



The Resource

Special Appellate Election Issue 2022

North Carolina Appellate Elections 2022

Candidates for the North Carolina appellate courts were invited to submit a statement regarding their candidacy to *The Resource*. These candidates have provided information about themselves and why they believe they should be elected. The information submitted is presented below and on the following pages by court, then seat, with the incumbent (if there is an incumbent) in each race listed first.

Candidates for the North Carolina Supreme Court

Seat 2

Richard Dietz

Greetings NCADA members and thank you for the opportunity to participate in this year’s judicial candidate forum! It’s been a privilege to serve on the Court of Appeals for the last eight years. Now, I’m excited to take the next step in my career and join our Supreme Court.



The theme of my campaign is “Leadership for our Courts.” Here’s what that means:

First, leadership means having the skills to do the work of a Supreme Court justice. I’ve handled appeals my entire career—from my clerkship on the Fourth Circuit, to my time as a partner at Kilpatrick Townsend, to eight years on the Court of Appeals. I’m a board-certified specialist in appellate practice. I’ve personally argued cases in appellate courts across the nation, including the U.S. Supreme Court. I have a proven record of writing thoughtful opinions that are concise and easy to understand. I’ll bring these skills to the Supreme Court.

Second, leadership means having the character and temperament to work on the most important legal issues in our State. I’m a consensus-builder. In eight years on the Court of Appeals, I’ve heard thousands of appeals. In all that time, I’m the only judge who has never authored a dissent. It’s not because I’m afraid to dissent (I’ve circulated my share of draft dissents) but because I respect my colleagues, I listen to their views, and I work hard to persuade them to reach consensus and a just result. I’ll bring this collegial approach to the Supreme Court.

Third, leadership means going beyond the courtroom to improve our justice system. I’ve led the appellate courts on this for years—everything from improving the readability of opinions to establishing a pro bono appellate program.

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Lucy Inman

It has been an honor and a privilege to serve North Carolina for the past twelve years, first as a trial judge and now as an appellate judge. I am running for an open seat on the North Carolina Supreme Court to continue serving our state and to protect our courts from partisan politics that threaten the integrity of our judiciary.



Judges fulfill their oath by impartially applying the law prescribed by our federal and state constitutions, acts of the legislature, and consistent with prior appellate decisions. Trial judges and juries hear evidence and resolve factual disputes; appellate judges should review each case on appeal without reweighing the evidence and based on disciplined, honest analysis of the facts found in the trial court and the governing law, without outside influence.

In 2014, I was elected to the Court of Appeals with the support of experienced lawyers, retired judges, and concerned citizens of all political stripes, and with the endorsement of respected organizations including the North Carolina Association of Defense Attorneys. The NCADA again endorsed me in 2020, when I ran for an open seat on the NC Supreme Court. I lost that race by a slim margin, but I am thankful for the 2.6 million votes I received.

I value greatly NCADA’s past trust and confidence in me to serve on the North Carolina Supreme Court. I hope again to earn the support of your members, joining a wide spectrum of lawyers, retired judges, and citizens who understand that partisan politics has no place in our courts.

My first experience in court was working as a newspaper reporter. I soon realized I wanted to participate in the justice system. I earned my law degree in 1990 and started my legal career as a law clerk for North Carolina Supreme Court Chief Justice James Exum.

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Seat 2 Continued

Dietz continued

Third, leadership means going beyond the courtroom to improve our justice system. I've led the appellate courts on this for years—everything from improving the readability of opinions to establishing a pro bono appellate program. When the pandemic hit, I stepped up—creating an online constitutional academy for high school students, organizing a month-long summer appellate seminar for law students who lost their internships, and producing a six-hour free video CLE so lawyers could get their hours. No other judge can match my record of finding creative solutions to the challenges within our justice system. I'll bring this leadership to the Supreme Court as well.

Finally, leadership means showing the public that our court system is about justice, not politics. Every judicial candidate claims they want politics out of our courts, but most can't back it up. I'll never spam your inbox with emails about my campaign, asking you to chip in another \$5. Politicians do that. When you hear from me, it will be about my work on the court. The public will see that I'm not a politician—I'm a public servant committed to our justice system and to helping people resolve their legal disputes fairly.

You can learn much more about me and my vision for the Supreme Court at my website JudgeDietz.com. Thank you for believing in me and my journey to our State's highest court!

