MASTER OF JUDICIAL STUDIES PROGRAM

FACULTY AND PARTICIPANTS 2012

DUKE LAW
WELCOME to the inaugural Master of Laws in Judicial Studies program at Duke Law. This class of faculty and student-judges marks the beginning of a unique and exciting venture; with this class, Duke Law launches the first graduate program for judges to take a scholarly and interdisciplinary view of the judiciary as an institution. The program will allow judges to develop the research and analytical skills necessary to study and compare domestic and international judicial institutions, to explore emerging legal issues and general judicial practices, and to examine ideas for judicial reform. Our faculty includes the nation’s leading scholars in these areas; they are eager to teach and also to learn from their students. Our class of student-judges is diverse, experienced, impressive, and enthusiastic to deepen their education in ways that will help them become better jurists, scholars, and teachers.

This assembling of outstanding scholars and talented jurists lays the foundation not just for a successful first class, but also for the future of the Duke Center for Judicial Studies. In addition to this degree program, the Center is moving rapidly on multiple fronts to bring scholars, practitioners, and judges together in collaborative efforts to understand, support, and advance our judicial system. For too long the practicing bar and bench and legal academia have worked apart, forgoing valuable opportunities to learn from each other. We aim to introduce the powerful analytical tools, techniques, and rigorous standards routinely employed by scholars to judicial policy-making and decision-making, while at the same time sensitizing scholars to the very real and practical law-related problems faced by the practicing bar and bench. To this end, the Center is developing continuing legal education programs consisting of symposia, conferences, and workshops that will meaningfully partner judges and lawyers with scholars in united enterprises. The same collaborative philosophy will instruct the Center’s long-term research projects. Our mission is to help make our justice system ever better — an exciting goal, and one that could not be more timely or more worthy.

John K. Rabiej
Director, Center for Judicial Studies
Duke Law School
Faculty

The Honorable Samuel A. Alito
Associate Justice, United States Supreme Court
Teaching: The United States Supreme Court and the Constitution

Justice Alito was nominated to the U.S. Supreme Court in 2005 by President George W. Bush and was confirmed to the post by the U.S. Senate in January 2006. He had previously served on the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Third Circuit, nominated by President George H.W. Bush in 1990. He has served as U.S. attorney for the District of New Jersey; deputy assistant attorney general in the U.S. Department of Justice; assistant to the solicitor general in the U.S. Department of Justice under the Reagan administration; and assistant U.S. attorney for the District of New Jersey. He holds a law degree from Yale University, where he was editor of the Yale Law Review. He was a law clerk for Judge Leonard Garth of the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Third Circuit and from 1975 to 1980 was on active duty with the U.S. Signal Corps, where he achieved the rank of second lieutenant and served as a captain in the U.S. Army Reserve.

Curtis A. Bradley
Richard A. Horvitz Professor of Law and Professor of Public Policy Studies
Teaching: International Law in U.S. Courts

Professor Bradley is an expert in international law, U.S. foreign relations law, and foreign courts, and he is co-director of Duke Law School’s Center for International and Comparative Law. The co-author of leading casebooks on foreign relations law and on federal courts and federal-state relations, he is currently working on a book about international law in the U.S. legal system. Prior to joining Duke Law in 2005, Professor Bradley taught at the University of Virginia and University of Colorado law schools, was a law clerk for Judge David Ebel of the U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals for the 10th Circuit and Justice Byron White of the U.S. Supreme Court, and practiced law at Covington & Burling in Washington, D.C. He has served as counselor on international law in the Legal Adviser’s Office of the U.S. State Department and as a member of the Secretary of State’s Advisory Committee on International Law, and he is a member of the Board of Editors of the American Journal of International Law. He holds a JD from Harvard Law School.

