

# **Jessica Smith**

**W.R. Kenan, Jr. Distinguished Professor of Public Law and Government at UNC-Chapel Hill**  
Chapel Hill, NC, US

Working with judicial system stakeholders to promote evidence-based criminal justice reform; over-criminalization, bail reform and more.

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Jessica Smith came to the School of Government in 2000, after practicing law at Covington & Burling in Washington, D.C., and clerking for Judge W. Earl Britt on the U.S. District Court for the Eastern District of North Carolina and for Judge J. Dickson Phillips Jr. on the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Fourth Circuit. At the School of Government, Smith works with judges and others involved in the criminal justice system. Her numerous books, chapters, articles, and other publications deal with criminal procedure, substantive criminal law, and evidence. In 2015, Chief Justice Mark Martin appointed Smith as a Reporter for the N.C. Commission on the Administration of Law & Justice. Smith played a central role in developing the Commission's recommendation to raise North Carolina's juvenile age, which was enacted into law by the state legislature. Smith offers numerous courses for judges and is actively involved in criminal justice reform projects, including pretrial justice and addressing over-criminalization. In 2006, she received the Albert and Gladys Hall Coates Term Professorship for Teaching Excellence; in 2013, she was named by the Chancellor as a W. R. Kenan, Jr. Distinguished Professor, one of the University's highest academic honors.

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Post-Conviction Procedure, Judicial Education, Criminal Justice Reform, Bail and Pretrial Release, Criminal Law and Procedure, Evidence

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**University of Pennsylvania**  
BA Economics and Communications

**University of Pennsylvania Law School**  
J.D.

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## **NC Chief justice's "Friend of the Court" Award**

Faculty member Jessica Smith received the Amicus Curiae Award from North Carolina Chief Justice Mark Martin. The award, bestowing her with the title of "Friend of the Court," recognizes Smith for her outstanding service to the Judicial Branch of North Carolina.

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