

NCCU School of Law Receives \$2 Million Dollar Grant to Extend Legal Services to Poor

The **North Carolina Central University School of Law** will receive a grant of nearly \$2 million in federal stimulus funds to upgrade broadband service while expanding access to its legal education programs. The grant will underwrite a project that will allow the law school legal clinic to use videoconferencing to provide low-income residents in rural areas greater access to legal services. The plan includes partnerships with state Legal Aid offices and at least two other state universities: Elizabeth City State University, and Fayetteville State University. The project also includes legal writing seminars for undergraduates to better prepare them for law school and increase minority representation in the legal profession.

The legal clinic is well established and was ranked 20th in the nation by Pre-Law Magazine in 2008. With ten in-house clinics and a pro bono program, it currently provides community legal clinics and representation to residents in the Raleigh-Durham, NC area. According to **Pamela S. Glean, Assistant Dean for Clinical Legal Education**, the grant will provide telepresence technology that will increase access to remote, traditionally underserved communities throughout North Carolina.

In a press release, U.S. Sen. Kay R. Hagan (D-NC) applauded the project, saying the grant will “help NCCU bridge the technological divide and bring legal education and services to North Carolina students and residents.”

In all, the U.S. Commerce Department’s National Telecommunications and Information Administration and the U.S. Department of Agriculture’s Rural Utilities Service are administering a nearly \$7 billion Recovery Act initiative to expand access to broadband services. “These Recovery Act investments illustrate how broadband technology can not only expand economic and educational opportunities, but can also make the justice system more accessible to the public,” said NTIA Administrator Lawrence E. Strickling.



Pamela Glean

Veterans Law Clinic Director Named to University of North Carolina Veterans Focus Group

Craig M. Kabatchnick, Director of the North Carolina Central University School of Law Veterans Law Clinic has been appointed to serve on a University of North Carolina group known as UNC System- wide Evaluation and Recommendation for Veterans Education and Services (UNC SERVES). The primary goal of UNC SERVES is to conduct an evaluation of educational opportunities and services for military-affiliated students and to consider ways to improve access, retention and graduation rates for these students on UNC campuses throughout the state.



Kabatchnick will serve on a committee that focuses on the creation of a support system for military-affiliated services to address student life, disability services, health and wellness, communication, community engagement, United States Department of Veterans Affairs relations, ROTC engagement, and campus engagement for veterans enrolled in any of the UNC constituent institutions.☀