

# Race, Wrongful Convictions and the Death Penalty

## *Panel Discussions Exploring the Role of Race and the Death Penalty, and North Carolina's Passage of the Racial Justice Act*

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### 2010 North Carolina Campus Tour

With the passage of the NC Racial Justice Act last year, North Carolina became only the second state in the country to enact legislation addressing racial bias in capital sentencing.

To celebrate and discuss the implications of the enactment of the Racial Justice Act, four North Carolina campuses will be hosting panel discussions:

#### 1) Wake Forest School of Law March 31, 2010

<http://law.wfu.edu/>

WFU School of Law, Large Courtroom Room 1312: 12:00-2pm

*Co-sponsored by The Justice and Innocence Clinic*

Event is open to the public; lunch will be provided.

#### Panelists:

- **Stephen Bright** is President and Senior Counsel for the Southern Center for Human Rights and teaches in the law schools at Harvard, Yale and Georgetown Universities. Bright is a nationally recognized expert on the death penalty.  
<http://www.schr.org/about>
- **Darryl Hunt** was wrongfully convicted in Forsyth County, NC; he served 18 years in prison for a rape and murder he did not commit. Since his exoneration in 2004, Darryl started the Darryl Hunt Project for Freedom and Justice and has been working to prevent wrongful convictions and to assist individuals recently exonerated in the state.  
<http://www.darrylhuntproject.org/>
- **Mark Rabil** is an Assistant Capital Defender, former attorney for Darryl Hunt, Co-Director of Innocence and Justice Clinic, supervising attorney for the Clinical Program, and adjunct professor of trial advocacy at WFU School of Law.  
<http://www.aoc.state.nc.us/www/ids/State%20Defender%20Offices/Directory%20Pages/CapDefenderDirectory.pdf>

- **Forsyth County, NC Representatives Larry Womble and Earline Parmon** were primary sponsors for the Racial Justice Act in 2007 and 2009. Representatives Womble and Parmon were tireless advocates for RJA who frequently spoke in support of RJA before the Legislative Black Caucus, the NC House, the NC Senate and the media.  
<http://www.ncleg.net/gascripts/members/viewMember.pl?sChamber=House&nUserID=107>  
<http://www.ncleg.net/gascripts/members/viewMember.pl?sChamber=House&nUserID=402>

## 2) UNC Chapel Hill April 7, 2010

<http://www.unc.edu/>

Location: Sonja Haynes Stone Center for Black Culture and History: 6-8pm

<http://sonjahaynesstonectr.unc.edu/>

*Co-sponsored by UNC Department of Political Science and African and Afro-American Studies*

### Panelists:

- **Dr. Frank Baumgartner** is the UNC-CH Richard J. Richardson Distinguished Professor of Political Science and author of "The Decline of the Death Penalty and the Discovery of Innocence." (Cambridge University Press, 2008, with Suzanna De Boef and Amber E. Boydston)  
<http://www.unc.edu/~fbaum/>
- **Dr. Isaac Unah** is an Associate Professor of Political Science at UNC-CH and co-author with UNC School of Law Dean Jack Boger of a 2001 study on race and the death penalty in NC, as well as several related papers on race and capital punishment.  
[http://www.unc.edu/depts/polisci/faculty\\_pages/unah.html](http://www.unc.edu/depts/polisci/faculty_pages/unah.html)
- **Edward Chapman** was exonerated from North Carolina's death row in 2007 after serving 15 years in prison for crimes he did not commit.  
<http://www.mountainx.com/news/2008/052108sprung>
- **Jennifer Thompson Cannino** is the co-author of *Picking Cotton*. Ms. Cannino is a rape survivor who falsely identified Ronald Cotton as her rapist in 1984. Cotton was later cleared by DNA, and Cannino has since devoted herself to the reform of our criminal justice system and to teaching on forgiveness. Cannino serves on the NC Actual Innocence Commission, is a member of the advisory committee for Active Voices, and is a member of the Constitution Project and Mothers for Justice.  
*\*Picking Cotton is the 2010 Summer Reading for incoming UNC Students:*  
<http://www.pickingcottonbook.com/home.html>

## 3) Fayetteville State University April 8, 2010

<http://www.uncfsu.edu/>

Seabrook Auditorium: 2-4pm

<http://www.uncfsu.edu/seabrook/>

*Co-sponsored by FSU Department of Criminal Justice*

**Panelists:**

- **Cumberland County, NC Representative Rick Glazier** was a co-sponsor and strong advocate for the passage of the Racial Justice Act in the NC House; Rep. Glazier is also adjunct faculty for FSU's Criminal Justice Department and at Campbell University School of Law

<http://www.ncleg.net/gascripts/members/viewMember.pl?sChamber=House&nUserID=317>

- **Mary Ann Tally** is a partner in the law firm of Tally & Tally in Fayetteville. In addition to formerly serving as Director of the Trial Assistance Unit at NC's Center for Death Penalty Litigation, Ms. Tally was also the Cumberland County Public Defender and continues to serve on the NC Indigent Services Commission in a pro-bono capacity. Ms. Tally is currently running for Superior Court Judge in Cumberland County Superior Court District 12C.

[http://www.tallyandtally.com/DynamicAttorneys.shtml?wldpid=2877968\\_1&mailpageName=ObfuscatedForm&p=yes](http://www.tallyandtally.com/DynamicAttorneys.shtml?wldpid=2877968_1&mailpageName=ObfuscatedForm&p=yes)

- **Darryl Hunt** was wrongfully convicted in Forsyth County, NC; he served 18 years in prison for a rape and murder he did not commit. After his exoneration in 2004, Darryl started the Darryl Hunt Project for Freedom and Justice and has been working to prevent wrongful convictions and to assist individuals recently exonerated in the state.

<http://www.darrylhuntproject.org/>

#### **4) NC A&T April 16, 2010**

<http://www.ncat.edu/>

Room 123 Gibbs Hall: 4-6pm

*Co-sponsored by NC A&T Criminal Justice Program and Political Science Department*

**Panelists:**

- **Guilford County, NC Representative Alma Adams** was a co-sponsor and strong advocate for the passage of the Racial Justice Act in Legislative Black Caucus and the NC

House.

<http://www.ncleg.net/gascrpts/members/viewMember.pl?sChamber=House&nUserID=18>

- **Guilford County Attorney Bob McClellan** worked along with David Clark, Public Defender for Guilford County, on *State v. Summers*. This case was one of the first to use the Racial Justice Act in the defense of a criminal defendant.  
<http://www.imgt-law.com/Attorneys/Robert-L-McClellan.shtml>
- **Edward Chapman** was exonerated from North Carolina's death row in 2007 after serving 15 years in prison for crimes he did not commit.  
<http://www.mountainx.com/news/2008/052108sprung>
- **Dr. Deborah Barnes** is the Interim Associate Dean on University Studies at NC A&T. Dr. Barnes has done extensive research and writing on lynching. Her current scholarly projects include "Beware the Furrow of His Brow: The Cultural Logic of Black Lynch Mobs," "Treading Our Path Through the Blood of the Slaughtered: Lynching and the African American Sermonic Tradition" and "Carnivals of Blood: Lynching as Narrative, Culture, and History."  
<http://www.ncat.edu/~univstud/faculty-associatedean.html>