Michael H. Bradley
F.M. Kirby Professor of Investment Banking and Professor of Law, Emeritus
Teaching: Forensic Finance

Professor Bradley’s research interests lie at the intersection of corporate finance and corporate law. He has published papers in legal and business journals on corporate capital structure, mergers and acquisitions, takeover defenses and tactics, government regulation of the securities market, insider trading, fiduciary duties of corporate managers, corporate governance, and corporate bankruptcy. He has taught courses on microeconomics, industrial organization, investments, managerial finance, corporate finance, mergers and acquisitions, bankruptcy, restructuring, and corporate law to PhD, MBA, JD, and LLM students, and business executives from around the world. He has presented testimony before the Senate Banking Committee, the Securities and Exchange Commission, the Council of Economic Advisors, the National Association of Manufacturers, and the Council of Institutional Investors, and he serves on the editorial boards of The Journal of Applied Corporate Finance, The Journal of Corporate Finance and Governance, and The Journal of Financial Research. Professor Bradley received his PhD in economics, finance and industrial organization from the University of Chicago and has served on the faculties of the Universities of Michigan, Chicago and Rochester.
John de Figueiredo  
Professor of Law and Business  
*Teaching: Analytic Methods*

Professor de Figueiredo studies competitive strategy, political and legal strategy, law and economics, and the management of innovation. His innovative and widely acclaimed research in “non-market” strategy examines how political influence, regulatory lobbying, and strategic litigation are used to enhance competitive performance. Prior to joining Duke Law School in 2010, he was an associate professor of strategic management and associate professor of law at the UCLA Anderson School. He also has served on the faculties of the Sloan School of Management at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT) and the Woodrow Wilson School at Princeton University. He was an Olin Senior Visiting Research Fellow at Harvard Law School and has served as a research associate at the National Bureau of Economic Research. He holds a PhD in business and public policy from the University of California, Berkeley; a master’s of science from the London School of Economics; and an AB in economics from Harvard University.

Mitu Gulati  
Professor of Law  
*Teaching: Study of the Judiciary*

Professor Gulati’s current research focuses on the evolution of contract language, the history of international financial law, and the measurement of judicial behavior. His recent work on the judiciary has explored, among other topics, the benefits and costs of lifetime tenure for judges; the role of gender in judicial decision-making and performance; and the efficacy of various models for measuring judicial ability. A lead convener of the Duke Law 2009 conference on measuring judges and justice, Professor Gulati is among the nation’s most creative thinkers in the field of judicial studies — even as he has become a leading scholar on the subject of sovereign debt and the economic crisis. Prior to joining Duke Law in 2006, he was a professor at Georgetown Law Center and the University of California-Los Angeles; he also was an associate with the law firm of Cleary, Gottlieb, Steen & Hamilton. He holds a JD from Harvard Law School.

Laurence R. Helfer  
Harry R. Chadwick, Sr. Professor of Law  
*Teaching: International Law in U.S. Courts*

Professor Helfer is a leading expert in international law whose scholarly interests include interdisciplinary analysis of international law and institutions, human rights, and international intellectual property law and policy. He is co-director of Duke Law School’s Center for International and Comparative Law, a member of the faculty steering committee of the Duke Center on Human Rights, and a member of the Board of Editors of the *American Journal of International Law* and the *Journal of World Intellectual Property*. Prior to joining the Duke Law faculty in July 2009, he was a professor of law and director of the International Legal Studies Program at Vanderbilt University Law School. He served as a law clerk to Chief Judge Dolores K. Sloviter of the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Third Circuit and practiced law with the New York law firm of Rabinowitz, Boudin, Standard, Krinksy & Lieberman, P.C. He holds a JD from New York University and a master’s degree in public administration from Princeton University, where he was a Woodrow Wilson Fellow.
**Jack Knight**  
**Frederic Cleaveland Professor of Law and Political Science**  
*Teaching: Study of the Judiciary*

A renowned political scientist and legal theorist, Professor Knight's scholarly work focuses on modern social and political theory, law and legal theory, and political economy. He studies, among other things, the motivations and decisions of judges, the effects of extensive prior judicial experience as a prerequisite for service on the U.S. Supreme Court, and other aspects of how courts make decisions and how judges choose their positions in opinions. His book *The Choices Justices Make* (coauthored by Lee Epstein) (Congressional Quarterly Press, 1997) won the American Political Science Association's C. Herman Prichett Award for the best book published on law and courts. Prior to joining Duke in 2008, he was the Sidney W. Souers Professor of Government at Washington University of St. Louis. In addition to his JD (University of North Carolina-Chapel Hill), he holds an MA and a PhD in political science from the University of Chicago.

