

<b>Speaker's Name</b>	<b>Affiliation</b>	<b>Location</b>	<b>Comment Highlights</b>
J. Corpening	Judicial Branch/ District Court Judge	Wilmington	Judge Corpening noted that the most important change he has experienced in his 36 year career was the implementation of family court. It provides time standards that work, it's available for self-represented litigants, and uses the one judge/one case model. He also supported the idea of keeping the majority of 16-17 year old defendants into the problem solving system of juvenile justice. This system keeps families involved, addresses behavior directly, and juvenile justice is prepared to implement the policy change. He remarked that we cannot ignore the needs of the children in this state any longer.
J. Albert Clyburn	Attorney	Wilmington	Mr. Clyburn is a solo practitioner with more than 25 years in family law, and he noted that the system strives to meet the needs of families going through divorce. He pointed out the unique qualities of family law. Judges make decisions of custody, support, property distribution which have a lifelong impact. It can cross paths with mental health, substance abuse, and financial issues. He practiced before the family court system was implemented and afterwards. The one judge/one case model is critical. The judge knows the case and special family needs before making a decision. The attorney has better access to the judge, and the pace of the case is far superior to non-family court proceedings. He believes that cases are resolved at a faster pace in family court districts.
Janna Robertson	General Public/ Private Citizen	Wilmington	Ms. Robertson spoke as a mother of two high school students but also brought the experience of a trained psychologist running a dropout prevention program. She noted that the brain is not fully developed by age 17. She pointed out that youth can't join the military, but in the adult system a child has to make adult decisions about his or her future. The juvenile system would allow youth to receive education, interventions, and problem-solving treatment. Youth in the adult system are more likely to be sexually assaulted, they have a higher suicide rate, few graduate high school, and they have difficulty getting jobs. The adult system interaction ultimately makes serial criminals.
Jason Minnicozzi	Attorney	Wilmington	Mr. Minnicozzi spoke on behalf of NC LEAF and suggested that it is impossible to reduce law school debt without assistance. He also commented that pay for attorneys and legal staff in offices of public defenders is too low. The offices need more positions, and the combination of high workload and the low current entry level pay limits the number of quality attorneys joining these offices.
Alex Dale	Attorney	Wilmington	Mr. Dale noted that other states of comparable size to North Carolina have an average of 2.5 to 3.4 intermediate appellate courts, and the commission should explore the need for additional appellate courts in North Carolina. He also encouraged the NCCALJ to look beyond the North Carolina State Bar's recommendation for judicial selection by examining other states such as Delaware. He has submitted a letter to NCCALJ to this effect.

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Felicia Williams	General Public/ Private Citizen	Wilmington	Ms. Williams is affiliated with Moms Rising, a nonprofit that works to ensure the economic security of women and children. She spoke with teens at Project Build, and shared one teen's story of receiving probation and rehabilitative services through the juvenile justice system following an assault charge. The adult corrections system cuts youth off from education, doesn't provide appropriate counseling, creates barriers for college and harms our communities as a whole. She encouraged a focus on restorative justice and said 16 and 17 year olds shouldn't automatically be treated as adults.
Brenda McCauley	General Public/ Private Citizen	Wilmington	Ms. McCauley is a lifelong North Carolina resident, and she has been a voter in Wilmington for eight years. She indicated that there is not a lot of information available about candidates in judicial elections and she has had difficulty familiarizing herself with candidates on the ballot. Many of her peers and friends are in the same situation. She noted that \$6 million was spent on North Carolina Supreme Court elections in 2014 and more than one third of the funds came from outside the state. She commented that these issues give her pause at the opportunity for bias, and she encourage the commission to continue looking at the issue.
Stuart Vaughn	General Public/ Private Citizen	Wilmington	Mr. Vaughn is a private citizen in business and noted the increased role of money in elections. He commented that he is glad that a process is underway to review judicial selection.
Jeb Vaughn	Attorney	Wilmington	Mr. Vaughn is a member of the judicial independence committee of the North Carolina State Bar. He pointed out that the committee has a white paper on the topic of judicial selection. Mr. Vaughn noted survey results indicating the public perceives bias exists in the courts (racial, financial, etc.). He encouraged the continued review of the topic of judicial selection, including appointment options as well as looking to procedures of other states.
Bonnie Nelson	General Public/ Private Citizen	Wilmington	Ms. Nelson is a private citizen speaking on the topic of judicial selection. She commented that she always conducts research before elections but has seldom voted for judges. She noted her belief that it is difficult to find information about how judges ruled, their experience, etc. She also noted her difficulty making informed decisions because candidates primarily stress political affiliation, and she believes that affiliation and monetary support does result in bias. She thinks the current system results in the loss of capable judges, and she encouraged the NCCALJ to continue evaluating appointment options as well as other systems in other states such as Ohio.
Charles Morison	Attorney	Wilmington	Mr. Morison is a retired attorney who practiced in Tennessee and North Carolina. He estimated 25% of his cases involved juveniles, and he spoke in support of raising the juvenile age. He noted the significant amount of research that informs his opinion, and his own experience which showed most young people were harmless and not deliberative adults. He also commented that the law doesn't allow youth to drive without restrictions or consume alcohol but they are prosecuted as adults.

