

Social Equity LEADERSHIP CONFERENCE



JUNE 5 - 7, 2013 - NC STATE UNIVERSITY, RALEIGH, NORTH CAROLINA

Policing and Corrections

North Carolina Innocence Inquiry Commission: Duties, Virtues, Principles and Consequences

Thursday 2:15 pm; Panel 2

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Abstract: This paper looks at the ethical motivation behind the establishment and mission of the NC Innocence Inquiry Commission (NCIIC). By investigating the purpose of the agency, along with the tenets of the duty, virtue, principle, and consequence-based lines of ethical reasoning, this investigation analyzes what role a sense of ethical responsibility played in the development of the NC Innocence Inquiry Commission. After examination, this paper finds that the mission of the NC Innocence Inquiry Commission is best described by the duty-based ethical approach, as public administrators have obligations to democracy, due process, procedural fairness, and the public interest, all of which are particularly salient to the goals of the Commission. Thus, the motivation behind the establishment of the NC Innocence Inquiry Commission stems from an ethical responsibility of the state to rectify past misdeeds through strengthening the aforementioned duties.