

Becki Gray



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Becki Gray is the Vice President for Outreach at the John Locke Foundation. She provides information, consultation, and publications to elected officials, government staff and other decision makers involved in the state public-policy process.

Gray taps her experience in the legal field, at the North Carolina General Assembly and as a lobbyist in the private sector as well as the full resources and staff of JLF to fulfill requests for information and analysis from policymakers.

She offers commentary on television and radio shows across North Carolina and is a regular panelist on NCSpin. Gray writes a monthly column for Carolina Journal and her op-eds have been published in newspapers across the state. She frequently speaks to civic and political groups about public policy and legislative issues.

She earned an Art degree at Queens College in Charlotte, a Paralegal Certificate from Meredith College and has completed graduate work at UNC-Charlotte and UNC-Greensboro.

Gray is a member of the first class of the John Locke Foundation's E.A. Morris Fellows, a statewide leadership program. She serves on the North Carolina Museum of Art's Board of Trustees

Mack Paul



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Mack focuses his practice on zoning, land use, environmental permitting, and public policy. He specializes in regulatory approvals for large, mixed used developments and urban infill. He also focuses on public-private-partnerships and public finance of infrastructure that supports development projects. He has represented owners, developers, coalition groups and businesses in all types of development and governmental issues such as the proposed ban on disposers by the City of Raleigh and rental registration for the apartment industry. At the coast, Mack has represented local governments, property owners and environmental groups on fisheries issues, sea level rise policy, coastal development and large infrastructure projects such as inlet relocations.

Mack is active with green building and smart growth initiatives. He is LEED Accredited Professional (LEED-AP), a distinction he earned through the Green Building Certification Institute. Governor Perdue appointed Mr. Paul serve as the public member on the NC Building Code Council, where he sits on the Energy Conservation Committee. He has served on the Community Advisory Board of KB Homes, a national leader in energy efficient housing. Mr. Paul was a founding member of Triangle Growth Strategies and the Triangle Smart Growth Coalition, which brought environmentalists and home builders together on common growth principles. He chaired Triangle Tomorrow and assisted with the Reality Check visioning that led to a number of guiding principles for the region's future growth. He also served on the Special Transit Advisory Commission, which developed the current plan for Triangle Transit. Mr. Paul is a frequent writer and speaker on urban planning, transportation and policy matters.

Mr. Paul has also participated in numerous political campaigns and political activities. As chairman of the Wake County Democratic Party, he led a successful campaign to win five contested seats, determining the direction of the new assignment policy. He has been active on various municipal races, including Charles Meeker's first successful run for mayor in 2001. He served as chief of staff to Lieutenant Governor Dennis Wicker and has worked with candidates on a number of gubernatorial campaigns, including serving as Gov. Jim Hunt's Wake County campaign manager in 1996. Mr. Paul focuses on fundraising, building coalitions in the business and grass roots communities and advising on transportation and urban issues.

Achievements

"Best Lawyers in America," Land Use & Zoning Law, 2008 – 2013, Real Estate Law 2013

Professional/Civic Activities

- North Carolina Bar Association (Zoning, Planning and Land Use Section)
- NC Building Code Council (Public Member)
- Urban Land Institute (Full Member and Membership Committee, Chair)
- Hope Center (Board of Directors)
- Wake County Sustainability Task Force
- Wake County Democratic Party (past Chairman)
- Triangle Tomorrow (past Chairman)
- North Carolina State University (past College of Design, Board Member)
- Special Transit Advisory Commission

Johanna Reese



Government Relations

Title: Director of Government Relations-North Carolina Association of County Commissioners

Phone: (919) 715-8044

Johanna Reese manages the day to day operations of the government relations team for the NC Association of County Commissioners. In this role she implements legislative goals, monitors legislative issues, and works to enhance advocacy communications between association members and agencies. Previously, she was Deputy Commissioner of the NC Division of Motor Vehicles, responsible for overseeing the state's driver license program and vehicle titling and registration programs. She has also served as legislative liaison for the NC Dept. of Transportation and the Dept. of Environment and Natural Resources, and was a public information officer for DENR. She graduated from the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill with a Bachelor of Arts in Journalism/Public Relations and Political Science.

Ginger Warner

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Repeatedly recruited to establish the structures, policies, and procedures for rapidly expanding companies and provide the tactical and strategic leadership that creates efficient, profitable operations. More than fifteen years of diverse experience designing and standardizing business and management processes to support large-scale operations, and infrastructures that elevate performance. Experienced in organizational management, property disposition, contract negotiations, and corporate services, with strong project management and analytical skills and the ability to address complex issues and strategically implement cost-effective solutions. Articulate communicator with strong leadership and team-building skills.

Director of Entitlements and Development

Impact Properties Group, LLC

January 2006 – Present (7 years)

Responsible for the management and coordination of the annexation, zoning, and engineering of all development construction plans, including obtaining appropriate entitlements and permits while minimizing delays, setting consultant priorities, and protecting and furthering the owner's interest. Created and implemented a formalized contracting and scheduling process to prevent delays and maximize returns. Created and executed developer agreements, easement acquisitions, entrance feature and amenity plans, and grand openings. Represented owner interests at town hall meetings and with council members, at home owner association meetings, with sales agents and marketing professionals and potential buyers.

VLW Development Services, LLC -Owner

Real Estate industry January 2006 – Present (7 years)

Richard Whisnant



Title: Professor of Public Law and Government

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Areas of Interest: Environmental protection and natural resources management; administrative law; Principal collaborator, UNC Environmental Finance Center

Richard Whisnant joined the Institute of Government in 1998. Prior to that, he was general counsel with the NC Department of Environment, Health & Natural Resources. He had previously practiced environmental law with Robinson, Bradshaw & Hinson, in Charlotte, North Carolina, and was a clerk for the Hon. Sam J. Ervin III on the US Court of Appeals for the Fourth Circuit. Whisnant earned a BA from the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill and an MPP and JD from Harvard University

Erin Wynia



Title: Legislative & Regulatory Issues Manager, NCLM

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Erin serves as the League's chief representative to state legislators and regulators on environmental issues. She advocates throughout the legislative and regulatory process, representing League members' interests with legislators and a variety of state and federal agencies and appointed boards. She also serves as lead staff to the Planning & Environment Legislative Action Committee and the Regulatory Action Committee, and as the League liaison to the American Public Works Association-N.C. chapter.