

# Substance Abuse Mental Health

## SPEAKER BIOGRAPHY

### Chris Osborn

**Education:**

J.D., University of Virginia, 1995, Hardy Cross Dillard Scholar, Virginia Law Review (Editorial Board, Articles Review Board)

B.A., English & Political Science, with Highest Distinction and with Highest Honors in English, University of North Carolina Chapel Hill, 1992; James M. Johnston Scholar, Phi Beta Kappa

Chris Osborn joined the Charlotte Law faculty as an Assistant Professor in 2012. In addition to teaching first year courses, Professor Osborn plans to focus his teaching and scholarship efforts in the areas of ethics and professional responsibility, and particularly the interrelationship of both with the mental health and substance abuse issues that attorneys may often encounter.

Prior to joining the faculty, Professor Osborn practiced as a litigation attorney in Charlotte, North Carolina for 15 years, and served for 2 years as a law clerk to former U.S. Magistrate Judge Carl Horn III of the Western District of North Carolina. As an associate and then a shareholder with Horack Talley Pharr & Lowndes, PA, Professor Osborn litigated disputes and counseled clients in the areas of construction law, real estate contracts, business ownership and shareholder disputes, employment discrimination, and non-competition agreements. He has tried cases at all levels of the North Carolina state courts, and litigated numerous cases in all three North Carolina federal court districts, as well. In 2010, Professor Osborn was certified by the North Carolina Dispute Resolution Commission as a Superior Court Mediator, and he still serves as a mediator as the opportunity arises and time permits.

Professor Osborn originally began pursuing legal education as a more purposeful endeavor through his work as a co-founder of ReelTime CLE (<http://www.reeltimecle.com/>), which provides CLE seminars on ethics, professional responsibility, and mental health/substance abuse awareness and prevention throughout the southeastern United States. Using a unique mix of entertaining film clips, guided discussions, and real-life stories from his practice experience, Professor Osborn and his co-founder, Michael Kahn, JD, LPC, help attorneys identify and take practical steps to navigate the particular pressures, challenges, and ethical dilemmas that they face in their everyday practice of law.

As the former chair of the Mecklenburg County Bar Law “Professionalism, LawyerLife, and Culture” Committee, Professor Osborn helped lead the Bar’s efforts to support its members in times of personal or professional crisis, and its proactive efforts to help attorneys prevent or address mental health and substance abuse issues before they arise. He also wrote and edited numerous articles for the MCB Newsletter on such topics as career satisfaction, exercise and well-being, active listening skills, dealing with clients who show signs of mental health issues, constructive conflict, and the particular challenges that lawyers encounter in interpersonal relationships.