

RUN OF SHOW

September 24–27, 2026 · Raleigh–Durham, North Carolina



Internal Participant Run of Show Documents for the 2026 Summit. These replace all earlier versions — all timings are subject to change prior to the event, so always check this page for the latest version before your session.

The Law Student Experience Panel Discussion

Day 3 · Saturday · Saturday, September 26, 2026 · 2:30 – 3:45 PM EDT · NCCU Student Center | Second Floor | Event Hall · 500 Nelson Street, Durham, NC 27707 · One 75-minute session with two clearly separated panels — Part I: seven students; Part II: seven students · All registered attendees

From HBCU to J.D.: What No One Tells You About Starting and Succeeding in Law School

KEY DETAILS

- Part I: Transitions and culture, with an intentional mix of HBCU-to-PWI and PWI-to-HBCU experiences.
- Part II: The hidden curriculum, academic success, student life, leadership, well-being, and help-seeking.
- Midpoint transition: Part I exits promptly at 3:03 PM while the moderators synthesize one takeaway; Part II takes assigned seats immediately.

PARTICIPANTS

- Clinton N. Jones, MBA — Part I | HBCU-to-PWI — Campbell University School of Law; Norfolk State and NCCU affiliations
- Ian Nix — Part I | HBCU-to-PWI — Creighton University School of Law; UDC and Clark Atlanta affiliations
- Kayla S. Cooper — Part I | HBCU-to-PWI — Ohio Northern University Claude W. Pettit College of Law; Albany State University alumna
- T. Rahmaad Smith — Part I | HBCU-to-PWI — UNC School of Law; North Carolina A&T State University alumnus
- Deralyn Swilley — Part I | PWI-to-HBCU — Florida A&M University College of Law; Georgia State University alumna
- Nia-Grace Sharp — Part I | PWI-to-HBCU — Howard University School of Law; University of Tennessee at Chattanooga alumna
- Xavier Chatman — Part I | HBCU Law School — Third-Year Law Student, Southern University Law Center; former NBLSA National Director of Pre-Law Affairs; Baton Rouge, Louisiana
- Brikitta Hairston, M.Sc. — Part II | Academic Success — Part-Time J.D. Candidate, New England Law | Boston
- Chandler McGruder — Part II | Student Life — University of Pittsburgh School of Law; BLSA Vice President
- Jaleel Gilmore — Part II | Academic Success — 3L, North Carolina Central University School of Law
- Jasmon Stuart — Part II | Leadership & Resilience — 2L and BLSA President, Stetson University College of Law
- Katrina SparksLavan, MBA — Part II | Nontraditional Student — 2L, UDC David A. Clarke School of Law; veteran
- Tyia Burns — Part II | Academic Success & Student Life — 3L, Harvard Law School; Spelman College alumna
- Ivan Williams — Part II | Student Life & Leadership — Vice President, Student Bar Association, North Carolina Central University School of Law; Durham, North Carolina
- Kameron M. Smith — Full-Session Co-Moderator — 3L, North Carolina Central University School of Law
- Paige Snelgro, Esq. — Full-Session Co-Moderator — Founder and CEO, The Law School Advantage

PRE-SHOW & CALL TIMES

1:30 PM — Full-group check-in: Arrive 60 minutes early, check in on the second floor of the NCCU Student Center, and be escorted to the Senate Room (Speaker Suite). Confirm names, schools, years, transition labels, Part I/Part II assignments, and accessibility needs.

2:00 PM — Two-part group briefing: Review assigned prompts, answer limits, the midpoint transition, and the final rapid round.

2:20 PM — Final readiness check: Part I takes assigned seats; Part II remains nearby and ready for the 3:03 PM transition.

PROGRAM RUN OF SHOW

2:30 – 2:34	Welcome and double-panel frame (Kameron + Paige) (4 min) — Introduce both lenses, the two-part format, audience promise, and fast midpoint reset.
2:34 – 2:38	Part I introductions (Kameron) (4 min) — One sentence each: school, year, HBCU affiliation, and transition route.
2:38 – 2:58	Part I: Transitions and Culture (Paige) (20 min) — Belonging, culture shock, identity, support systems, expectations, and institutional fit.



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2:58 – 3:03	Part I rapid advice (Kameron) (5 min) — Selected speakers share one surprise and one preparation move.
3:03 – 3:06	Midpoint transition (both) (3 min) — Moderators synthesize one takeaway while Part I exits and Part II takes assigned seats.
3:06 – 3:10	Part II introductions (Paige) (4 min) — One sentence each: school, year, and academic-success or student-life lens.
3:10 – 3:31	Part II: Academic Success & Student Life (Kameron) (21 min) — Hidden curriculum, academic habits, professional identity, leadership, well-being, and help-seeking.
3:31 – 3:34	Part II rapid advice (Paige) (3 min) — One practice to start and one habit to avoid.
3:34 – 3:42	Curated Q&A / cross-panel synthesis (both) (8 min) — Connect transition, performance, and wellness; keep responses to 30 seconds.
3:42 – 3:45	Closing (both) (3 min) — Deliver a concise first-semester readiness checklist and thank both panels.

PRODUCTION & SPEAKER NOTES

- Part I panelists should prepare one unexpected transition challenge and one strategy that helped; Part II panelists one hidden-curriculum lesson or practice attendees can use.
- Each major prompt begins with two or three preassigned speakers; others may offer only a brief, distinct addition.
- Share honest experiences without naming or criticizing individual classmates, faculty, employers, or institutions.
- Please help protect the published 3:45 PM hard stop by following moderator time cues.
- Opening responses should generally stay within 60–75 seconds; follow-ups within 30–45 seconds.
- Moderators may direct a question to selected speakers; panelists should add only a distinct point rather than repeat an answer.
- Audience questions will be curated from submitted cards or a monitored form. There will be no unscreened open microphone unless the format specifically calls for interactive Q&A.
- Confirm the spelling and pronunciation of your name, credentials, title, and affiliation, and share any accessibility needs before the event.
- No slides are planned. If a visual or handout is essential, obtain approval in advance.