Seat 3

Samuel J. Ervin, IV

A fair and impartial judiciary is critical to our system of government. Unfortunately, we live in a hyper-partisan era in which some view the judiciary as simply another political body and in which partisan politics plays an increasingly important role in judicial elections. I hope that the members of the NCADA will join me in resisting attempts to further politicize our judicial system.



As a Utilities Commissioner, a Judge of the North Carolina Court of Appeals, and an Associate Justice of the Supreme Court of North Carolina, I have tried to make decisions based upon nothing other than the facts and the applicable law, to treat everyone equally, and to refrain from attempting to effectuate any sort of political or ideological agenda. I strongly believe that judicial officials should follow the existing law as embodied in statutes enacted by the General Assembly, a fair reading of precedent, and the provisions of the federal and state constitutions and trust that my record demonstrates that I have acted consistently with this simple judicial philosophy.

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Seat 2 Continued

Inman continued

I practiced civil litigation for 18 years, first in California and then back home in North Carolina. My clients included small business owners, corporations, famous individuals, and survivors of negligence, fraud, and sexual abuse. It was in the course of representing individual clients that I first met many members of the NCADA across the table. They were among the first attorneys I approached when seeking to move from bar to bench. With their support, I became a special Superior Court judge in 2010.

Presiding in hearings and trials statewide, I learned about North Carolina's varied communities while working with legal professionals and citizens I otherwise might never have met. It was a great privilege and preparation for serving as an appellate judge.

Now in the final year of my term on the Court of Appeals, I hope to continue serving our state on the Supreme Court. The best evidence of my qualifications is found in the more than 500 appellate opinions I have authored, including dissenting opinions later adopted by the Supreme Court. Based on this record, I have gained the support of many bar members, including past NCADA presidents.

Thank you for your consideration.

Education: J.D. with honors, University of North Carolina School of Law, 1990; B.A. North Carolina State University, English with highest honors, 1984

Experience: North Carolina Court of Appeals Judge, 2015-Present; North Carolina Special Superior Court Judge, 2010-December 31, 2014; Civil Litigator, 1992-2010; Law Clerk, North Carolina Supreme Court, 1990-1992

Professional Service and Engagement: Appellate Judges Education Institute; American Bar Association, Judicial Division; National Association of Women Judges; NC Bar Association; North Carolina Association of Women Attorneys

Seat 3

Trey Allen

Since January 2021, I have served as General Counsel for the North Carolina Administrative Office of the Courts. I lead an office of 10 attorneys who provide legal guidance on criminal and civil issues to judges, clerks of court, and magistrates throughout our State. We also serve as in-house counsel to the NCAOC, advising the NCAOC's Director and senior management on legislative, administrative, contract, employment, and other legal matters. Few, if any, other roles in state government offer such a broad view of judicial administration and the substantive issues that come before our courts.



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Seat 3 Continued

Ervin continued

I am a native of Morganton, North Carolina, where I continue to reside. I graduated from Freedom High School in 1974; earned an A.B., magna cum laude, from Davidson College in 1978; and received a J.D., cum laude, from Harvard Law School in 1981. After passing the bar examination, I practiced law in Morganton from 1981 until 1999. In private practice, I appeared in a wide variety of civil, criminal, and administrative matters, including personal injury cases, business and employment litigation, and similar proceedings; handled numerous appeals; and participated in many jury trials and motion hearings.

In 1999, I was appointed to serve on the North Carolina Utilities Commission, a body that functions much like a court. Commission members hear cases involving utility-related issues, resolve discovery disputes, rule on evidentiary issues, and enter detailed orders that are subject to judicial review. I also served as Chair of the Nuclear Issues Subcommittee and the Committee on Electricity of the National Association of Regulatory Utility Commissioners and testified before a congressional subcommittee on two occasions.

I was elected as a Judge of the Court of Appeals in 2008; took office on January 1, 2009; and served on that body until January 1, 2015. At the Court of Appeals, I helped decide cases that addressed many areas of the law, including business-related, contract, estate, personal injury, and zoning and land use issues. In 2014, I was elected as an Associate Justice of the Supreme Court; took office on January 1, 2015; and continue to serve on the Supreme Court today. At the Supreme Court, I have helped decide personal injury, insurance, business, estate, contract, and constitutional cases, among others.

I believe that the breadth of my experience and my judicial record shows that I am the best qualified candidate in the race for my seat on the Supreme Court. For that reason, I hope that you will support my candidacy for re-election.

