



## Black History Month Spotlight

### Charlotte Dover



Charlotte Dover says, “The idea of becoming a lawyer took root in me as a teenager because I wanted to help my Mama, Dorothy Mae Dover, receive her social security benefits. She was terminally ill with cancer and still could not receive her benefits! I said, ' If I were a lawyer, I would get my Mama her benefits!’” she did just that. She became a lawyer after graduating from Texas Southern University- Thurgood Marshall School of Law, Class of 2000 a Historically Black College & University (HBCU). She began “a long route” of teaching, employment law, and other things, in 2018 and started a law practice in Murfreesboro, North Carolina and has practiced in Halifax, Northampton, and Hertford counties. Her most recent with juveniles is in Durham, North Carolina” (home of the best Public Defender's Office in the land!)” as an Assistant Public Defender.

When asked, “Why is Black History Month important to you & how does that impact your juvenile work?” Charlotte says this:

Black History Month is important to me because I see and hear of people who look like me who have accomplished so many great things. The struggles, honors, and goals of African American people are often omitted or watered down in textbooks and other forms of media. For example, I never knew that some of the greatest Science Fiction

writers are African American! I approach Black History Month like a little kid-eager to learn and be amazed!" Black History Month impacts my Youth work because my enthusiasm for learning carries over into my work. I learn about my Clients' accomplishments, goals, and struggles. I remind all of my clients that we are a team and they are the most important part!

She ends with, "while Youth Practice is a long way from Social Security Benefits Practice, the same principal still applies. While standing on the greatness of African Americans reflected in Black History Month and beyond, I am helping people get their benefits: a caring lawyer who prepares and fights!"