**Margaret H. Lemos**  
**Professor of Law**  
*Teaching: Federalism*

Professor Lemos is a scholar of constitutional law, legal institutions, and procedure. Her scholarship focuses on the institutions of law interpretation and enforcement and their effects on substantive rights. She writes in four related fields: federalism; administrative law, including the relationship between courts and agencies; statutory interpretation; and civil procedure. Her articles have been published in *Supreme Court Review* as well as in the New York University, Texas, Minnesota, and Vanderbilt law reviews. Prior to joining Duke Law, she served on the faculty of the Cardozo School of Law, where she was voted “best first-year teacher” in 2010 and 2011. She also has served as a Furman Fellow at New York University School of Law and a Bristow Fellow at the Office of the Solicitor General. She holds a law degree from New York University and was a law clerk to Judge Kermit V. Lipez, U.S. Court of Appeals for the First Circuit, and to U.S. Supreme Court Justice John Paul Stevens.

**David F. Levi**  
**Dean and Professor of Law**  
*Teaching: Judges’ Seminar*

Dean Levi joined Duke Law School in 2007. Prior to his appointment as dean, he was the Chief United States District Judge for the Eastern District of California with chambers in Sacramento. His scholarship and teaching focus on judicial behavior and ethics. As dean, he has expanded opportunities for Duke Law students to develop lawyering skills and to prepare for leadership roles in the legal profession and beyond, and he has developed programs that bring legal scholars and practitioners together to explore problems facing the profession. He has served as chair of two Judicial Conference committees by appointment of the Chief Justice; he was chair of the Civil Rules Advisory Committee from 2000 to 2003 and chair of the Standing Committee on the Rules of Practice and Procedure from 2003 to 2007 (he is now serving a term as a member of that committee). He has served as an advisor to the ALI's Federal Judicial Code Revision Project, president of the Ninth Circuit District Judges Association, chair of the Ninth Circuit Task Force on Race, Religious and Ethnic Fairness, and an advisor to the Aggregate Litigation project. He is a member of the Council of the American Law Institute (ALI), the American Academy of Arts and Sciences, and the board of directors of Equal Justice Works. He was a law clerk to Judge Ben C. Duniway of the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Ninth Circuit and to Justice Lewis F. Powell, Jr., of the U.S. Supreme Court. He holds a JD from Stanford Law School.
Francis McGovern  
Professor of Law  
Teaching: Judges’ Seminar

Professor McGovern is a leading practitioner, scholar, and teacher in the field of alternative dispute resolution who has spoken and taught around the world on a range of topics related to ADR. As a court-appointed special master or neutral expert, he has developed solutions in significant mass claim litigation in the U.S., including the DDT toxic exposure litigation in Alabama, the Dalkon-Shield controversy, and silicone gel breast implant litigation. As a case manager, he organizes the pretrial administration of a case, and uses ADR techniques to help the parties agree on efficient discovery approaches and schedules. The co-author of two published books, Successful Litigation Techniques and The Preparation of a Product Liability Case, and two books in progress, Toxic Substances Litigation and Alternative Dispute Resolution, Professor McGovern developed the seminal concept of “maturity” in mass torts — a concept generally accepted as critical in analysis of many mass torts.

H. Jefferson Powell  
Professor of Law  
Teaching: Judicial History

Professor Powell returned to Duke Law School this spring after two years of service as deputy assistant attorney general in the Office of Legal Counsel at the U.S. Department of Justice and as a professor at George Washington University Law School. A distinguished constitutional law scholar, he has briefed and argued cases in both federal and state courts, including the Supreme Court of the United States. He served in the Department of Justice in various capacities from 1993 to 2000, and in 1996, he was the principal deputy solicitor general. In the early 1990s, he was special counsel to the attorney general of North Carolina. Prior to joining the Duke Law faculty in 1989, he taught at Yale University and the University of Iowa. He has published many influential articles, essays, and books examining the moral tradition of American constitutionalism, executive branch power, and legislative and judicial decision-making, among other subjects. He holds a master’s degree and PhD from Duke University and a Master’s of Divinity and JD from Yale University. He was a law clerk to Judge Sam J. Ervin III of the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Fourth Circuit.

