



CourtCares

United States District Court—Middle District of North Carolina

Est. 2013

Guest Speakers

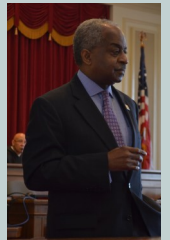
- **Bill Bell**, Former Mayor
- **Erin Blondel**, Assistant U.S. Attorney
- **Mirelle Clough**, Federal Public Defender
- **Dr. Giselle Corbie-Smith**, University Instructor
- **Acquania Escarne**, US State Dept. Recruiter/ Outreach Ofc.
- **James R. Gorham**, (Ret. Brigadier General)
- **Sandra Hairston**, First Assistant US Attorney
- **Fred Hayes**, Entrepreneur
- **Nicole Hudson**, UNC Track Coach
- **Dr. Marian Johnson-Thompson**, Retired Scientist
- **Reginald Liger**, Electrical Engineer
- **Jose Lopez**, Fmr. Police Chief
- **Linda M. McGee**, Chief N.C. Appeals Judge
- **Col. Glenn McNeill**, NC Highway Patrol CDR
- **Angela Pollard**, U.S. Postal Inspector
- **Efren Renteria**, IT Professional
- **Bucky Waters**, Fmr. Div. I Basketball Coach
- **James Webster**, Fmr. Div. II Football Coach
- **Matthew Wright**, Fmr. Ringling Brothers Clown

How we got started....



U.S. Magistrate Judge Joe L. Webster

Joe L. Webster took the oath of office as an U.S. Magistrate Judge on November 7, 2012. Consistent with his career long commitment to making a difference in his profession and community, the idea of reaching out to the youth of Durham, North Carolina immediately came to him. The first CourtCares session, in April 2013, hosted Shepard Middle School. Students are introduced to the federal court system, encouraged to stay on the right side of the law and exposed to life-long strategies for leading successful and healthy



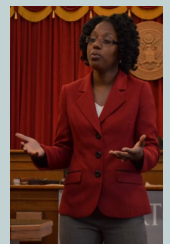
Mayor Bill Bell

lives. Each session Judge Webster encourages students to persevere through life's challenges and to be respectful of their fellow classmates and teachers. Students are also warned about bullying and encouraged to lift up their fellow students, as validation is something that all people need to be successful.



Dr. Marian Johnson-Thompson

Guest speakers, all successful men and women from various walks of life, have reinforced Judge Webster's message of encouragement. The speakers have told their own stories of how they have gotten to where they are today and the many obstacles they have had to overcome, many caused by their own poor decision making.



Acquania Escarne

Judge Webster presides in a mock criminal trial with the assistance of his law clerks, externs and occasionally a member of the U.S. Probation Office. Students act as jurors, listening to the evidence and rendering a verdict. This is followed by a brief discussion with the students on some of the fundamental principles of our criminal justice system. This



Bucky Waters

includes a discussion of the presumption of a defendant's innocence until proven guilty beyond a reasonable doubt, and a defendant's right to a fair and impartial trial. Students are also shown Judge Webster's chambers, the holding cell and facilities where fingerprinting and DNA samples are collected from suspects.



Reginald Liger

We are excited about moving forward and continuing to reach today's youth through CourtCares.



Fred Hayes



James Webster



Erin Blondel



Testimonials

- *“Judge Webster, thank you again for your partnership with our middle schools. Our students are very fortunate to be able to visit and see a court in action. Thanks also for your powerful words of encouragement and instruction that you share with the students. I read your attached statement and especially appreciate your comments on bullying and the human need for validation.”*
 - Heidi H. Carter, Chair, Durham Board of Education
- *“Awesome! What a fabulous opportunity for our Lowe's Grove students! Thanks for a great partnership!”*
 - Dr. Julie Spencer, Area Superintendent for Middle Schools, Durham Public Schools
- *“We are excited to be sending another group to visit. Thank you again for allowing our students this opportunity.”*
 - Holly Emanuel, Principal – Carrington Middle School
- *“We appreciate your willingness to give back to the community and make a difference in our students’ lives.”*
 - Regina Nickson, Community Engagement Liaison, Durham Public Schools
- *“Thank you for providing our students with this engaging learning opportunity.”*
 - Darneise Massey, Principal, Lowe’s Grove Middle School of Technology

