



NORTH CAROLINA
— ASSOCIATION OF —
DEFENSE ATTORNEYS

March 30, 2021

The Honorable Phil Berger
President *Pro Tempore*
North Carolina Senate
16 West Jones Street, Room 2007
Raleigh, NC 27601

via email: Phil.Berger@ncleg.gov

The Honorable Tim Moore
Speaker of the House
North Carolina House of Representatives
16 West Jones Street, Room 2304
Raleigh, NC 27601

via email: Tim.Moore@ncleg.gov

RE: Special Superior Court Judge Nominations

Dear President *Pro Tempore* Berger and Speaker Moore:

I am writing on behalf of the members of the North Carolina Association of Defense Attorneys (NCADA) to endorse the nominations for appointment of Special Superior Court Judges with designations to the Business Court. Members of the NCADA represent the interests of business and industry and frequently try cases at the North Carolina Business Courts.

We endorse current Business Court Judges, the Honorable Michael Robinson and the Honorable Adam Conrad, for re-appointment to the Business Court. Both judges have earned the respect of the state's trial bar for their knowledge and understanding of civil litigation issues and in interpreting existing law and statutes in a fair, consistent, and predictable manner.

We further endorse the appointment of the Honorable Mark Davis as a Special Superior Court Judge designated to the Business Court. Judge Davis has distinguished himself as a jurist during his past service on the North Carolina Supreme Court and the North Carolina Court of Appeals.

Additionally, we endorse the appointment of Julianna Theall Earp as a Special Superior Court Judge designated to the Business Court. Ms. Earp has proven herself as a trial lawyer in both federal and state courts representing the interests of business, and as an administrator in serving as managing partner of her firm's Greensboro, Charlotte, and Atlanta offices. Ms. Earp will bring a wealth of experience and knowledge to the bench.

NCADA recommends and endorses each of these individuals to the position of Special Superior Court Judge. Thank you for your consideration and for the opportunity to share the views of the members of the NCADA.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Allen C. Smith". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Allen C. Smith, President

cc via email:

Senator Danny Earl Britt, Jr., Chair, Senate Judiciary Committee

Senator Norman W. Sanders, Chair, Senate Judiciary Committee

Representative Ted Davis, Jr., Chair, House Judiciary 1 Committee

Representative Grey Mills, Vice Chair, House Judiciary 1 Committee

Representative William O. Richardson, Chair, House Judiciary 2 Committee

Representative Sarah Stevens, Chair, House Judiciary 2 Committee

Representative David Rogers, Chair, House Judiciary 3 Committee

Representative Lee Zachary, Chair, House Judiciary 3 Committee

Representative Hugh Blackwell, Chair, House Judiciary 4 Committee

Representative Jay Adams, Vice Chair, House Judiciary 4 Committee

Gary Salamido, President & CEO, NC Chamber

Ray Starling, General Counsel & President of NC Chamber Legal Institute

Sara R. Lincoln, President-Elect, NCADA

Robert W. Kaylor, Lobbyist