

Presenter Bio's

(12th Annual Conference)



Matthew Boyatt, Deputy General Counsel – North Carolina Sheriffs' Association:

Matthew attended the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill where he earned a Bachelor of Arts Degree in History in 1997 and a Juris Doctor in 2003. Matthew is admitted to practice law in our State trial and appellate courts, and is also admitted in several United States District Courts and the Fourth Circuit Court of Appeals. As Deputy General Counsel, Matthew teaches legislative update, firearms laws, and sex offender registry across the state to law enforcement while also prioritizing important legal matters regarding law enforcement, public safety or the constitutional Office of Sheriff.



Shannon Tufts, Associate Professor of Public Law and Government and Director, Center for Public Technology:

Shannon designed and implemented the first local government Chief Information Officers Certification program in the nation and continues to run CIO certification programs for local and state government IT professionals. She created a National Certified Government Chief Information Officer program in 2007, to serve the growing needs of public sector IT professionals across the nation. Tufts has taught numerous courses on public sector information systems across the United States, including IT investment strategies, embracing technology, project management, and stakeholder engagement in technology-enabled government. She serves on several federal, state, and local government committees to promote the effective use of technology in the public sector. Her publications in the area of e-government and public sector information technology include *Humanizing IT: Advice from the Experts* with G. David Garson, numerous book chapters, and articles in *Social Sciences Computer Review* and *Popular Government*. She was named Albert and Gladys Coates Distinguished Term Assistant Professor for 2012–2014. Tufts earned a BA from UNC-Chapel Hill, an MPA from UNC-Charlotte, and a PhD in public administration with a concentration in public sector information systems from North Carolina State University. *Fields of Expertise: Center for Public Technology; Information Technology; Social Media (Government Use); Survey Methodology; Technology*



Honorable Scott C. Etheridge, *Chief District Court Judge 19B Judicial District:*

Scott Etheridge has been a district court judge for the 19B Judicial District since 2002, which presided over Randolph, Moore, Montgomery counties in North Carolina. In 2018, with the NC Redistricting, he was elected to the 19B Judicial District presiding over Randolph County. In 2022, he was re-elected to serve as District Court Judge for Randolph County; a term that will expire December 31, 2026. Scott has been a visiting judge in other district courts across the State. He has received and maintains his certification as a Certified Juvenile Court Judge. Prior to his pursuit in becoming a Judge, he was a partner with the law firm of Gavin, Cox, Pugh, Etheridge, and Wilhoit,

LLP; practicing primarily in criminal law and family law matters. Scott has also served in the capacity of a Public Defender; a Commonwealth's Attorney and is a former member of the Board of Elections in Randolph County. He received his BS from Old Dominion University and a JD law from Campbell University. He has been a presenter at various events and conferences across the State of North Carolina, including continuing legal education for both attorneys and paralegals. His presentations include substance abuse and ethics for those in legal practice, as well as judicial ethics and courtroom decorum.



Wendy Sotolongo – *Parent Defender at NC Indigent Defense Services – NC Courts:*

Wendy received her JD from the UNC School of Law in 1987. She has practiced almost exclusively in abuse/neglect/dependency court as an agency attorney, a solo practitioner and as a Guardian ad Litem attorney advocate. In December 2006, she began working at the Office of Indigent Services (IDS) in the newly created position of Parent Representation Coordinator. Since 2008, she has been a Steering Committee Member of the American Bar Association's National Alliance for Parent Representation. In 2014, she was certified as a Child Welfare Law Specialist by the National Association of Counsel for Children. In 2018, she was appointed by the IDS Commission as IDS' first Parent Defender and reappointed in 2022. In 2021, she was certified as a Child Welfare Law Specialist by the North Carolina State Bar.