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James Kristner	General Public/ Private Citizen	Wilmington	Mr. Kristner is a former teacher and principal speaking in support of raising the juvenile age to 18. He noted the insecurity, impulsiveness, and vulnerability of youth, and what a kid would need to do to service in an adult prison. He suggested that the current practice is immoral and impractical. All hands should be on deck to help instead of discarding children. He encouraged North Carolina to follow the lead of 48 other states to end the practice of imprisoning kids.
Roger Cook	Attorney	Wilmington	Mr. Cook is a staff attorney with Legal Aid Services and also a Board Member of NC LEAF. He spoke in support of resuming state funding for NC LEAF so that it can render assistance to new lawyers who are working to assist the public. The group has assisted 1,400 lawyers since its founding. He noted that the average debt after law school is \$109,000, and since the legislature cut NC LEAF funding there has been a 75% decrease in assistance to lawyers.
Brenda Branch	Judicial Branch/ District Court Judge	Wilmington	Judge Branch spoke in support of having family court across the state. She noted that cases move through the system at a faster rate because of the one judge/one case model plus additional staff who can work out the kinks at the first setting. Those who can't afford attorneys receive the same treatment as those with attorneys. Judge Branch also spoke in support of raising the juvenile age to 18. She commented that kids are not mature but they are treated as adults, and the expungement system is difficult and costly. She recommended that people remember their own hurt and pain when they might have previously sought consideration.
Robert Stiehl	Judicial Branch/ Chief District Court Judge	Wilmington	Judge Stiehl spoke in support of family court. He is the chief district court judge in Cumberland County where 60,000 people enter the courthouse each month. He has been a family court judge for 22 years and initially opposed family court. Now, he can't imagine work without it since the court has a great concentration of intersecting lines between children, families, and their way of life. He noted that the simple principles of case management alone are not enough and the parties are due the same expediency of eCitation in family court.
Mal Maynard	Financial Protection Law Center	Wilmington	Mr. Maynard is the director of the Financial Protection Law Center and spoke in support of the NCCALJ recommendation to restore and expand funding for NC LEAF and loan repayments for legal aid lawyers. Mr. Maynard commented that more than 3.7 million people are at or below the poverty guidelines and exposed to unfair lending system. The system hurts people for life and a lack of equal access breeds contempt for the system.
Debra Hinson	Financial Protection Law Center	Wilmington	Ms. Hinson spoke in support of state funding for civil legal services. She conveyed her personal experience when her family was impacted by predatory lending practices. Banks failed to help with loan modification and bankruptcy proceedings started. The Financial Protection Law Center filed a lawsuit and corrected the situation on their behalf. Her family could not have afforded a private attorney.

