

North Carolina Public Defender Association Statement of Support

The North Carolina Commission on Racial Equity and Ethnic Disparities (NC CRED) has launched a statewide campaign to remove Confederate monuments from courthouse grounds.

The NCCRED campaign's goal is to identify, document the history of, and remove all Confederate Monuments currently erected on courthouse grounds in the state of North Carolina.

Central to the ideals of justice in the United States and North Carolina are that no person shall be denied the equal protection of the laws; nor shall any person be subjected to discrimination by the government because of race.

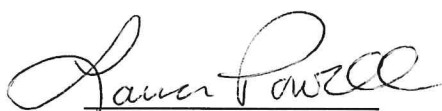
Confederate Monuments positioned outside courthouses are a constant reminder of prejudice, hate and racism against black and brown people, and therefore, are inherently incompatible with a judiciary that should be dedicated to the Constitutional assurance of justice and equality under the law.

The North Carolina Court system has recently undertaken efforts to acknowledge and address racial injustice in the system through, among other things, campaigns for bail reform and implicit bias training.

Removal of Confederate Monuments from courthouse grounds is in keeping with efforts to address long standing racial injustice in the court system.

The Public Defender Association of North Carolina and its member public defenders witness and fight against racial inequity and injustice inherent in our court system.

Therefore, the NC Public Defender Association joins the many others who support the NCCRED campaign to remove Confederate Monuments from all NC courthouse grounds.

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Laura Powell". The signature is written in black ink and is positioned above a thin horizontal line.

Laura Powell

President NC Public Defender Association