

G. Alan DuBois

Alan DuBois is the Federal Defender for the Eastern District of North Carolina. He graduated from Duke University in 1984 and the University of Virginia School of Law in 1987. In 1989, after two years as a staff law clerk at the United States Court of Appeals for the Fourth Circuit, he joined the Federal Public Defender's Office. In 2005, Mr. DuBois spent nine months working in Washington, DC; he spent six months with the United States Sentencing Guideline Commission and three months with the Office of Defender Services. On January 12, 2010, Mr. DuBois appeared before the U.S. Supreme Court to argue on behalf of the respondents in *U.S. v. Comstock*. Mr. DuBois was confirmed and sworn in as Federal Public Defender for the Eastern District of North Carolina on April 9, 2018.

Cullen Macbeth is an appellate attorney in the Federal Public Defender's Office for the District of Maryland, where he has worked since 2018. In that role he briefs and argues cases in the Fourth Circuit and assists trial attorneys with complex motions, including those raising Second Amendment issues. Before joining the Maryland FPD, he worked as an appellate attorney at the Federal Public Defender's Office for the District of Nevada. Cullen, a graduate of Yale College and Harvard Law School, clerked for Judge Neil V. Wake of the U.S. District Court for the District of Arizona and Judge Scott M. Matheson, Jr. of the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Tenth Circuit.

Alyssa Hockaday is the Attorney Advisor to the Clerk of Court for the United States District Court, Eastern District of North Carolina. She earned her Bachelor of Science in Business Administration, with highest distinction, from the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill in 2000. Ms. Hockaday graduated in 2003 from the University of North Carolina School of Law, where she was a founding member and Publication Editor of the *First Amendment Law Review* and inducted into the Order of the Coif. Following graduation from law school, she served as a law clerk to the Honorable James C. Fox, Senior United States District Judge, Eastern District of North Carolina, until taking her current position in the clerk's office in 2015. Ms. Hockaday has taught legal writing as an adjunct instructor at the University of North Carolina School of Law and Meredith College.

Jaclyn Tarlton is an Assistant Federal Public Defender in the Eastern District of North Carolina. She earned her B.A. 2005, University of Virginia; J.D. 2011, Georgetown University Law Center. She was a Law Clerk, Hon. Terrence W. Boyle, U.S. District Court for the Eastern District of North Carolina, 2011-2012; Law Clerk, Hon. Julia Smith Gibbons, U.S. Court of Appeals for the Sixth Circuit, 2012-2013; Associate, Supreme Court and Appellate Practice, Hogan Lovells US LLP, Washington, DC, 2013-2015; Senior Associate, Supreme Court and Appellate Practice, Hogan Lovells US LLP, Washington, DC, 2016; Assistant Federal Public Defender, Office of the Federal Public Defender, Raleigh, North Carolina, 2016- present

Fredilyn Sison Where hasn't Fredi worked? She has been an Assistant Federal Defender in Omaha, Nebraska; Boise, Idaho; Reno, Nevada and Asheville, North Carolina, with side stops in Washington, DC as visiting counsel at the Defender Training Branch and at the U.S. Sentencing Commission. She's in such "high demand" that she recently received a recruiting email asking her if she would like to be a legal assistant in an up and coming workers' comp firm. She wrote back thanking them but she was having too much fun being an advocate for poor people and had to decline their lovely offer. Then she killed her LinkedIn account. She now embarks on her greatest adventure as a lawyer: solo practice. She just hopes her boss gives her lots of time to do training, which she loves as much as representing people in federal court.

An honors grad of Cornell University and New York University School of Law, Fredi has served on the faculty for numerous programs around the country. Her favorite tag line during her teaching sessions is, "You understand this is interactive, right?" To date, no one has successfully slunk down low enough for her to not make eye contact and ask for a volunteer. Fredi co-authored Trial in Action: The Persuasive Power of Psychodrama and expects to be an answer to a trivia question one day because of it. She's written article/chapters on various topics: child pornography, *voir dire*, cross examination and the effects of incarceration on families. Her two passions are psychodrama (where she's certified as a practitioner, not to be confused with being certified period) and Improv. She will play improv games all day if allowed, and you'll often hear her muttering, "Whoosh, Bang, Pow!"

Patrick Bryant is an Appellate Attorney, Office of the Federal Public Defender, Eastern District of Virginia.

Education: B.A. 1998, Duke University; J.D. 2002, Washington and Lee University School of Law

Professional: Staff attorney, U.S. Court of Appeals for the Fourth Circuit, Richmond, Virginia, 2002-04 and 2005-07; law clerk, Hon. Charles R. Wilson, U.S. Court of Appeals for the Eleventh Circuit, Tampa, Florida, 2004-05; appellate attorney, Office of the Federal Public Defender, Alexandria, Virginia, 2007-present.

