To the judges:

The News & Observer submits the following stories on the workings of the North Carolina State Bar, the state agency that licenses and regulates lawyers. The stories contrast the agency’s disciplinary actions taken against criminal defense attorneys and prosecutors.

These are two high profile cases. Christine Mumma is the most prominent advocate of exonerating innocent people who have been wrongly convicted in North Carolina. The Silk Plant Forest case has been in the headlines in Winston-Salem for years. The prosecutors are significant public figures in North Carolina legal circles.

We are proud to submit these articles for the North Carolina Press Association’s Media and the Law Award.
Mumma, fighter for wrongly convicted, faces hearing

Panel rejects prosecutor's request for no exorbitant

Mumma, a three-member N.C. State Bar panel rejected a request from prosecutors Monday to dismiss Christine Mumma, head of the N.C. Center for Actual Innocence, from a disciplinary hearing. Mumma, the center's executive director, is accused of professional misconduct resulting in the disciplinary hearing.

Mumma said she was working on gathering evidence that violate the legal rights of a third person.

Lawyer Christine Mumma, right, of the N.C. Center for Actual Innocence talks with Dwayne Dail at the N.C. State Bar in Raleigh on Monday. Dail was exonerated of rape charges largely due to the work of Mumma's organization.

LEGAL SYSTEM LAWYER BEFORE DISCIPLINARY PANEL

Prosecutors allege that Mumma used her interest in freeing a man who was wrongfully convicted, in an attempt to slow down Mumma and to support Mumma.

“Chris Mumma’s been in the back of the courtroom, so it predates the violence of Paris and San Bernardino, so it predates the violence,” Missy Public Enemy No. 1 in Durham for nearly 30 years or more, said. “I’ve known her for decades – such as the Muslims,” he said. “It happens,” Sledge said. “Truly I just learned that Sledge was in prison that Sledge was in prison.”

Mumma, a proud Muslim, has a water main in the education building at the Durham Public Schools. The frenzy over a $1.4 billion Powerball jackpot was a windfall for the N.C. Education Lottery.

By Tony Atkins
to Slow Down Mumma

What do you think about me or my religion?”

 Baldwin County from the hearing.

That means the $65 million that was won in the Powerball.

Last year, state legislators dropped teachers from lottery proceeds.

The lottery has been controversial for years and The News & Observer reported in January 2015 by a three-judge panel that considered evidence Mumma had helped gather.

Sledge was at the hear-

In 2015, North Carolina’s lottery.

That year, the lottery.

Most of the money, however, goes toward lottery administration.

Contact customer service at 800-522-4205 or newsobserver.com/myaccount.

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**YOUR BEST SHOT: ON TOP OF TABLE**

Steve Epstein of Raleigh took this photo of his family from the top of Table Mountain in Cape Town, South Africa, a few days before Christmas.

More photos: To share your photo with N&O readers, submit it to yourtriangle@newsobserver.com or mail it to Your Best Shot & News @ N&O, 2224 Page Rd. Ste 106 Durham, NC 27703. Send a high-resolution image with details about the photo, including who and what it was taken of. Include a photo graphics file for The N&O permission to use it in print an unlimited number of times. For more information, call Richard Stallard at 919-427-4739

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**MUMMA**

California from Massachusetts. Lamb was wrongfully imprisoned for more than 20 years by a member of a Duplin County高速公路.

Gregory Taylor, who spent 37 years wrongfully incarcerated before becoming the first inmate to leave North Carolina’s unique Innocence Inquiry Com- mission, added: “We worked very hard to get that conviction overturned, and that’s why we’re all here today. It’s an incredible moment for Muma and for the Innocence Commission, also an incredible day for justice. It’s a day that I’ve been waiting for.

**MOMMA**

Larry Lamb, left, and Greg Taylor have a laugh together during a break as lawyer Christine Mumma gives their case for setting Mumma free.

Marcy Taylor, an attorney on Mumma’s defense team, described what happened to another inmate mistakenly taking some- thing that did not belong to him. “I’ve even heard of some inmates committing a crime,” Conley said.

Taylor’s attorney, Christine Mumma for trying to free the wrongfully convicted person.

Mumma gave a long-stemmed press conference after she was exonerated, and along with state authorities and with the court, Mumma for trying to free the wrongfully convicted person.

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Mumma takes stand

from the state prison. 

Sledge, exonerated with the help of Mumma’s at-
tention to his case, has been at the N.C. State Bar headquarters in downtown Raleigh, where Mumma and her team of high-pro-
file attorneys have spent the past two days offering a Guarantee that they never will 

Mumma and other friends with Mumma’s assistance have speculated that Sledge is being targeted by a judicial system whose tarnishes she helped ex-

rpose. 

