This class and the Bolch Judicial Institute, which helps lead this class, provides research and education for the NC Chief Justice’s Task Force on ACEs-Informed Courts.

1. The Bolch Institute has developed and delivers trauma-informed courts training to NC Judges.
2. This project is the first empirical study on trauma-informed practices.

### RESEARCH QUESTIONS

1. What are North Carolina judges’ attitudes related to trauma-informed care?
2. In what ways are judges practicing trauma-informed care in North Carolina juvenile delinquency court?
3. Are trauma-informed court practices employed equitably in North Carolina juvenile delinquency court?
4. To what extent does the employment of trauma-informed court practices correlate with various outcomes for court-involved youth?

### TIMELINE

**Fall 2022**
- Developed three components for IRB approval
  1. Recruitment and consent materials
  2. Court observation tool
  3. Youth survey
  4. Administered judge survey

**Spring 2023**
- Piloted and refined court observation tool
- Developed codebook to guide observations
- Analyzed data from the judge survey

**Summer 2023**
- Work toward publication of findings from judge survey
- Conduct court observations

**Fall 2023 – Spring 2024**
- Administer youth survey
- Perform analysis on observational & survey data
- Work toward publication in Judicature

### PROJECT COMPONENTS

**Judge Survey**
Analyzing data from a survey distributed to approximately 100 district court judges to examine judges' experiences with, attitudes toward, and implementation of trauma-informed practices/care.

**Court Observations**
Observing NC courts to determine how judges are employing trauma-informed practices, whether courts are employing such practices equitably using an observational tool developed by students.

**Youth Data Collection**
Collecting data from youth accused of a crime (i.e., juvenile) to understand their experiences as defendants in court and how they might be related to trauma-informed practices used in their courtrooms. Measures include perceptions of the court experience and traumatic stress symptoms.