Allen continued

A large portion of my 22-year legal career has been devoted to civil litigation. As an attorney and partner at Tharrington Smith, LLP, in Raleigh, I defended public school districts and school officials against lawsuits in state and federal trial and appellate courts. The cases involved a wide range of issues, including constitutional claims, contract disputes, tort claims, and employment law matters. Subsequently, as a professor at UNC Chapel Hill's School of Government, I authored scholarly publications on the civil liability of local governments and local government officials. One such publication was a book on the immunity of local governments to tort claims, an enormously complex and frequently misunderstood subject. In recognition of my scholarly achievements, I was awarded tenure and named Coates Distinguished Term Associate Professor of Public Law and Government for 2020-2022.

Many people have lost faith in the judiciary because they believe that judges often ignore or distort the law to reach politically desirable outcomes. I am running to restore public confidence in the judiciary's impartiality. If elected, I will be guided by the text and original understanding of the Constitution in cases that raise constitutional issues. I will also faithfully interpret statutes based on their text and the intent of the legislature. I will try always to remember that judges are the servants, not the masters, of the law.

I grew up in Robeson County, graduating *summa cum laude* from UNC Pembroke in 1997. In 2000 I obtained my law degree from UNC Chapel Hill, where I was a published staff member on the *North Carolina Law Review*. After law school, I spent more than four years as an officer in the United States Marine Corps. For most of that time, I served as a judge advocate overseas, primarily in Okinawa, Japan. I advised commanding generals and subordinate commanders on military justice and operational law matters, prosecuted violations of the Uniform Code of Military Justice, and helped fellow Marines resolve personal legal issues. My military service included a deployment to Iraq during Operation Iraqi Freedom. Upon being honorably discharged, I worked as a law clerk to Justice (now Chief Justice) Paul Newby at the NC Supreme Court. I entered private practice following my clerkship.

I have a history of involvement in the NC Bar Association. I served as Chair of the NCBA's Constitutional Rights & Responsibilities Section for 2015-2016.



North Carolina Association of Defense Attorneys
4441-106 Six Forks Rd. #107
Raleigh, NC 27609
919-239-4463 • www.ncada.org

Candidates for Court of Appeals

Seat 8

Julee Flood

At the North Carolina Court of Appeals, I am honored to serve as a judicial law clerk attorney. I am running for an open seat on the Court to bring my extensive appellate court experience and to serve our justice system with integrity.



My unparalleled experience includes researching, analyzing, and drafting hundreds of appellate judicial opinions during the past twenty-plus years for nine appellate jurists of both political parties in state and federal appellate courts. After my first year of law school, I interned/clerked with the Chief Justice of the Maine Supreme Court. There, I deepened my love of the law and developed a respect for precedent. Having served eight jurists since then—including four on the North Carolina Court of Appeals and five who were new to the bench and sought an experienced clerk—I remain passionate about appellate court work.

Foundational to my opinion drafting is a deep respect for each person whose case is the most important one before the Court. Rooted in textualism, my judicial philosophy fosters predictability and stability. I follow the rule of law as written in federal and state constitutions, acts of the legislature, and precedential cases. I denounce political ideology and strive to apply the law fairly and impartially by providing clear, unambiguous guidance to practitioners and courts.

As teacher and mentor, I seek to model professionalism and motivate next-generation lawyers. I have taught at Elon Law, Duke University's Paralegal Program, and University of Tennessee's Law and College of Education. At the Court, I mentor judicial law clerks and interns. I treasure ongoing relationships with former students and mentees.

Bringing additional professional diversity, I am a private sector, small business co-owner with over 50 employees in multiple states. My experience practicing contract, employment, business entity, and regulatory law deepens my understanding of the economic impact of courtroom and regulatory agency decisions.

I am active in professional and civic organizations. I serve on the Bench and Bar Committee for the Wake County Bar Association and Tenth Judicial District Bar. I also serve two governance support committees for Corral, a faith-motivated nonprofit equipping adolescent girls in high-risk situations through holistic equine therapy and education.

With family spanning from Eastern to Western NC, my husband and I live in Holly Springs. We especially enjoy walking at Bass Lake Park, spending time with our four adult sons and their families, attending the Shepherd's Church, and caring for beloved pets.

Flood continued

I believe in an independent judiciary. I will be fair, honest, and impartial. I will unequivocally protect and defend citizens' US and NC Constitutional rights. I am honored to have the support of former and current jurists, colleagues, and students. Based on my excellent and unique qualifications, I humbly ask for NCADA's support and for each member's vote for Seat 8 on the North Carolina Court of Appeals. Becoming "Judge Julee" would be a profound professional honor—thank you.