Judge Lee H. Rosenthal  
U.S. District Court, Southern District of Texas  
Teaching: Judges’ Seminar

Judge Rosenthal was appointed a U.S. District Court Judge for the Southern District of Texas, Houston Division, in 1992. She previously was a partner at Baker & Botts in Houston, where she tried civil cases and handled appeals in the state and federal courts. She has served as a member and chair of the Judicial Conference Advisory Committee on Civil Rules and an extended term as chair of the Judicial Conference Committee on the Rules of Practice and Procedure. She is a member of the American Law Institute, where she serves as an advisor for the Employment Law project and the Aggregate Litigation project. She has taught, written, and lectured extensively, concentrating on topics in complex litigation and civil procedure, including class actions and electronic discovery. Judge Rosenthal received her undergraduate and law degrees from the University of Chicago and served as law clerk to Chief Judge John R. Brown of the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Fifth Circuit.
Neil S. Siegel
Professor of Law and Political Science
Teaching: Constitutional and Statutory Interpretation

Professor Siegel is one of the nation’s leading scholars of constitutional law and theory and is co-director of Duke’s Program in Public Law. His recent research investigates economic theories of constitutional law and the theory of collective action federalism. Prior to joining Duke Law, he served as special counsel to Sen. Joseph R. Biden during the confirmation hearings of U.S. Supreme Court Justices John G. Roberts and Samuel A. Alito. He served as a clerk to U.S. Supreme Court Associate Justice Ruth Bader Ginsburg, a Bristow Fellow in the Office of the Solicitor General, and as a clerk to Judge J. Harvie Wilkinson III of the 4th U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals. In addition to his JD (Boalt Hall School of Law), he holds a master’s degree in economics (Duke University) and a PhD in jurisprudence and social policy (Boalt Hall).

Ernest A. Young
Alston & Bird Professor of Law
Teaching: Federalism

Professor Young is one of the nation’s leading authorities on the constitutional law of federalism. He has written extensively on the Rehnquist Court’s “Federalist Revival” and the difficulties confronting courts as they seek to draw lines between national and state authority. He also is an active commentator on foreign relations law, where he focuses on the interaction between domestic and supranational courts and the application of international law by domestic courts. Prior to joining Duke Law in 2008, he was the Charles Alan Wright Chair in Federal Courts at the University of Texas at Austin School of Law. He served as a law clerk to Judge Michael Boudin of the U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals for the First Circuit and to Justice David Souter of the U.S. Supreme Court and practiced law at Cohan, Simpson, Cowlishaw & Wulff in Dallas and Covington & Burling in Washington, D.C., where he specialized in appellate litigation. He is a member of the American Law Institute. He earned his JD at Harvard Law School.
Additional Presenters in the Judges’ and Scholars’ Seminars:

» Professor Joanna Shepherd Bailey, Emory Law School

» Professor John Conley, University of North Carolina, Chapel Hill, Law School

» Chief Justice Christine Durham, Supreme Court of Utah

» Judge Eldon E. Fallon, U.S. District Court for the Eastern District of Louisiana

» Professor Tracey George, Vanderbilt University Law School

» Professor Linda Greenhouse, Yale Law School

» Dean Chris Guthrie, Vanderbilt University Law School

» Judge Denise Page Hood, U.S. District Court for the Eastern District of Michigan

» Chief Justice Wallace Jefferson, Supreme Court of Texas

» Professor John Jeffries, University of Virginia Law School

» Professor William Landes, University of Chicago Law School

» Judge William Pauley, U.S. District Court for the Southern District of New York

» Judge Anthony J. Scirica, U.S. Court of Appeals for the Third Circuit

» Judge Vaughn Walker, U.S. District Court for the Northern District of California (Ret.)

2012 Courses

» Constitutional and Statutory Interpretation (Professor Neil Siegel)

» Analytical Methods (Professor John de Figueiredo)

» Study of the Judiciary (Professors Mitu Gulati and Jack Knight)

» International Law in U.S. Courts (Professors Curt Bradley and Laurence Helfer)

» Judges’ Seminar (Dean David Levi, Professor Francis McGovern, and Judge Lee Rosenthal)

» Constitutional Courts (Justice Samuel Alito)

» Federalism (Professors Margaret Lemos and Ernest Young)

» Forensic Finance (Professor Michael Bradley)

» Judicial History (Professor Jefferson Powell)
Masters of Judicial Studies: Participant Profiles

Dennis Adjei
Justice of The Court of Appeal
Judicial Service
Accra, Ghana, West Africa

Justice Adjei earned a bachelor’s degree from the University of Ghana, the barrister at law from Ghana School of Law, and an executive master degree in Public Administration from the Ghana Institute of Management and Public Administration. He also holds an LLM from the University of London. He has served as justice of the Court of Appeal since 2010. He is also a senior lecturer at the Ghana School of Law and a faculty member at the Judicial Training Institute. Prior to this, he was the founder and managing partner for the Holy Trinity Chambers. Justice Adjei believes the Judicial Studies program “will have a positive impact on me as a judge and a lecturer. It will assist me to know the judicial system of the United States, and I may also impart [this knowledge] to the other judges in Ghana through the Judicial Training Institute [where I am a faculty member].”

