

TASK FORCE *on* ACES-INFORMED COURTS

HIGHLIGHTS



NCcourts.gov/ACEs

MISSION

The mission of the Chief Justice's Task Force on ACEs-Informed Courts is to enable Judicial Branch stakeholders to understand the impact on children of exposure to ACEs (adverse childhood experiences; adverse community environments); and to develop strategies for addressing adverse consequences within our court system.



MEMBERS

Appointed by Chief Justice Paul Newby, task force members are representative of all stakeholder groups within our court system: judges, prosecutors, defense attorneys, clerks, law enforcement, private attorneys, and child-representatives, as well as academic leaders. This talented, experienced, and diverse group was supported by an advisory group made up of subject matter experts as well as representatives from law schools, universities, the Executive Branch, and private foundations. Prior to the first task force meeting, members watched the movie "Resilience" and participated in a facilitated discussion about the message.



COLLABORATION

The full Task Force met in-person eight times between May 2021 through December 2023 to become trauma-informed, make courts resilient, and focus on how to raise awareness in all of North Carolina's court communities. Members presented the work and progress of the task force at more than twenty events and conferences throughout the state and country. The initial work of the task force concluded in 2023 but efforts to help the Judicial Branch will continue through new and expanded court programs and trauma-informed practices. This work is not just another task. It's a more effective approach to serve North Carolinians who rely on our courts every day.



ACCOMPLISHMENTS

- [ACEs-Informed Courts Bench Card](#): Trauma is a harmful or threatening event that can have lasting effects across a person's lifespan. Statistics indicate that the large majority (80%+) of court-involved youth and at least two-thirds of adults have encountered adverse childhood experiences (ACEs). The Task Force on ACEs-Informed Courts compiled this information for Judicial Branch officials and staff to use in their daily interactions with court visitors and participants.
- Two new advanced certifications ([child welfare](#) and [juvenile justice](#)) for district court judges in juvenile court were developed in collaboration with the UNC School of Government and launched in 2022.
- A new 6-hour trauma-informed training was piloted for new district court judges in June 2023. That training will be replicated on a semi-annual basis for all new district court judges by the UNC School of Government.
- The Bolch Judicial Institute's [Trauma-Informed Court](#) program at Duke University School of Law piloted their work with support from the Task Force. The program will help educate the bench, administrators, and counsel on ACEs and related issues.
- [Youth Assessment and Screening Instrument \(YASI\) tool](#) is a risk, needs, and strengths assessment for justice involved youth, used for measuring the risk of recidivism and developing service plans, February 2023.
- Safe Babies Courts are being piloted in 5 locations in North Carolina over the next 3 years, starting in November 2023.
- Provided over twenty (20) [conference sessions, lectures, and seminars](#) on ACEs and trauma-informed courts for clerks, court managers, judges, magistrates, paralegals, prosecutors, and other stakeholders.
- A new on-demand, free trauma-informed training has been launched in the Learning Center for all Judicial Branch employees. The curriculum includes four modules: What are the ACEs, History of ACEs Science, Resilience, Trauma-informed Practices.
- New youth activity booklets are posted [online](#).

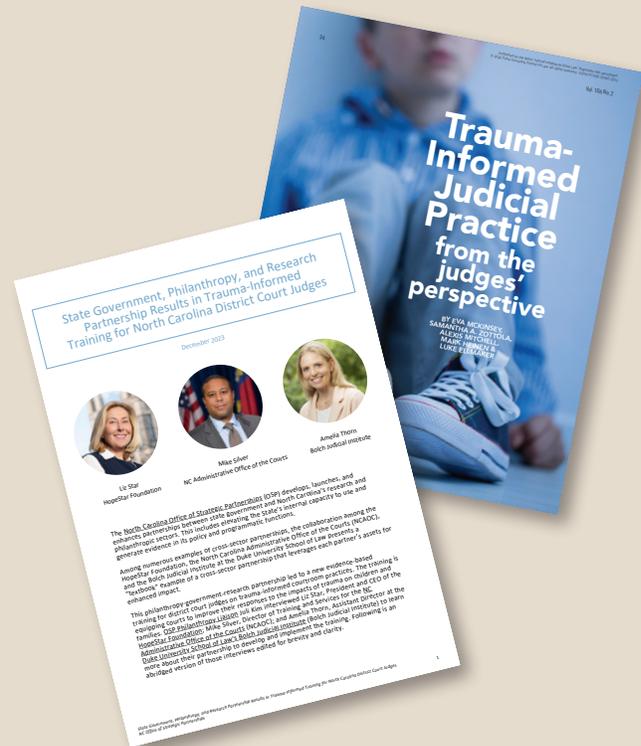
TASK FORCE *on* ACES-INFORMED COURTS HIGHLIGHTS CONTINUED



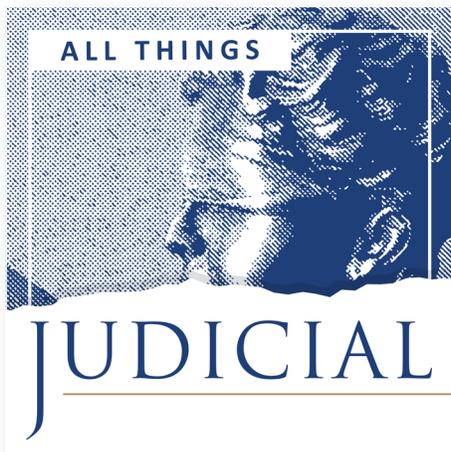
NCcourts.gov/ACEs

ONLINE PUBLICATIONS

- [Bolch To Offer Trauma-Informed Courts Curriculum To N.C. Judges](#)
- [“Caring for our own” theme emerges at May Meeting of North Carolina Chief Justice’s Task Force on ACES-Informed Courts](#)
- [Partnership among State Government, Philanthropy, and Research Results in Trauma-Informed Training for District Court Judges \(December 2023\)](#)
- [Trauma-Informed Judicial Practice from the Judges’ Perspective](#)



ACES PODCASTS



- All Things Judicial Podcast: [Chief Justice’s Task Force on ACES-Informed Courts](#), March 2024.
- All Things Judicial Podcast: [ACES-Informed Courts](#), June 2021; [School Justice Partnerships](#), August 2022.

The [Final Report](#) memorializes the work of the ACES Task Force and provides recommendations for further integration of trauma-informed care.