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Rodney Robbins	General Public/ Private Citizen	Wilmington	Mr. Robbins is the father of a 37 year old child with a developmental disability and spoke in support of raising the juvenile age to 18. At age 16, his son vandalized cars, he was arrested, he received a public defender, and he was charged as an adult. His son was convicted and received intensive probation. The family moved to the Baltimore area where his son worked for the Orioles baseball team. Later, they returned to North Carolina and his son worked for a grocery store. When completing the employment application Mr. Robbins advised his son that he didn't need to report his criminal history since he was only 16 years old at the time. After a subsequent background check, Mr. Robbins' son was fired for lying on the application. Mr. Robbins commented that the criminal records stay with youth, and as a result, the juvenile age should be raised.
Auley Crouch	Attorney	Wilmington	Mr. Crouch has been an attorney since 1976 and he believes the rules of professional conduct give him a special responsibility to ensure the quality of justice. He spoke in support of Legal Aid and Financial Protection Law Center. These agencies represent citizens who have civil legal issues that threaten basic human needs, and it is critical that these groups who serve our most vulnerable citizens, and those who are similar, have the restored and enhanced funding from the legislature.
Thom Goolsby	Government Lynx	Wilmington	Senator Goolsby mentioned his service in the North Carolina General Assembly and his work on similar issues that the NCCALJ is reviewing. He commented that legislators receive many reports and they are just .pdf files that aren't seen. He encouraged people to be advocates for NCCALJ recommendations by talking to local representatives, senators, and committee chairs to ensure items are included in the budget. He thanked Chief Justice Martin, Judge Marion Warren, and Tom Murry, noting how improvements to court technology will save time and money in the long run.
LeeAnne Quattrucci	LINC/ Attorney	Wilmington	Ms. Quattrucci is an attorney and member of various nonprofit boards. She spoke in support of raising the juvenile age to 18 years old. She presented the story of a young man who was a passenger in a car nine days after his 16th birthday. At that age, his brain was not fully developed and he was a follower. He served 4 years in prison, but if he was 15 years old at the time of the offense then he could have received services instead of incarceration. Instead, the system destroyed him and left him without a high school diploma, unemployed, and more likely to recidivate. Ms. Quattrucci encouraged North Carolina to get in line with the rest of the country so that the system can help rehabilitate juveniles.

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Roberta Penn	no affiliation	Wilmington	Mr. Penn spoke in support of raising the juvenile age. He commented that society is making children criminals. They are handcuffed in schools, arrested for minor offenses, and thrown into an adult system for one insignificant action. Mr. Penn suggested that defendant age should also be considered in larger crimes. He went on to say that the school to prison pipeline turns youth into criminals for small youthful actions. Mr. Penn noted that this is a societal problem but raising the age is a part of the solution.
James W. Narron	NCBar/Legal Specialization	Wilmington	Mr. Narron is an attorney who spoke in support of urging the legislature to increase judiciary salaries. He noted that salaries of young law firm associates is equal to that of an appellate court judge or justice on the supreme court. He commented that the low judiciary salaries effects the quality of the candidates running and will impact the quality of justice.
Melinda Crouch	Judicial Branch/ District Court Judge	Wilmington	Judge Crouch spoke in support of raising the juvenile age to 18 to ensure children who come before the court receive age appropriate treatment, and in support of family court. She also supports restored funding for Legal Aid Services and increased funding for staff of the public defender's office.
Ranae McDermott	Judicial Branch/ Court Reporter	Wilmington	Ms. McDermott represents official court reporters and thanked the NCCALJ for their continued support of live court reporters in the courtroom.
Clancy Thompson	Child Advocate	Wilmington	Mr. Thompson is a child advocate who spoke in support of raising the juvenile age to 18. He said it is an opportunity to save the lives of teens who made stupid choices. He also commented that children are created by role models, and they only know images of war. He hates to think that one bad decision impacts an entire life. He noted that juvenile justice services keep families involved, strengthen relationships, and allow youth to learn from mistakes. Mr. Thompson believes the heart of the justice system should be rehabilitation instead of throwing children into a cauldron of despair and tutoring them to be more effective criminals in the adult system. He thinks the system should bring mercy, empathy, and justice, and North Carolina isn't providing that now.
Daawud El-Amin	LINC, INC	Wilmington	Mr. El-Amin has worked with youth in Wilmington, and he spoke in support of raising the juvenile age to 18. He conveyed the story of his 16 year old son who was performing downtown as an artist. His son remained while his best friend left to make a different choice. As a result, the young man was tried as an adult and his son may never see his friend again. Mr. El-Amin encouraged people to consider what if it was there son who was tried as an adult at 16 years old.
Quintin McGee	Bladen County DA's Office	Wilmington	Mr. McGee is an attorney who has worked in positions to both defend and prosecute juveniles. Based on his experience, North Carolina should join 48 other states since raising the age harms nobody. Prosecutors will still have the ability to bind a case over. Juveniles are helped because families stay involved, services are available, recidivism is reduced, and the number of children in the school to prison pipeline decreases. Society benefits by not having those young people go to the adult system.