

NC Commission on Inclusion

Lydia E. Lavelle

Professor of Law, NCCU



Born in Athens, Ohio, Lydia E. Lavelle holds a bachelor's degree from St. Andrews University, a master's degree in parks and recreation administration from North Carolina State University (NCSU), and a law degree from North Carolina Central University (NCCU) in Durham, where she currently works as a law professor.

Lavelle has taught courses on state and local governmental law, sexual identity and the law, and transgender rights and social justice. She is a member of the North Carolina Bar Association and the National Gay and Lesbian Bar.

She is also a former president of the North Carolina Association of Women Attorneys and serves as the faculty advisor at NCCU to the Women's Law Caucus and Outlaw Alliance student organizations.

Lavelle served fourteen years on the Carrboro (N.C.) Town Council, where she was elected four times as mayor from 2013-2021. While in elected office, she served on numerous boards and committees, including the Metropolitan Mayors Coalition, the Chapel Hill-Carrboro Chamber of Commerce Board of Directors, the Orange County Visitors Bureau Board of Directors, and as Chair of the Durham-Chapel Hill-Carrboro MPO.

Lavelle and her wife Alicia Stemper have two adult children.