Sala Abdallah serves as a Community Organizer with the Southern Coalition for Social Justice (SCSJ) and is a peer support specialist, crisis counselor, and licensed personal trainer. Mr. Abdallah is a formerly incarcerated man dedicated to righting his wrong through outreach to the youth, and bringing consciousness to the community by making them aware their voices are heard and opinions matter. Mr. Abdallah believes if the youth channel their efforts to the right causes, we can make a difference. He campaigns for Second Chance and Ban the Box, and he is a dedicated member/organizer for All of Us or None. His intention as a Community Organizer with SCSJ is to carry out the legacy of the late great Umar Salute Muhammad. Mr. Abdallah graduated from the EDNC's HOPE Drug Reentry Court in 2019.

Dave Wicclair graduated from UNC Law in 2010. Following law school, he worked for six years as a public defender at the Defender Association of Philadelphia. By the time he left the

office in 2016 as an attorney in the Major Trials Unit, he had litigated hundreds of preliminary hearings, suppression hearings, and bench and jury trials. While with the Defender Association, he also served as an adjunct professor of trial advocacy with Temple University Beasley School of Law. From 2016 through 2017, Dave served as a Research and Writing Attorney at the Federal Public Defender for the District of Delaware where he represented capital and non-capital defendants in federal post-conviction proceedings.

Dave then returned to North Carolina in order to be closer to family and began a position as a Staff Attorney at North Carolina Prisoner Legal Services in Raleigh, where he represented incarcerated North Carolinians in State parole hearings and post-conviction proceedings. In late 2018, Dave accepted a position at the Federal Public Defender's Office for the Eastern District of North Carolina where he has served as an Assistant Federal Public Defender for the past five years.

Jenny Leisten is an Assistant Federal Public Defender specializing in appellate law. Before joining the FPD in 2014, Jenny was a career law clerk at several courts, including the Fourth Circuit Court of Appeals, the United States District Court for the Eastern District of North Carolina, the Supreme Court of North Carolina, and the North Carolina Court of Appeals. She graduated from the University of North Carolina School of Law in 2000.

Andrew Szekely is a Supervisory Assistant Federal Public Defender in the District of Maryland, where he is also the Training Director. In his practice, he represents indigent individuals charged with federal felonies in all stages of litigation, from investigation through trial and sentencing. Prior to joining the Office of the Federal Public Defender, he was an Assistant Public Defender in the Anne Arundel County, Maryland Office of the Public Defender and spent time in private practice where he practiced in state and federal courts throughout Maryland and in the District of Columbia. Throughout his career, he has represented individuals under investigation, pending trial, on appeal, and in state and federal post-conviction proceedings.

Michael McDonald has been an Assistant Federal Defender for the Eastern District of North Carolina since 2021. He previously served as an Assistant County Attorney in Robeson County. Michael worked in the Robeson County Public Defender Office, defending felony matters for over 14 years. Born and raised in North Carolina, Michael has dedicated his professional life to public service, using his legal talents in service of the people of North Carolina. He works tirelessly to combine compassion, zeal, and integrity in his practice. Michael McDonald began his career in private practice specializing in criminal defense, with the law firm of Mackey & Associates. McDonald is a member of the Kappa Alpha Psi Fraternity Incorporated. He attended Fayetteville State University and received his J.D. from West Virginia College of Law.

Leza Lee Driscoll Prior to becoming an Assistant Federal Defender in the Eastern District of North Carolina in 2021, Leza Lee Driscoll was in private practice in Raleigh. She represented clients in both criminal and civil matters in state and federal court. She has been a member of the North Carolina State Bar and Wake County Bar Association since 1994. She has served as a CJA Panel Attorney in both the Eastern and Middle Districts of North Carolina as well as the Fourth Circuit Court of Appeals. She graduated with Honors from North Carolina State University with a degree in Economics in 1991 and her JD from Vermont Law School in 1994.

Macon Hollister is a Mitigation Specialist in the office of the Federal Public Defender for the Eastern District of North Carolina. Prior to the FPD Macon worked to create and implement the first ever pre-arrest deflection and post-charge diversion program in Orange County, NC, for individuals who have substance use and behavioral health disorders and often intersect with the legal system. In addition to her work in Orange County, Macon was a Mitigation Specialist on the Capital Defender Roster where she worked on pre-trial capital and felony murder cases across the state. Prior to moving to North Carolina, Macon was a Mitigation Specialist at the Legal Aid Society in New York City in their Law Reform and Special Litigation Unit. Macon assisted in the creation of a bail reform project that utilized the use of mitigation services at the pre-trial level to help get individuals released from jail and fight their case from the community. Macon also worked with community and elected stakeholders to advocate for local and state level criminal justice reform. Prior to that, she worked as a Mitigation Specialist in Legal Aid Society's Manhattan trial office. She graduated with a MSW and a Law Minor from Columbia University and attended James Madison University for her undergraduate degree.

