

# **Bio & Qualifications of Presenters for**

## **2<sup>nd</sup> Annual Local Government Conference for Attorneys and Paralegals**

**Attorney Misty Randall Leland:** Misty Randall Leland was appointed **Moore County Attorney** on April 2, 2007. The County Attorney is appointed by the Board of Commissioners to serve as a legal advisor to the Board, the County Manager and department heads on all legal matters related to the operation of County government ensuring that actions of Moore County are conducted in accordance with federal, state and local laws. Prior to her appointment, she began employment with Moore County in 2005 as an Assistant County Attorney. While in private practice, she also served as the appointed Anson County Attorney from 2002-2005. She received her Bachelor of Arts degree from the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill in 1998 and Juris Doctorate degree from North Carolina Central University School of Law in 2001. Misty lives in Seven Lakes, North Carolina with her husband Drew and twin children, Luke and Madeline. Her favorite activities include spending time with her husband and children, family and friends, church activities, walking, running and biking, and spending time outdoors generally, especially at the beach.

**Attorney Brenda B. White:** Has served as **Deputy Moore County Attorney** for eight years and has over twenty years of service as a local government attorney in North Carolina. She earned her J.D. in 1990 from the UNC-CH School of Law and her Bachelors of Science in Criminal Justice (1987) from North Carolina Wesleyan College, which named her Distinguished Alumni of the Year in 2004. She has served as a presenter for the UNC School of Government at its DSS Paralegal Conference and taught in the Paralegal Curriculum at Central Carolina Community College from 1991-1997. Her favorite position, however, is being grandmother to 8-year old Thomas.

**Attorney R. Ward Medlin:** Has served as the **Associate Moore County Attorney** for over 5 years. He works principally with the Moore County Department of Social Services handling all of the Child Protective Services and Adult Protective Services matters. Additionally, he shares responsibilities and duties for the Moore County Child Support Enforcement Agency; handling child support enforcement matters. In addition to the services provided to MCDSS and MCCSEA, he will work on special projects for various other departments as may be assigned by the County Attorney. He received his undergraduate degree from Western Carolina University in 1974 and his Juris Doctorate from Nova University School of Law in 1977. He is licensed to practice law in the states of North Carolina (1986) and Florida (1977). Prior to joining the Moore County Attorney's Office, he engaged in a private practice of law; initially handling tort litigation including medical malpractice in the state of Florida and thereafter a practice in North Carolina concentrating on family and criminal law. His criminal practice included the full spectrum from traffic infractions to capital murder jury trials. He is an active member of the Stanly County Bar Association.

**The Honorable Scott Etheridge:** Has been a **District Court Judge** since 2002. He is a certified Juvenile Court Judge. Before his election, he was a partner in private practice with the law firm of Gavin, Cox, Pugh, Etheridge, and Wilhoit, LLP. He practiced primarily in criminal and family court. Judge Etheridge has also served in the capacity of Public Defender, Commonwealth's Attorney, and is a former member of the Board of Elections in Randolph County.

**Gary E. Briggs:** Is the **Division leader** over appraisal with the **Moore County Tax Department** and has worked in the tax business for over eight years. He received his MBA from Phieffer University in 1998 and his undergraduate degree from East Carolina University in management in 1991. Prior to working in Moore County, he worked as a commercial lender for a local bank and has experience as a private business owner. His favorite pastimes are spending time with his son Gavin, playing golf or competing in triathlons.

## **Frayda S. Bluestein**



*Associate Dean for Faculty Development; Professor of Public Law and Government*

### **Areas of Expertise**

Local government law; public records; open meetings; municipal annexation; city attorneys

### **Profile**

Frayda Bluestein joined the School of Government (then the Institute of Government) in 1991. Prior to that, she worked for four years in a private law practice, focusing primarily on municipal and land use law. She also worked for one year in the Legislative Drafting Division of the North Carolina General Assembly. She is the author of *A Legal Guide to Purchasing and Contracting for North Carolina Local Governments*. In 2004, Bluestein was awarded the School of Government's two-year professorship for teaching excellence. Bluestein earned a BA from the University of California at Berkeley and a JD from the University of California at Davis. For more information on Frayda Bluestein please visit: <http://www.sog.unc.edu/user/25>

## **JUDGE MARK A. DAVIS**



Judge Mark A. Davis was appointed to the North Carolina Court of Appeals in 2012. Prior to that, he served as General Counsel in the Office of the Governor for two years. Between 2006 and 2011, he was a Special Deputy Attorney General in the North Carolina Department of Justice. From 1993 until 2006, he worked as an attorney at Womble Carlyle Sandridge & Rice, where he was a member of the firm in the Litigation Section. Prior to his appointment to the Court of Appeals, he handled over 65 appeals in state and federal appellate courts. Judge Davis received his law degree from the University Of North Carolina School Of Law and his undergraduate degree from the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill. Upon his graduation from law school, he served as a law clerk to the Honorable Franklin T. Dupree, Jr. in the United States District Court for the Eastern District of North Carolina. *Do's and Don'ts at the Court of Appeals: a View from the Bench* consists of tips from a North Carolina appellate judge on a wide variety of topics designed to improve the brief-writing and oral advocacy skills of practitioners in the North Carolina Court of Appeals.

## **Richard D. Ducker**



*Associate Professor of Public Law and Government (part-time, retired)*

### **Areas of Expertise**

Zoning, subdivision regulation, and other land-use controls; city and county planning; transportation; building and housing code enforcement

### **Profile**

Rich Ducker joined the School of Government (then the Institute of Government) in 1977. Prior to that, he served as research consultant in The Netherlands for the Conservation Foundation's International Comparative Land-Use Controls Project. He has consulted with a number of local governments and state agencies and served as a legislative advisor to several North Carolina General Assembly Legislative Research Commission committees. He is a member of the board of directors of Housing Alternatives, a non-profit housing corporation in Chapel Hill and a member of the North Carolina Code Officials Qualification Board. He is also past chair of the Chapel Hill Township Planning Advisory Council and the Orange County Zoning Board of Adjustment. He is the author of various publications on land use and zoning, transportation, and code enforcement. Ducker earned a BA from the University of Colorado, an MA from the University of Wisconsin, and a JD from UCLA.