Education: Ph.D., UTenn.; J.D., UNH/FPLC; M.P.A., UMaine; B.S., M.S., UFL
Campaign website: www.juleeflood.com

Carolyn Thompson

I am a former District Court judge and Superior Court judge with over 25 years of combined legal and judicial experience. As a seasoned trial attorney and former jurist, I understand the importance of upholding the constitution and applying the law to the facts of each case.



I believe I can make a difference in the service of equal justice as required by our laws and constitution. True justice is independent of party affiliation, divisive ideologies, and social differences. I have taken and believe in the oath to uphold our laws and constitution consistently. As the next Court of Appeals judge for all North Carolinians, I am committed to serving with integrity, fairness, and impartiality.

For over ten years, I prosecuted petitions of abuse, neglect, and nonsupport of children. My practice has always included representing victims of domestic violence and their children. In my role as a District Court judge, I successfully advocated changing our court dockets so that domestic violence cases could be heard separate from the general civil court. This change gave families more time to resolve their issues without unnecessary delays.

I am a state-certified mediator for Superior Court cases and cases involving complex family financial disputes. As a part of giving back to the community, I also serve as a volunteer Teen Court Judge and youth mentor to help first-time youth offenders accept responsibility for their conduct and learn about the court system.

I am fortunate to be the daughter of parents who taught me the importance of earning my way in this world through hard work and educational accomplishments. My family's legacy of tenacity in the face of obstacles has been the foundation of my faith and belief that all things are possible.

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Candidates for Court of Appeals

Seat 8 Continued

Thompson continued

I stand on the shoulders of generations who paved the way for my academic career at Hampton University, where I earned a Bachelor of Arts Degree and my Juris Doctor Degree from North Carolina Central University School of Law. Their servant leadership testament instilled in me at an early age that "to whom much is given, much is required." I honor their sacrifices with a dedication to serve others and earn leaders.

I am a member of numerous community-focused organizations, including but not limited to: Families Living Violence Free, Inc., Call to Peace Ministries, Inc., Rotary Club of Oxford, and Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, Inc. In 2016, I authored and published *Abigails Veil*, educating the faith-based community about domestic violence.

My husband and I have a blended family of 5 adult children and 4 beautiful grandchildren.

Seat 9

Donna Stroud (incumbent)

I was first elected to the Court of Appeals in 2006 and re-elected without opposition in 2014, thanks to widespread, bipartisan support across the state. I have over 15 years of experience on the Court of Appeals and have served as Chief Judge since January 2021. I have written over 1200 opinions and have participated in over 3600 cases while on the Court. My goal in each case is to consider it fully and fairly, to apply the law exactly as written, and to uphold the Constitution.



My years of appellate judicial experience are more important than ever in this particular election. Many experienced judges have left the Court in recent years, and all but 3 of the 15 judges now on the Court are in their first term; five have served just over a year. And the Court will also lose at least one other experienced judge in this election since two of those judges are running for the Supreme Court; one will win that race. Experienced leadership is crucial for the Court at this time, as we work to improve internal court processes to adapt to changes in the ways our judges and staff work following the Covid-19 pandemic and as we work to improve electronic filing and document management processes both internally and for the public.

Stroud continued

I have been working to improve the Court of Appeals as well as our entire judicial system for many years. For example, I serve as Chair of the Chief Justice's Rules Advisory Commission, and I serve on the Chief Justice's Commission on Professionalism, the Family Court Advisory Commission, the Courts Commission, and the NCBA Appellate Rules Committee.

I was born and raised in Kinston, North Carolina. I practiced law from 1988 until 2004, representing individuals, businesses, and towns in many types of cases, civil and criminal, in many different counties and courts and served as a District Court judge in Wake County from 2004 to 2006. I have also been an adjunct law professor since 2008, teaching Judicial Process at Campbell Law School. This breadth and variety of experience is important for the Court of Appeals because we hear cases of all types appealed from trial courts and administrative agencies across the entire State of North Carolina.

I am thankful every day to have the opportunity to serve. I hope to continue my work both in deciding cases and improving our courts. Thank you for your consideration.