Robert E. Belanger
Judge, 19th Judicial Circuit of Florida
Stuart, Florida

Judge Belanger earned his bachelor’s degree from John Carroll University, his JD from Cleveland-Marshall College of Law at Cleveland State University, and a Trial/Defense Counsel certification from the Naval Justice School in Rhode Island. Prior to his current role, Judge Belanger was a lawyer with the Office of the State Attorney for the 19th Judicial Circuit of Florida, and an associate attorney in a private practice. He was also a captain and judge advocate in the U.S. Marine Corps. Judge Belanger is eager to be a part of the Judicial Studies program, seeking “an opportunity to study and exchange ideas on how the judiciary can promote civility, professionalism and ethics in the legal profession.”

Kevin A. Blazs
Judge, Fourth Judicial Circuit of Florida
Duval County, Florida

Judge Blazs was appointed to Florida’s Fourth Judicial Circuit Court in June 2011 and is assigned to the Criminal Division. He served on the Duval County Court from 2006 – 2011 and previously practiced with Gobelman, Love, Gavin, Blazs and Wasilenko in Jacksonville. He also has served in the U.S. Army Reserve JAG Corps, as a law professor at universities in China, an assistant state attorney for Duval County, and a legislative aide in the Michigan State Senate. After attending the U.S. Air Force Academy, he earned his bachelor’s and master’s degrees from Liberty University. Having received his JD from Thomas M. Cooley Law School, he earned a Master of Laws from the University of London and a Master of Studies from the University of Cambridge. Judge Blazs looks forward to this “opportunity to broaden [my] understanding of the interrelationship between various sources of law and to work toward a more coherent jurisprudence.” He is married to Melissa and has three children.
Andre M. Davis  
**Judge, U.S. Court of Appeals for the Fourth Circuit**  
*Baltimore, Maryland*

Judge Davis holds a bachelor’s degree from the University of Pennsylvania and his JD from the University of Maryland School of Law. Upon graduation from law school, Davis completed one-year clerkships with Judge Frank A. Kaufman in the U.S. District Court in Baltimore and Judge Francis D. Murnaghan, Jr., of the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Fourth Circuit. He then served as an appellate attorney for the Civil Rights Division of the U.S. Department of Justice and as assistant U.S. attorney for the District of Maryland. He also spent time in private practice and taught at the University of Maryland School of Law as an assistant professor. Judge Davis believes participation in the program will further his pursuit of excellence “in the ability to translate to lawyers and non-lawyers alike the importance of the work of an independent judiciary to the maintenance of our democratic ideals founded on personal liberty.”

Marsha Erb  
**Justice, court of Queen’s Bench of Alberta**  
*Calgary, Alberta, Canada*

Justice Erb has been a superior court judge in Alberta since 2001 and has since been appointed to Canada’s three northern federal/territorial courts: the Northwest Territories, Yukon and Nunavut. She was admitted to the British Columbia Bar in 1984 and the Alberta Bar in 1986 and is a graduate of the University of Saskatchewan, College of Law (1983). In her final year of law school, she served as editor-in-chief of the *Saskatchewan Law Review*. A former journalist, Justice Erb was the 1977 recipient of the St. Laurent Fellowship in legal journalism (to Queen’s University), a national journalism award. Prior to her appointment, Justice Erb practiced with and was a partner in a civil/commercial litigation law firm in Calgary. In early 1995, she was named general counsel to the Tsuu T’ina (Sarcee) First Nation and was involved in the development of Canada’s first comprehensive aboriginal (peacemaker) justice system. Justice Erb believes the Judicial Studies program will help her “see how other institutions work and how members of the judiciary elsewhere view specialized courts.”

