



**Committee on Criminal Investigations and Adjudications, NCCALJ
Minutes**

Meeting Date: 9/30/2015
Location: NC Judicial Center

The Committee met from 12:15-1:10 pm, as a break out session from the main Commission meeting.

Present: Committee Chair Webb; Committee members Adams, Buck, Byrd, Coleman, Davis, Holcombe, Jordan, Kemp, Murray, Seigle, Wagoner; Committee Reporter Smith

Absent: Committee member McLaurin

Committee Chair Webb asked each member to begin the process of brainstorming topics for the Committee's work. Discussion included the following:

Webb:

- Indigent defense
- Pretrial release
- ADR and/or other vehicles to divert certain populations from the criminal justice system
- Veterans courts
- Mental health issues

Seigle

- Echoed Webb's comments
- Especially interested in ADR

Jordan

- Agreed with topics mentioned

Kemp

- Agreed with ideas mentioned
- Especially interested in indigent defense and mental health
- Composition of judicial districts in light of population changes

Murray

- Would add: trial delays caused by shortage of courtroom space

Coleman

- Agrees with stated ideas

- Would add: post-conviction procedures especially for cases that end up in federal court

Buck

- Mental health & implications for public safety
- Fact that a good portion of crime is attributable to drug use & abuse
- Speeding up criminal cases (reducing jail costs; perceived inequity between the liberality with which defense motions for continuances in DWI cases are granted on the one hand and quick dismissals when the officer fails to show up for court on the other)

Wagoner

- Address 16 and 17 year olds charged with crimes
- Disparity in how Motions for Appropriate Relief (MARs) are handled
- With regard to indigent defense, disparity between public defenders and appointed lawyers

Adams

- Restitution for crime victims

Judge Holcombe

- Address juveniles in criminal court (even if the Committee decides not to recommend raising the juvenile age, get better uniformity with respect to how we treat juveniles)
- Crime Lab & related forensic evidence issues (delays in DWI cases; destruction of rape kits)
- Uniformity in administration of justice (for example we have different systems for handling indigent defense depending on where you are; similar disparities with specialty courts (some places have veterans courts, others do not); another example of lack of uniformity is with felony pleas in district court (it is done in some districts but not in others))

Davis

- Indigent defense
- Speeding up criminal cases
- Delays caused by Crime Lab backlogs

Byrd

- Recidivism while on probation