

PETITION

Prevent the Radical Right, Tea Party Financier Art Pope from meddling with the curriculum, Mission and Legacy of NCCU School of Law

We, the Student Body and Alumni of North Carolina Central University School of Law, hereby petition the members of the North Carolina Central University School of Law Curriculum Committee to vote against the N.C. Institute for Constitutional Law's proposal to house a constitutional law center at our school.

We petition for the forgoing reasons:

- We doubt the authenticity of the offer and question what strings will be attached
- We fear that the controversial and divisive background of Art Pope will tarnish our school's image and contradict the Mission and Legacy of NCCU School of Law
- We disapprove of NCCU School of Law creating ties with Art Pope
 - Art Pope serves as board member a number of right wing groups, including many groups with strong ties to the Tea Party Movement, and bankrolls think tanks such as the: Locke Foundation, Americans for Prosperity, Civitas Institute, Real Jobs NC, N.C. Institute for Constitutional Law
 - We contend that the N.C. Institute for Constitutional Law is merely a front to advance Pope's radical right political agenda, which contradicts the Mission and Legacy of NCCU School of Law
 - We question Art Pope's business practices. Pope's family owned business: Variety Wholesaler's consist of over 400 stores throughout the south-east. These stores are strategically located in low-income African-American and Hispanic communities. By specifically targeting these locations, Mr. Pope's companies are directly exploiting these communities of their resources. Mr. Pope, in turn, uses his economic gain from these businesses to politically influence policies that contravene the interest of those communities.
- We disapprove of the Art Pope agenda- a roll back North Carolina's "**progressive and social justice advancements**"
 - Art Pope was a major financial supporter of the new Wake County School Board, which voted **to end the Wake County Public School's policy of Diversity**
 - The Pope Foundation donates millions of dollars to conservative think tanks, Tea Party groups, and Republicans campaigns to "**Take back the schools,**" "**Take back the Country,**" "**Restore the Constitution**"
 - Art Pope is a major contributor to the dubious "**Voter ID - Voter Fraud**" campaign, which is actually a disguised **voter suppression campaign to suppress Minority, Student, and Low Income Voter turnout**