Jon Ferguson  
**Judge, Superior Court of California, San Bernardino County**  
*Rancho Cucamonga, California*

Judge Ferguson earned his bachelor’s degree from the University of California at Riverside and his JD from the University of San Diego School of Law. He has served as supervising judge for the Rancho Cucamonga Courthouse since 2009. Prior to this, he was supervising judge for the Fontana Courthouse, presiding judge for the Appellate Division of the San Bernardino County Superior Court, and deputy district attorney for San Bernardino County. He also taught at various colleges and universities as a professor and instructor. Noting that those who serve must decide more cases and attempt to accomplish the same level of justice with fewer resources in these challenging times, Judge Ferguson believes “a focused and intensive academic study of judicial institutions from various analytical perspectives will be beneficial” to him and the court system he serves.
Kem Thompson Frost
Justice, Court of Appeals for the 14th District of Texas
Houston, Texas

Justice Frost, a native Texan, earned dual degrees in government and international business from The University of Texas and her JD from Texas Tech University School of Law. She has served as a justice since 1999; previously, she enjoyed a 15-year civil trial and appellate practice, with an emphasis on complex business litigation. Frost believes the Judicial Studies program will offer “an immensely appealing forum for examining the judiciary’s most important challenges and opportunities under the leadership of preeminent legal scholars.”

Eva Guzman
Justice, Supreme Court of Texas
Cypress, Texas

Justice Guzman holds a bachelor’s degree from the University of Houston and a JD from South Texas College of Law. She has served as a Texas Supreme Court Justice since 2009. Prior to that appointment, she served as a justice for the 14th Court of Appeals of Texas and a judge for the 309th Family District Court. She practiced civil and matrimonial law for 10 years before taking the bench. Guzman is the first Latina to serve on Texas' highest civil court. By participating in this program, she hopes to develop a better understanding of existing and emerging issues in international judicial institutions, particularly those in Latin American countries. She would also like to “examine, and perhaps develop, legal scholarship on the cultural impact and experiences of Hispanics in the American judiciary.”

George Hanks, Jr.
U.S. Magistrate Judge, Southern District of Texas
Houston, Texas

Judge Hanks is a native of Breaux Bridge, La. Prior to his appointment to the federal bench, Judge Hanks served as a justice on the Court of Appeals for the First District of Texas and as the judge of the 157th District Court in Houston. In private practice, he was a shareholder in the law firm of Wickliff & Hall, P.C., where he specialized in commercial and medical malpractice litigation. He previously worked at the law firm of Fulbright & Jaworski, L.L.P. Judge Hanks holds a bachelor’s degree in economics, summa cum laude, from Louisiana State University. He attended Harvard Law School where he received the Legal Defense Fund/Earl Warren Scholarship and was an editor of the Harvard Blackletter Law Journal. Upon graduation, he served as a law clerk to U.S. District Court Judge Sim Lake. Judge Hanks is a member of the American Law Institute, an adjunct professor at the University of Houston Law Center, and a faculty member of the National Judicial College and National Institute for Trial Advocacy. He has served in a number of volunteer and leadership roles in the judiciary, in the legal profession, and in his community.

James E. Hardin, Jr.
Superior Court Judge, 14th Judicial District of North Carolina
Durham, North Carolina

A native of Durham, Judge Hardin earned his undergraduate degree here at Duke University. He earned his JD from Mercer University. He has served as a resident superior court judge since 2009. He is a colonel in the JAG Corps of the U.S. Army Reserve, where he serves as a military judge for the 150th Legal Support Organization in Alexandria, Va. “I understand how our justice system works, and honestly believe that I can make it better by my work and honest effort,” writes Judge Hardin. “The Duke Judicial Studies Program will allow me to enhance my skills and knowledge so that I can meet these worthy objectives.”
Robert Hunter
Judge, North Carolina Court of Appeals
Raleigh, North Carolina

Judge Hunter earned both his bachelor’s degree and his JD from the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill. He also spent time studying business at George Washington University. He has served as a judge since 2009. Prior to his election, he was a managing partner in a private practice, with a concentration in civil litigation, including real property, decedent’s estates, securities, and election law. He was in the first class of certified mediators in North Carolina and continues his work with the court’s mediation program. He has also taught at various universities. “I expect the program will be personally enriching, improve my research and writing, and assist in improving my pedagogical skills with law students,” writes Judge Hunter.

Barbara Jackson
Associate Justice, Supreme Court of North Carolina
Raleigh, North Carolina

Justice Jackson earned both her bachelor’s degree and her JD from the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill. She also completed her Legal Assistant’s Program certificate at Meredith College in between undergraduate and law school. Prior to her current appointment, Justice Jackson served as a judge for the North Carolina Court of Appeals, general counsel for the N.C. Department of Labor, and an associate with Holt, York, McDarris LLP. She also was a contestant on JEOPARDY! years ago! After graduating from law school, she served as a law clerk at the North Carolina Supreme Court; she notes it has been interesting to return to the court as a justice. Justice Jackson says her commitment to state public service is strong. “In every decision, I have sought to apply the law faithfully,” she said. Jackson believes the Judicial Studies program will help her continue to be the best jurist she can be.