Education: LLM, Judicial Studies, Duke University Law School; J.D., Campbell University Law School (magna cum laude); B.A., Campbell University (summa cum laude); Kinston High School (Kinston, NC)

Legal/Judicial Experience:

- Judge, Court of Appeals, 2006–present
- Adjunct Professor, Campbell Law School, 2008–present
- District Court Judge, Wake County, 2004–2006
- Attorney, Gay, Stroud & Jackson, Zebulon, NC 1995–2004
- Attorney, Kirk, Gay, Kirk, Gwynn & Howell, Wendell, NC 1988–1995

Certified Superior Court Mediator and Court of Appeals mediator

Brad Salmon

I am honored to be running for the North Carolina Court of Appeals. If elected, I would bring a diverse set of skills and experiences to the position that are the foundation of my core beliefs about the rule of law and the primacy of fair and impartial justice.



I was raised on a multi-generational family farm in rural Harnett County. There amongst family, friends, and neighbors, I learned the values of hard work, strategic thinking and the greater good of service.

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Seat 9 Continued

Salmon continued

After graduating from Campbell Law School, I returned home to begin a small-town law practice with my sister-in-law, Elisa Salmon. In our firm, we took great pride in helping real people solve their legal problems. Our practice was primarily criminal defense, but also included other civil and administrative areas of law. I was very proud to represent clients able to fully pay for their defense as well as indigent criminal clients. Further, it was an honor to be one of two defense attorneys appointed to our District 11 A Veterans Treatment Court. The zealous advocacy of the rights of the accused are among the most important tenants of our free society.

In 2014, I was elected to represent Lee and Harnett Counties in the North Carolina General Assembly. This legislative experience provided invaluable understanding of the complexities of the law-making process. I believe this enhanced insight will be helpful in giving me perspective when statutory interpretation is required.

Since becoming a District Court Judge and by presiding over criminal and civil trial courts in District 11, I have gained practical and broad understanding of the intersection of laws made and the lives they impact. On the bench, I work to fairly apply the law to the facts of a specific matter and render an impartial decision.

Should I be able to serve on the Court of Appeals, I will bring the experiences of being a law maker, a lawyer, and a judge to the bench. A rare perspective that will help me be an effective appellate court judge and serve the citizens of North Carolina

Seat 10

John Tyson (incumbent)

Judge John M. Tyson was elected statewide in 2014 and presently serves on the North Carolina Court of Appeals and as the elected Vice Chair of the North Carolina Dispute Resolution Commission. Previously, he was appointed by the Governor as Chairman of the North Carolina State Ethics Commission. He also served as a statewide elected Judge on the North Carolina Court of Appeals from 2001 until 2009 and as a Recall Judge from 2009 to 2014.



Judge Tyson is certified as a North Carolina State Bar Board-Certified Specialist--Real Property Law--Business, Commercial, and Industrial Transactions since 2001 and is the only North Carolina judge so certified. He holds the highest AV *pre-eminent* peer-reviewed professional rating from Martindale Hubbell--Lexis/Nexis. He was nominated and selected as a North Carolina "Leader in the Law."

An advocate of life-long learning, Judge Tyson earned a Master of Laws in Judicial Process (LL.M.) from the University of Virginia School of Law (2004);

Tyson continued

a Master of Business Administration (M.B.A.) from Duke University, Fuqua School of Business (1988); a Juris Doctor (J.D.) with honors from Campbell University School of Law (1979--Member of the Charter Class); and a Bachelor of Arts (B.A.) from the University of North Carolina at Wilmington (1974).

Judge Tyson has been teaching as an Adjunct Professor of Law at Campbell University's Norman Adrian Wiggins School of Law since 1987 and at Elon University School of Law. Judge Tyson is a member of both the North Carolina and Virginia State Bars, a Certified Mediator and Arbitrator, is a past Commissioner of the North Carolina Property Tax Commission, and past elected Chairman of both the Cumberland County Joint Planning Board and the Cumberland Soil and Water Conservation District.

Judge Tyson's more than forty years of professional experience includes service as a public-school teacher, probation/parole officer, sheriff's deputy, state military service, the private practice of law, and senior level corporate real estate development and counsel positions with three national corporations. Judge Tyson is also a frequent continuing legal education author and presenter.

His judicial philosophy is consistent with the mission & goals of North Carolina's Judicial Branch, which requires Judges: "To protect and preserve the rights and liberties of all the people, as guaranteed by the Constitutions and laws of the United States and North Carolina, by providing a fair, independent and accessible forum for the just, timely and economical resolution of their legal affairs." The Constitution "says what it means and means what it says." Fairness and Impartiality is expected of all Judges. Thank you for your vote and support on November 8th. Please see: www.judgejohntyson.com

Gale Adams

Raised in the tobacco fields of Warren County by a single mother of four, I learned, at an early age, the importance of hard work. I watched my mother struggle to provide for her children while instilling in us the importance of having faith, staying focused, and finishing what you start.



