



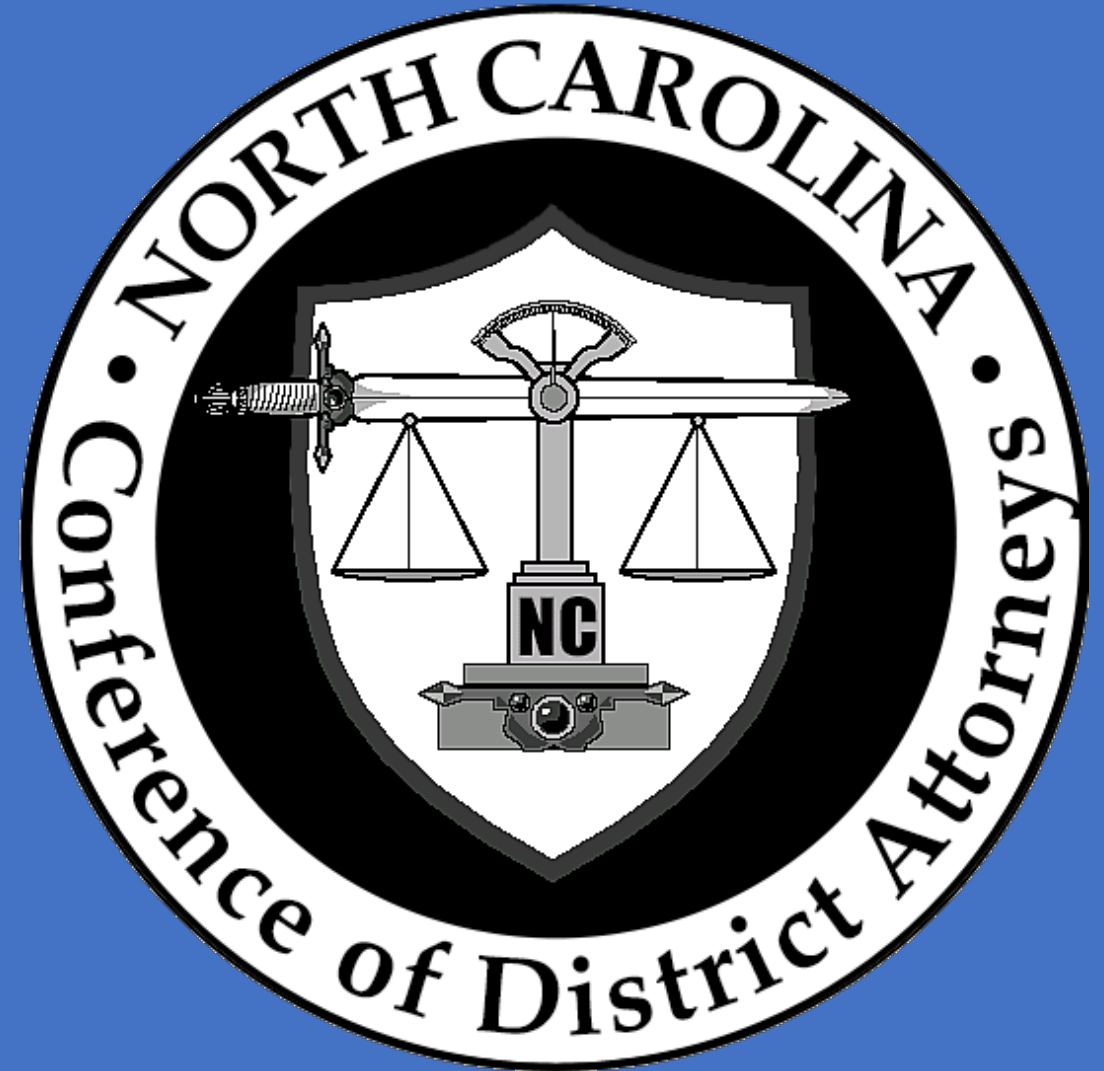
Seth Banks, District Attorney
Prosecutorial District 35
Avery, Madison, Mitchell, Watauga and Yancey Counties

House Select Committee on Community Relations, Law Enforcement and Justice

October 13, 2020

Conference of District Attorneys

- Establish in 1983
- Comprised of the 43 elected District Attorneys
- Represents over 1500 prosecutors & administrative professionals
- Provides training, technical & prosecutorial assistance and coordinates with state and local agencies



Working Group on Race, Equity & Justice

- Disparities in the Criminal Justice System
- Prosecutorial Decision-making
- Training
- Diversion Programs
- Pretrial Release & Bail/Bond Structures
- Treatment Court Opportunities

Disparities Within Offender Populations

- **Structured Sentencing**
 - **Truth In Sentencing**
 - **Provides Realistic and Reliable Data**
- **Overview of Current Prison Population**
- **Analysis of Drug Trafficking Offenders**
- **Analysis of Charge vs. Conviction**
- **Request for In-depth Multivariate Study**

Disparities Within Victim Populations

- Over 60% of victims are from minority populations
- Identify needed services and support
- Identify additional needs required by Marsy's Law

Prosecutor Decision-Making Study

Harvard School of Law & Harvard School of Economics



Focus on North Carolina Prosecution



Study Factors Influencing and Contributing to
Prosecutor Decisions



Results in 2021

Training

Continue to
Seek
Opportunities
and Resources

Cognitive Bias – annually since 2014
(Implicit & Confirmation Bias)

Implicit Bias for New Prosecutors –
annually since 2019

Ethical & Responsible Decision-
Making – annually since 2018

Several Articles in Statewide
Publication

Diversion Programs

Evaluation of Existing Programs

**Development of Tracking
Mechanisms**

Recommendations for Best Practices

**Identification & Development of
Community Resources**

Pretrial Release & Bail/Bond Structures

Unbiased analysis of current systems

Balance benefits of release with risk of flight
& public safety

Include support services and resources for
offenders

Availability to indigent offenders

Resource impact vs. needs of the court system

Treatment Court Opportunities

**Treatment Courts
rely on local and
grant funding**

**What
opportunities are
available?**

**How can these be
maximized and
available to all
districts?**