Renee Cohn Jubelirer
Judge, Commonwealth Court of Pennsylvania
State College, Pennsylvania

Judge Cohn Jubelirer earned her bachelor’s degree from Pennsylvania State University and her JD from Northwestern University. Before being elected to the bench, she was in-house counsel for a telecommunications company and served as an elected township commissioner in South Whitehall Township, Penn. Her career includes additional public service as a deputy and assistant solicitor for Lehigh County, Penn., and an arbitrator for the Court of Common Pleas of Lehigh County. Judge Cohn Jubelirer also worked in private practice and as a law school professor. She currently serves as the chair of the Pennsylvania Appellate Court Procedural Rules Committee. She is eager to learn “from scholars and participate in discussions with other experienced judges.” She is confident the program will enhance her decision-making by placing her work in a broader perspective.

Simone Marstiller
Judge, Florida First District Court of Appeal
Tallahassee, Florida

Judge Marstiller earned her bachelor’s degree from Stetson University and her JD from Stetson College of Law. When appointed to the appellate court in 2010, Judge Marstiller was serving as executive director for the Florida Elections Commission. There she oversaw the investigation and prosecution of complaints filed with the commission and was the chief administrative officer for the agency. Prior to that, she held several positions in Florida government, including associate deputy attorney general, secretary of the Department of Business and Professional Regulation, and state chief information officer. “The Judicial Studies program curriculum addresses my broad public policy interests, complements my professional experience, and, more than any other advanced degree program I have found, suggests topics I would be sufficiently interested in to write on,” writes Judge Marstiller.
Philip Pro
Judge, U.S. District Court, District of Nevada
Las Vegas, Nevada

Judge Pro earned his associate’s degree from Contra Costa Community College, his bachelor’s degree from San Francisco State University, and his JD from Golden Gate University School of Law. He has served as district judge since 1987. He served as chief judge for the District of Nevada from 2002 to 2007. Prior to this appointment, he served as a U.S. magistrate judge, an assistant U.S. attorney and later chief assistant U.S. attorney, and deputy attorney general in Nevada.

Delissa Ridgway
Judge, U.S. Court of International Trade
New York, New York

Judge Ridgway holds a bachelor’s degree from the University of Missouri, where she also completed coursework for a master’s in economic development. She then earned her JD from Northeastern University School of Law. For nearly 14 years, she has served as a judge of the U.S. Court of International Trade, a nine-member Article III federal trial court with exclusive nationwide jurisdiction over disputes involving the interpretation and application of U.S. customs and international trade laws. She served as chair of the Foreign Claims Settlement Commission of the United States in the first Clinton Administration, and, before that, practiced international law at Shaw Pittman (now Pillsbury Winthrop Shaw Pittman) in Washington, D.C.

Donna Stroud
Associate Judge, North Carolina Court of Appeals
Raleigh, North Carolina

Judge Stroud earned both her bachelor’s and law degrees from Campbell University. In addition to her service as judge, she is an adjunct professor of law at Campbell University. She previously served as a district court judge in Wake County, North Carolina, and she was in private practice for 16 years. She is also a certified court mediator. Judge Stroud believes that “our judicial education should continue and that we should never stop learning more about how we decide cases, how to write and express our opinions clearly and concisely, and how to improve our system of justice.”

Patricia Timmons-Goodson
Associate Justice, Supreme Court of North Carolina
Raleigh, North Carolina

Justice Timmons-Goodson earned both her undergraduate and law degrees from the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill. She has served as an associate justice since 2006. Prior to her appointment and subsequent election, she served as a Court of Appeals judge and a District Court judge. She also served as a prosecutor in the 12th Judicial District and as staff attorney for Lumbee River Legal Services, Inc. Like her peers, she is eager to expand her knowledge through the Judicial Studies program. “As I study judicial institutions and explore the topics germane to the attainment of justice for all, this graduate-level curriculum can only make me a better jurist,” said Justice Timmons-Goodson. “It is my hope that I will gain new insights into the institution to which I have devoted my professional life.”