



## **Statement of UNC School of Law Clinical Programs**

In the wake of the recent presidential election, we feel called to reaffirm the core values that animate our work as legal professionals, scholars, and teachers.

### **We Will Be Public Citizens Actively Engaged In the Promotion of Justice**

As articulated in the American Bar Association's Model Rules of Professional Conduct and the Preamble to North Carolina's Rules of Professional Conduct, lawyers are public citizens who have a particular responsibility to ensure the quality of justice. This responsibility includes the defense and improvement of the values and norms that sustain our constitutional democracy. As legal professionals, we will advocate for legal institutions that prioritize the public interest, provide zealous advocacy for human and civil rights, and protect civil liberties and the rule of law.

### **We Will Strive to Meet Unmet Legal Needs in North Carolina**

The vast majority of low-income people who need legal assistance in resolving civil disputes are unable to attain it. UNC Clinical Programs helps to fill this justice gap. With our students, we will continue to work to meet the vast and ever increasing need for zealous, ethical, and competent legal advocates. As part of a public law school that is among the oldest in the country, we feel particularly obligated to serve our fellow Tar Heels in this manner.