

## CHELSEA COOK

2009 Walnut Street, Durham, NC 27705

(901) 604-9882 • cook.n.chelsea@gmail.com

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### EDUCATION

#### **Stanford Law School**, Stanford, CA

*Juris Doctor*, June 2017

*Honors:* Pro Bono Distinction; Member Editor, *Stanford Journal of Civil Rights and Civil Justice*

*Service:* Alternative Spring Break, Orleans Public Defenders (New Orleans, LA); One Justice's Rural Justice Initiative, Immigration Services (Placerville, CA)

#### **Emory University School of Law**, Atlanta, GA

August 2014 – May 2015

*Honors:* Dean's List; Merit Scholarship; Top Oralist, Legal Writing, Research, and Advocacy Program Spring 2015 Oral Arguments; Georgia Bar Summer Public Interest Fellow; Staff Member, *Emory Law Journal*

#### **University of North Carolina**, Chapel Hill, NC

*Bachelor of Arts*, May 2011, Public Policy and Women's Studies

*Honors:* Dean's List; Admissions Ambassador

### EXPERIENCE

**Duke Law School – Civil Justice Clinic**, Durham, NC      *Assistant Clinical Professor of Law*, July 2025 – present

#### **City of Durham, NC**

*City Councilmember*, January 2024 – present

- Formulate, publicly debate, and decide City policies; authorize contracts, enact resolutions, and approve the annual budget for the City of Durham.
- Supervise employees (City Manager, City Attorney, and City Clerk).
- Serve as a liaison for multiple boards and commissions, including but not limited to the Homeless Services Advisory Committee and the Mayor's Committee for Persons with Disabilities.

**Legal Aid of North Carolina Eviction Diversion Program**, Durham, NC      *Staff Attorney*, March 2020 – July 2025

- Represented tenants facing eviction by appearing in Small Claims and District Courts, handling a typical caseload of sixty-five to one hundred active cases in a given month with a success rate (avoiding a court judgment) in over ninety percent of cases.
- Drafted and filed pleadings and negotiated with adverse parties, leading to tens of thousands of dollars in money judgments or settlements on behalf of clients.
- Educated community partners on the process of summary ejectment in NC.
- Supervised student interns by assigning tasks, editing written work, and assisting in trial preparation.

#### **Dave Hall for District Court Judge**, Durham, NC

*Field Organizer*, September – November 2018

- Studied county-wide voting trends, developed campaign strategies, and drew maps.
- Trained volunteers for canvassing.

#### **Southern Coalition for Social Justice**, Durham, NC

*Stanford Law Fellow*, October 2017 – October 2018

- Researched legal questions, conducted investigations and discovery, drafted and filed motions and briefs, and otherwise prepared for litigation on behalf of clients in both criminal and civil disputes.

## **EXPERIENCE (continued)**

**Stanford Community Law Clinic**, East Palo Alto, CA *Certified Law Student*, March 2016 – April 2017

- Represented clients in social security hearings, criminal record expungement proceedings, and labor and housing disputes by writing briefs and motions, conducting settlement negotiations, and advocating in court.
- Led a legal representation team for a grassroots ballot initiative, writing and campaigning for an ultimately successful proposal for rent stabilization in Mountain View, CA.

**Bondurant, Mixson & Elmore**, Atlanta, GA *Summer Associate*, July – September 2016

- Assisted with and attended depositions, researched legal questions, wrote memoranda regarding current litigation, and drafted a motion for summary judgment.

**Alston & Bird**, Atlanta, GA *Summer Associate*, June – July 2016

- Researched legal issues related to litigation for the securities, product liability, and trademark groups.

**Georgia Legal Services Program, Farmworker Rights Division**, Atlanta, GA *Intern*, May – August 2015

- Conducted client outreach, drafted discovery documents, and aided in the preparation of depositions.
- Researched legal issues regarding current litigation.

**Guardian Ad Litem**, Durham, NC *Volunteer*, October 2013 – June 2014

- Advocated on behalf of children in the foster care system
- Conducted regular visitations and interviews, met with social workers and lawyers, wrote court reports, and attended hearings.

## **BAR ADMISSION**

North Carolina State Bar, 2019

Georgia State Bar, 2017