engage with others on how a Center can exist in any community using models designed by Center leadership, develop a comprehensive, coordinated services plan approach, learn how to build strategic alliances, and track data that demonstrates impact.

*Objective 1:* Learn how to adapt the financial safety center model to any community addressing elder financial abuse.

*Objective 2:* Develop resources and learn concepts to help older adults become and stay financially secure.

*Objective 3:* Learn how to build strategic partnerships to combat the Crime of the 21st Century and how data can help.

**Brenda Hull Thompson** is the Presiding Judge of The Probate Court of Dallas County, Texas. She was elected in 2010 after more than twenty years of service in Texas to the community in civil practice and in mediation. Her civil practice focused on estate administration, guardianship administration and family law. In addition, she has been an adjunct professor at Texas Wesleyan School of Law, teaching mediation and arbitration. Prior to moving to Texas, she was a senior Staff attorney in the Office of the General Counsel for the Federal Trade Commission in Washington, D. C. She has made numerous presentations to local bar association sections and community groups and she has received numerous awards for her pro bono and public service activities pertaining to elderly and/or disabled persons, low income persons, and children.

Judge Thompson received her J.D. degree from Georgetown University Law School, Washington, D. C., a M. A. degree from Boston University, and a B. S. degree from the University of Maryland. She has attended the Harvard University Negotiation Program. She is a member of the Dallas Bar Association and is licensed to practice law in Texas state courts, in the U. S. District Court for the Northern District of Texas, Supreme Court of Pennsylvania (inactive), and the District of Columbia Court of Appeals (inactive).

Judge Thompson is the Local Administrative Judge for the Dallas County Probate Courts and she is the Presiding Judge for the Dallas County Probate Courts. She is the first elected African American Probate Judge in the State of Texas.

She is one of the co-authors on the O'Connor's Estates Code Plus for 2014-2015, the O'Connor's Estates Code Plus for 2013-2014 and the O'Connor's Probate Code for 2012-2013. She is a member of the Executive Committee of the National College of Probate Judges and is a member of the Texas Bar Foundation.

**Julie Krawczyk** is the director of the Elder Financial Safety Center leading the nation in the prevention, protection, and prosecution of financial crimes and prevention of financial exploitation, frauds, and scams. She oversees operations for the first of its kind Center, a unique collaboration between The Senior Source, Dallas County Probate Courts, and Dallas County District Attorney's Office serving over 25,000 clients and victims with a financial impact of \$123 million, 500 protected incapacitated adults 50+, and 1,500 indictments of elder abuse. Employed by The Senior Source helping all older adults to THRIVE since 1961, she leads a 12-member team with a \$1.5M budget. Leveraging human, organizational, and institutional capital to tackle major projects, Julie is recognized for her energy, wit, candor, and collaborative and strategic leadership. She holds a Master of Arts in Management from Dallas Baptist University and B.S. in Psychology and English from Southern Vermont College.

**Kinsey Stango** is an Assistant District Attorney in Dallas County currently assigned to the Elder Abuse Unit. The Unit prosecutes cases of financial and physical abuse of vulnerable adults. During her time at the DA's office, she has served in several divisions including organized crime, mental health, and the felony trial division. Prior to joining the DA's Office in 2015, Kinsey worked as a criminal defense attorney. Kinsey graduated cum laude, from the Dedman School of Law at Southern Methodist University, receiving her J.D. in 2013. Kinsey graduated cum laude from the University of Texas at Austin before attending SMU.

**AFTERNOON KEYNOTE: "Let Me Gamble and Drink in Peace – A Case Study and Discussion of Self-Determination, Alcohol and Substance Abuse and 'Soft Tools' to Prevent and Address Elder Abuse"**

*Abby L. Adams, JD*

*Paula Kohut, JD*

*Shevel Mavins, MSW*

*Moderated by Meredith Smith, JD*

In the absence of capacity issues, being an older adult does not preclude one from the right of self-determination and ability to engage in conduct of which children or other family members do not approve. This presentation will discuss the balance of an older adult's independence while protecting them from actions that can be harmful. We will also discuss potential resolutions, including family settlements and guardianships, as well as procedural difficulties with each.

**Abby L. Adams** is a shareholder at Kohut and Adams, P.A., in Wilmington, North Carolina. Her principal practice areas are estate planning, trust and estate administration, business law and asset protection. Abby also helps clients with

elder law matters, including Medicaid long-term care planning, special needs planning, and guardianships. She is a member of the Estate Planning and Fiduciary Law and Elder and Special Needs Law Sections of the North Carolina Bar Association as well as a member of the National LGBT Bar Association. She is Co-Chair, Fiduciary Litigation Committee, Estate Planning and Fiduciary Law Section, North Carolina Bar Association. She received her B.A. degree from Ferris State University and her J.D. degree from the University of Detroit Mercy School of Law. She is a member of the Board of the New Hanover County Estate Planning Council.

**Paula A. Kohut** is a shareholder at Kohut and Adams, PA, in Wilmington, North Carolina where she focuses her practice on trust and estate planning and administration, non-profits and business law. She received her B.A. degree, from the University of California at Irvine and her J.D. degree, with honors, from Wake Forest University School of Law. She is a Fellow in the American College of Trust and Estate Counsel, Secretary and Council Member of the Estate Planning and Fiduciary Law Section of the North Carolina Bar Association, Council Member of the North Carolina Governor's Advisory Council on Aging, Commission Member of the North Carolina Commission on Inclusion, and Board Member of St. Jude's Wilmington Foundation, Inc.

**Shevel Mavins** is the founder of Addiction-Prevention, LLC, where she provides training on substance use, mental health, and wellness. Also, she works as a social worker in Adult Services for the Department of Social Services, where she investigates cases of abuse, neglect, and exploitation of older adults. The next 20 years of her career she worked as an addiction clinician and other behavioral health therapist. With her experience working in a dually diagnosed inpatient and outpatient treatment program, which lead her to work as a New York State Certified Education and Training Provider. She worked as a Family and Adolescent therapist in the Upstate New York school district. She also has experience working with the Federal Parole system, New York State Parole system, and the local criminal court for the prisoner re-entry programs. She earned her bachelor's degree in psychology from Le Monye College, attended Syracuse University's dual graduate program in Rehabilitation Counseling and School Counseling, and earned her master's degree in counseling with specialization in addiction and mental health disorders from Capella University. Before moving to North Carolina, she started her career working as a therapist in a hospital in Upstate New York.

**Meredith Smith** is an Associate Professor of Public Law and Government at the UNC School of Government. Her work focuses on the areas where clerks of superior court serve as judicial officials, including guardianship proceedings, power of attorney proceedings, and estate administration. She also is a co-creator of the North Carolina Elder Protection Network, available <http://protectadults.sog.unc.edu/> and co-author of the manual, the Legal Framework for North Carolina's Elder Protection System. Prior to joining the SOG, Meredith practice law in Charlotte with the law firm of McGuireWoods LLP. She earned a BA in political science and Spanish, with distinction, from the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill and a law degree, cum laude, from Georgetown University School of Law.

