

AMESHIA COOPER CHESTER

ameshiacooper@gmail.com ▪ 919.451.9893

EXPERIENCE

North Carolina Department of Justice, Office of the Attorney General, Raleigh, NC

Special Deputy Attorney General, June 2021 – Present

- Advise the NC Department of Revenue on the conduct of criminal tax investigations and prosecute the cases that result, including drafting and reviewing warrants and indictments, handling bond and probable cause hearings, providing discovery, arguing motions, plea negotiations and jury trials
- Represent the State in criminal appeals to the North Carolina Court of Appeals and the Supreme Court
- Assist with the training of newly hired attorneys regarding all matters related to representation of the law enforcement commissions

Assistant Attorney General, September 2019 – June 2021

- Counseled and represented the North Carolina Sheriffs' Education and Training Standards Commission (Sheriffs' Commission), the North Carolina Criminal Justice Education and Training Standards Commission (Criminal Justice Commission) and the North Carolina Alcoholic Beverage Control Commission (ABC Commission)
- Litigated on behalf of the Sheriffs' and Criminal Justice Commissions in the Office of Administrative Hearings and on behalf of all three commissions in State Superior, Federal Courts and the North Carolina Court of Appeals including depositions, interrogatories, motions practice and other hearings and drafted orders
- Supported the Governor's Taskforce for Racial Equity in Criminal Justice by conducting research, presenting information and organizing taskforce work product

Office of the District Attorney, Durham County, Durham, NC

Felony Domestic Violence Prosecutor, May 2018 – September 2019

- Communicated effectively with victims, witnesses and court personnel and cultivated excellent working relationships with law enforcement in order to prosecute cases including property crimes, kidnapping, assaults, stalking, and identity theft
- Reviewed case facts, researched legal precedent and evaluated the viability of cases for trial; negotiated with defense counsel to resolve cases, where appropriate; drafted indictments, drafted and argued motions, examined witnesses at trial, delivered opening statements and closing arguments and identified applicable jury instructions

Felony Property Prosecutor, May 2017 – May 2018

- Prosecuted crimes, including robbery, burglary, embezzlement and credit card fraud through every phase of litigation, including trial
- Provided supervision and mentorship to Juvenile Delinquency and Domestic Violence Prosecutors and facilitated regular district court, traffic court, probation court, People's court and Community Life court

Juvenile Delinquency Prosecutor, February 2015 – May 2017

- Sole prosecutor assigned to juvenile delinquency matters; held detention, transfer, adjudication and motion for review hearings
- Established and maintained relationships with Juvenile Court Counselors and other community partners to address individual challenges of each juvenile while making victims whole, when possible
- Served the Misdemeanor Diversion Program as the prosecutor for the court simulation portion of the program, educated young people about the court process and consequences of justice system involvement

Office of the District Attorney, Orange County, Hillsborough, NC

Assistant District Attorney, September 2014 – January 2015

- Facilitated district court, completed abatement orders and responded to inquiries and requests from incarcerated persons pertaining to district court matters
- Prosecuted crimes involving the abuse, neglect, and hoarding of animals as well as other crimes where animals caused harm in violation of state statutes and county ordinances
- Assisted in the administration of Drug Treatment Court

EDUCATION

Charlotte School of Law, Charlotte, NC

Juris Doctor, May 2013

Activities:

- Trial Advocacy Honor Board
- Black Law Students Association, Mock Trial Team Captain
- Student Bar Association
- Phi Alpha Delta Legal Fraternity

The University of North Carolina at Greensboro, Greensboro, NC

B.S. Business Administration (Small Business and Entrepreneurship Concentration), May 2010

Activities:

- Phi Sigma Pi National Honors Fraternity
- Black Business Students Association
- Neo-Black Society
- UNC-G Housing and Residence Life, Resident Advisor

Honors:

- Charles B. Allen Scholarship Recipient
- Dean's Service Award Recipient
- Dean's List

PROFESSIONAL MEMBERSHIPS & LICENSURE

North Carolina State Bar, August 2013

Western District of North Carolina

10th Judicial District Bar

16th Judicial District Bar

George H. White Bar Association

Durham Bar Grievance Committee (former member)

National Black Prosecutors Association

SELECT COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT/APPOINTMENTS

Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority Incorporated, Psi Gamma Omega Chapter

- Chair, Social Action Committee

Durham County Teen Court and Restitution Program, current volunteer

Durham People's Alliance, former member of the Board of Directors

Junior Leadership Durham, former board of Directors President and member

Durham County Juvenile Crime Prevention Council, former member

Durham County Lethality Assessment Program, former member

Durham County Domestic Violence Response Team, former member

Rebound, Alternative for Youth, former Board of Directors member

Durham County Child Fatality Prevention Team, former member

Durham County Gun Safety Team, former member

New Leaders Council, North Carolina 2019 Fellow

Union Baptist Church, member

AWARDS

Spectacular Magazine Woman of the Year, Semi-Finalist, 2017

Ebonettes Service Club Dare to Make a Difference Award, 2018

Union Baptist Church Woman of the Year, 2018