Eric Brignac received his JD from the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill in 2002. Immediately after law school he worked as an associate at Covington & Burling in Washington D.C., focusing on transportation law and employee benefits law. Mr. Brignac also clerked for Judge James L. Dennis on the United States Court of Appeals for the Fifth Circuit and Judge Allyson K. Duncan on the United States Court of Appeals for the Fourth Circuit. Mr. Brignac is currently employed as the Chief Appellate Attorney with the Federal Public Defender's Office for the Eastern District of North Carolina, where he has worked since 2006. He also teaches a seminar on Sex Offenders and the Law and on Advanced Appellate Advocacy as an adjunct law professor at UNC-Chapel Hill.

Christian E. Dysart is the founder and managing attorney at Dysart Willis, a full-service federal and state criminal defense firm in Raleigh, North Carolina. He is a graduate of Washington and Lee University and Duke University School of Law, *magna cum laude*, where he was also elected to The Order of the Coif. After graduation, Christian was a judicial clerk at the Supreme Court of North Carolina. Prior to entering private practice, Christian was the inaugural Fellow at the Duke Law Center for Criminal Justice and Professional Responsibility, where his work focused on wrongful convictions and the Innocence Project. Mr. Dysart is the Panel Representative for the Eastern District of North Carolina.

Vidalia Patterson graduated with honors from Catholic University of America's Columbus School of Law in 2001. In 1997, she received her B.A. from Davidson College. Ms. Patterson began her legal career as a clerk for United States Magistrate Judge Alexander B. Denson and was retained as a staff attorney for the U.S. District Court for the Eastern District of North Carolina from 2001- 2002. From 2002 until 2005, she worked in the area of toxic tort litigation as an associate with Womble, Carlyle, Sandridge & Rice, LLC. In 2005, she joined the Office of the Federal Public Defender for the Eastern District of North Carolina, where she works as a Research and Writing Attorney, is co-editor of the office news publication, "The Zealous Advocate: Newsletter for the Defense," and supervises the office's year-round intern and extern programs. Ms. Patterson has also guest-lectured on writing techniques at Campbell University Law School, where she also serves as an adjunct professor.

Edward Gray is an Assistant Federal Public Defender in the Eastern District of North Carolina. Prior to joining the Federal Public Defender's Office, Ed spent a decade as an Assistant United States Attorney in the Eastern District of North Carolina prosecuting complex international narcotics investigations, organized crime syndicates, cartels and violent crimes. He also represented the government in Adam Walsh cases, involving the civil commitment of sexually dangerous persons. In addition to prosecuting cases, he was a civil attorney defending FTCA, Bivens and catastrophic torts cases for the United States. Prior to joining the United States Attorney's Office, Ed was in private practice in Raleigh, NC. Additionally, Ed is a retired United States Air Force officer having served as a Judge Advocate on active duty, the USAF Reserve, and North Carolina Air National Guard. He has deployed to numerous areas of operation in the capacity of Deputy Staff Judge Advocate, Command Staff Judge Advocate, and Trial Counsel. While on active duty, Ed successfully prosecuted the first courts-martial in the Central Command Area of Operations. He is a graduate of Howard University, Vanderbilt Law School and The George Washington University. He also served on the Faculty of the United States Air Force Judge Advocate General's School teaching trial advocacy. Among his numerous awards, Ed has been awarded the Organized Crime Drug Enforcement Prosecution of the Year Award, the Defense Meritorious Service Medal, the Air Mobility Command Judge Advocate of the Year Award, the Twenty-First Air Force Judge Advocate of the Year Award, and was the former Editor in Chief of the Air Force Law Review.

Joseph Craven graduated from Vanderbilt University, in 1995, and from the University of Miami School of Law in 1998 where he received the Dean's Honors Scholarship. He worked with his father, James B. Craven III, in Durham from 1998-2003 in a general practice focusing on federal criminal defense and bankruptcy. Joe was on the CJA panel in the MDNC and EDNC, before joining the FPD Office in the Fall of 2003. He has also handled cases in the EDVA and the Fourth Circuit. He's a permanent member of the Fourth Circuit Judicial Conference.