



**The People's Lawyer:
A Course and Case Study in Community-Based Lawyering**
UNC School of Law
Center for Civil Rights
December 1, 2011

AGENDA

8:00am-8:45am—Continental Breakfast and Registration

8:45am-9:00am—Introductory Remarks

9:00am-10:00am—Ethics of Representing Community Groups

Presenter: Peter Gilbert, Community Inclusion Attorney Fellow, UNC Center for Civil Rights

This CLE will address the unique ethical questions which frequently occur when representing community groups—with a particular focus on those groups that are not legally incorporated. The rules of professional conduct generally envision a lawyer's duties to an individual client within the bounds of a formal lawyer client relationship. Community lawyering often deviates from this norm in two ways: 1) when lawyers act in an independent policy making or advocacy role and 2) when the client is not an individual person. Both deviations frequently implicate ethical questions, especially under the rules regarding confidential communications and conflicts of interest. This CLE will primarily address ethical questions that arise due to the second deviation, representing community groups. *(2 ethics CLE credits, pending approval)*

10:00am-Break

10:15am-11:15am—Ethics of Representing Community Groups cont.

11:30am-12:30pm—The State of Education in Halifax County – A case study of school segregation, education quality, and community-led efforts to unify three public school districts

Presenter: Taiyyaba Qureshi, Education Attorney Fellow, UNC Center for Civil Rights

Halifax County is an evolving case study of a lawyer's role in working with community activists to achieve legal rights and social reform. Three separate public school districts have existed within the rural county for decades - one city and one county district with poor education quality and overwhelmingly minority, low-income students, and another city district that is majority white and higher income, but still performing below state education quality markers.

This CLE will briefly discuss the spectrum of school resegregation across the state and present an overview of the state and federal laws and policies at issue in segregation, education quality, and remedies. The presenter will reflect on significant community activism that took place this year surrounding the racial imbalance and education inequalities in Halifax County and will present litigation and non-litigation steps a North Carolina county might take to address these issues. *(1 general CLE credit, pending approval)*