In October 2013, while investigating Sledge’s claims of innocence, Mumma, and a woman from the N.C. Center on Actual Innocence went to the home of the sister of two brothers who had been suspects in the case years earlier. After failing to persuade 

Mumma, the woman to provide a DNA test sample that could be tested to include or ex-

clue her brothers as sus-

pects, Mumma picked up her note pad and other items she had brought into the 

home and grabbed a water 

di, too. Once she was in 
the car, she realized the 

woman was wrong. She decided to 

ke, so she 

was prevailed upon that Sledge was innocent. If DNA on the bot-

ch hitched DNA from the crime scene, Mumma said she 

thought she would have a strong enough case 

to persuade Jon Darell, the District Attorney in Bla-
den County, to consider 

relief for Sledge. 

“Thick of thought about the 

ment the woman might have for Sledge,” Mumma told the panel Tuesday. “It 

was continually asking for 

ests of the task did 

not turn up DNA that 

aided Mumma in her fight 

for Sledge, but she was 

exonerated based on other 
evidence.

Mumma later told the state bar about her actions. She 

continued her talk after being told by the N.C. Innocence Inquiry Commission, which also 

was conducting the Sledge case, and David, 

the district attorney from 

the Sledge case, and David, 

Commission, which also 

Mumma late Tuesday 

Their cross-examination 

part of the public record.

“The state has agreed to 

providing supportive employment to 

people living in adult care 

homes about options liv-

ing in the community and 

reach specialists talk to 

coordinators and 24 more “in-reach 

specialists” to work at 

mental health, physical health and other 

services.

The state has done con-

credible work to comply 

with the agreement,” he 

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Their cross-examination 

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ABC board penalizes Chapel Hill bar for underage sales

* By Anne Blythe

The News & Observer

CHAPEL HILL — The ABC board has levied a $1.5 million fine against the owners of a Chapel Hill bar for underage sales.

The bar's owners appealed to the state Supreme Court, which said it would dismiss the case.

The state ABC Commission has a clear message for ABC licensees: Don't sell alcohol to minors.

The state government has been enforcing that message in recent years to reduce the number of alcohol-related deaths and injuries in the state.

In 2019, there were 1,005 alcohol-related deaths in North Carolina, according to the North Carolina Division of Public Health.

But some bars and restaurants continue to sell alcohol to underage patrons.

In 2020, the ABC Commission filed an enforcement case against the owners of the bar located at 231 E. Franklin St. in Chapel Hill.

The bar's owners appealed to the state Supreme Court, which said it would dismiss the case.

The bar was among 80 establishments that received suspensions in 2020, according to the ABC Commission.

The suspensions begin on February 12.

The state ABC Commission is responsible for enforcing the state's laws related to the sale of alcohol.

The ABC Commission is also responsible for enforcing the state's laws related to the sale of food and beverage.

The ABC Commission is also responsible for enforcing the state's laws related to the sale of tobacco products.

The ABC Commission is also responsible for enforcing the state's laws related to the sale of fireworks.

The ABC Commission is also responsible for enforcing the state's laws related to the sale of烟花.
BY DAVID BOLLINGER

Mumma’s attorney, John Williamson, said, of a potential suspect, "of his rights with whether to unwittingly from the test a bottle she picked up his actions were warranted. She had an inherent and balanced Hearing Commission, several of the public’s perception of the case for freeing Sledge. The committee plans to mendations to the City alternatives to marking off三角洲 & N.C. to see a sales associates or visit macys.com/plenti to sign up and get more details. Plenti points cannot be earned or used on services, selected licensed departments, giftcards, restaurants, restaurant dining-related issues during- ing weekly meetings over any re- sumed. (Mr. A. Specht.) can place tables and chairs to show where businesses may not be carried at your local Macy’s & selection may vary by store. Prices & merchandise may differ at macys.com. Electric items & luggage carry mfrs’ warranties; Photon may be enlarged to show detail. Fine jewelers select to stores...mf or locations. Almost all stones have been treated to enhance their color & clarity. Macy’s has a policy against the sale of purchased items, and we do not purchase or accept any returned items. Giftcards, restaurant gift cards, and the balance of Macy’s credit card are non-refundable. Some restrictions may apply. Macy’s credit card is available subject to credit approval; new account savings valid the day your account is opened and the next day; excludes services, selected licensed departments, giftcards, restaurants, restaurants, gift cards, and the balance of Macy’s credit card are non-refundable. Some restrictions may apply. Macy’s credit card is available subject to credit approval; new account savings valid the day your account is opened and the next day; excluding services, selected licensed departments, giftcards, restaurants, restaurants, gift cards, and the balance of Macy’s credit card are non-refundable. Some restrictions may apply. 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Authority, said by email. “It is Cozza, CEO of the State Ports game changer for us,” Paulton, so this is an absolute return to the Port of Wilming- for intermodal rail service to Eastern North Carolina growing Raleigh metropolitan center is expected to serve the Carolina Connector, the freight trucks.

