

# NEWS RELEASE

**Spencer B. Merriweather III**  
District Attorney

May 22, 2019

## DA Merriweather creates Diversity and Inclusion Team

CHARLOTTE, N.C. – Demonstrating his commitment to promote equity within his office, the courts and the community, Mecklenburg County District Attorney Spencer B. Merriweather III has established a Diversity and Inclusion Team to promote values essential to the office's vision of seeking justice through integrity so that all people can place their trust in the office's work.

Discussing his reasons for launching this new initiative, DA Merriweather explains, "No matter who they are or where they come from, every victim, every survivor, every family member and every concerned citizen has a right to expect that the people of this office will, through our work, demonstrate a whole appreciation for the full measure of each person's humanity. I believe the creation of our Diversity and Inclusion Team can begin to help us develop external and internal strategies to meet that standard."



**DA Merriweather attends a meeting of the Diversity and Inclusion Team.**

The team is made up of more than a dozen Assistant District Attorneys and legal assistants. Since the team was assembled, its members have worked to create a mission statement, learned from others who work in the field of organizational equity, identified goals and formed subcommittees to begin the work of accomplishing those goals.

Team members are already planning to expand the office's involvement in Race Matters for Juvenile Justice's [Racial Equity Workshop](#), and they're working to organize employee participation in the Community Building Initiative's [bus tour](#) of Charlotte to help members of the District Attorney's Office learn more about the evolving history of people and their neighborhoods across the city. The team is also exploring ways to expand the office's outreach to local Latinx neighbors and other underrepresented communities.

The Diversity and Inclusion Team will celebrate the variety of cultures represented within the District Attorney's Office and will pursue education and training opportunities for employees. Team members plan to lead intra-office reviews of recent trials through an equity lens and implement a mentoring program by which prosecutors can benefit from the experience of their peers. They will work to identify current issues both in the office and in the community where the team can offer help.

*Our commitment to diversity and inclusion*

*The rich diversity of Mecklenburg County helps make this area a strong and vibrant place to live, work and raise a family. Seeking justice with integrity demands we continuously strive to build a workforce reflective of this diversity. We are committed to emphasizing inclusion and equity in the recruitment, hiring and development of staff, as well as in our service to the public as ministers of justice. We believe the pursuit of these values is central to maintaining the trust of the community and to ensuring every person in our County can live in peace.*

Note: For more information about the District Attorney's Office, visit [www.charmeckda.com](http://www.charmeckda.com). For updates and other information, "like" the DA's Office on Facebook at [www.facebook.com/charmeckda](https://www.facebook.com/charmeckda) and follow us on Twitter: @CharMeckDA.

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