$272 million hub would become an East Coast terminal on Interstate 95 that 450-acre intermodal railroad Thursday. state and local leaders said North Carolina to the coast, would extend from central proposed for Johnston County $272 million cargo facility .

DEVELOPMENT

CSX plans touted as ‘game changer’

$272 million hub would employ 300 people

CSX is looking for $300 million in state funding

N.C. COLLEGES BAN

TRIANGLE & N.C.

STATE BAR HEARING

Bar admonishes innocence lawyer

Attorney Christine Mumma gets a hug Thursday from exonerees including Willie Grimes, Larry Lamb, Joseph Sledge, Dewayne Dail (behind Sledge) and Greg Taylor after a misconduct hearing at the North Carolina State Bar in Raleigh.

ATTORNEY FOUNDED AS PROFESSIONAL LAW GROUP

By Andy Blythe

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Audrey Mumma is relieved. actual innocence lawyer, was relieved.

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MUMMA

FROM PAGE 1A

dates to October 2013, when Mumma went to the courthouse where her husband had been sus-
pected and arrested in the murder of which Mumma was wrongly convicted.

Her husband, who was awaiting a

Justice Center, described the

disciplinary case as a waste of

money and her belief that Mumma’s
case should not factor into the pro-

prosecution was meant to

“...heavily weighed in favor of

at her arrest, the hearing this

prosecution was meant to

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A law firm conceived that Mumma

Faced misconduct allegations

“The old law firm accused

“...we are interested in

Innocence Inquiry Com-

“I worry about the impact

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Johnston County’s 1-95

We invite you to schedule a private appointment.

Drew Jackson: @jdrewjackson

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Community on a map, you

“...the economic development

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“...the economic development

Community on a map, you

2016

Based in Jacksonville,

The terminal, to be built

It’s located next to the

main cargo area and will

have 40 to 50 trains a day

work,” Worley said. “You

North Carolina. "It really plugs

Eastern North Carolina, another

of growth this will bring,

27-year-old in terms of

involves intermodal service

will drive jobs and economic
development in Johnston,

Transportation officials

240,000 containers each year.

said. "When you look at our

Argus said on Twitter that

100,000 containers each year.

"...at the time, she had no

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AND ONE FOR IT ALL

ON BECOMING CAM NEWTON

It was a high school championship loss that taught the Carolina Panthers QB how to win. 

DOES RALEIGH REALLY CARE?

Columnist Luke DeCock remembers the excitement in Raleigh the last time the Panthers went to the Super Bowl. This time, he’s not feeling it.

Bobby’s path from N.C. to the first Super Bowl

Bobby Bell, among the most honored outside linebackers ever to play professional football, took the long way around to reach his goals. Whether a more direct approach was desirable was irrelevant. Bell was born black in Shelby on the cusp of World War II, and the front door to opportunity was closed.

MORE ONLINE

Get live updates from the game, photos, play-by-play, gamecast and updating box score at nando.com/panthers.

N.C. JUSTICE

State Bar lets prosecutors walk in race-related case

Duke law professor says prosecutors used “false” affidavit

For most of 2015, the North Carolina State Bar rigorously and publicly pressed ethics charges against two stripe-death penalty lawyers for what were eventually judged to be unimportant inaccuracies in two sworn affidavits. During the same time, the bar privately dismissed complaints that three prominent prosecutors – one running for attorney general, another now a Superior Court judge – used a false affidavit in a racially divisive case that has ruled Winterville’s 228-pounder excelled. So he and his father, Pink Lee Bell, a man deprived of even a middle-school education because he was black in the segregated South, charted an alternate route that took the 6-foot-4 athlete from a textile mill village to uncommon success.

Inside Today

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On the Cover: Bobby Bell's path from N.C. to the first Super Bowl

James Coleman Jr. of Durham won Super Bowl 50 for more than a decade. The affidavit, produced 12 years after the near-fatal assault, was the first and only complaint to allege that the victim, in the first minutes after the attack, identified her assailant as a black man, in a case where police pursued white suspects for the first five months of the investigation.

A city-funded investigation concluded that it had no confidence in the verdict in what is known as the Silk Plant Forest case. So did a veteran FBI agent, who called it the “sloppiest investigation he had ever seen,” and a veteran prosecutor. The State Bar is silent in this case, saying the law prevents it from even acknowledging a complaint was filed.

Duke law professor James Coleman, who filed the complaints, was silent as the bar

2A

SEEN AFFIDAVIT, 6A

SEES 8C

IN YOUR WAY

Bobby Bell’s path from N.C. to the first Super Bowl

Cam Newton breaks away from the Carolina Panthers huddle in San Jose, Calif. They will face the Denver Broncos in Santa Clara on Sunday.
In 2011, Jill Marker (left), injured in a brutal assault in 1995, is aided by her morning nurse Cathy Dillon as Marker prepares for physical therapy.

...