I attended the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill where I double majored in English and Economics before attending North Carolina Central University School of Law. Upon graduating from law school, I joined the United States Navy as a Judge Advocate General (JAG) where I represented defendants who were charged with various criminal and military offenses or who were being administratively processed out of the military. I also provided legal advice to servicemembers on various matters involving contracts, family law, and real estate. To assist family members who remained behind, I prepared numerous powers of attorney and wills for service members getting underway on lengthy deployments.

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Adams continued

After my military service to my country, I served as an Assistant District Attorney, prosecuting violent and property crimes, drug offenses, and child abuse. As a prosecutor, I understood the importance of balancing and protecting the rights of victims and the rights of defendants.

I subsequently joined the Office of the Federal Public Defender where I traveled extensively across eastern North Carolina representing defendants charged with various offenses, to include financial crimes, drug offenses, and violent felonies. My experience in federal court reinforced the importance of thorough preparation, time management, and tenacity.

In 2012, I was elected to serve as a Resident Superior Court Judge for Cumberland County where I preside over civil and criminal hearings and jury trials. As a judge, I fully recognize the tremendous impact my decisions have on the lives of everyday people. I understand those who appear before me are counting on me to follow the law, to listen and be fair, and to treat them with dignity and respect; they deserve no less. Whether they won or lost, when plaintiffs, defendants, victims, or attorneys leave my courtroom, I want them to feel like they were heard and that my decisions were fair.

I am running for the North Carolina Court of Appeals to promote independence and balance in our courts. My humble background and my diverse legal experience balance my perspective and fully equip me to consider matters from various viewpoints before making a just decision. Further, I am committed to fortifying an independent and impartial judiciary that fulfills our paramount responsibility to protect the rights of all of the citizens of North Carolina.

I am active in the community and in my church where I work with the youth and teach Sunday school. My husband and I have also served many years as licensed foster parents.

Married 36 years, my husband, Attorney Glenn Adams, and I are the proud parents of four children.

Seat 11

Darren Jackson (incumbent)

I am a lifelong resident of Wake County, father of three, and a grandfather. My wife is an Adult Nurse Practitioner and we live outside of Knightdale with our Valley Bulldog, Caroline.



I attended public schools in Wake County and UNC-Chapel Hill where I earned a BA in 1993. I earned my J.D. from Duke University in 1996.

After graduating, I practiced law with the firm of Gay, Stroud & Jackson (later renamed Gay, Jackson & McNally) in Zebulon, North Carolina. There, I had a small-town general practice with an emphasis in civil litigation.

Jackson continued

In 25 years of practice, I litigated both criminal and civil cases in all levels of the state courts, from Small Claims Court to the NC Supreme Court, as well as U.S. District and Bankruptcy Courts as well as working on appeals to the Fourth Circuit Court of Appeals. I believe I am the only candidate in my race with any meaningful appellate experience.

Since being appointed to the Court of Appeals in December of 2020, I have written 90+ opinions, including 11 dissents, and voted in hundreds more. While in private practice, I once won a case in front on the NC Supreme Court that only got there because of a dissent. I have not forgotten that and on the occasion where I disagree with my colleagues on a panel, I always take the time to dissent. I also take pride in meeting the Court's 90 day internal deadline, because I am mindful that while a case may be but one of dozens of matters on my desk, that case is normally one of the most important things going on in the lives of the parties.

I have also been active in many professional organizations, including the NC Bar Association, the Wake County Bar Association (served on the Grievance, Bar Interview, and Fee dispute committees), and the 10th Judicial District Bar. I served on the NC Sentencing Commission (appointed by Speakers Tillis and Moore) and the NC Courts Commission (appointed by Governors McCrory and Cooper).

I have been involved in my community serving on a number of civic boards and committees, including as a mentor in the Communities in Schools program, long time member of the East Wake Education Foundation in Wendell, as a Board Member on the Wake County Community Foundation, a member of the UNC-CH Board of Visitors, and as a youth sports coach for over 30 youth sports teams in the local area. In 2018, I was awarded the Knightdale Mayor's Award of Excellence for Civic Contributions.

Serving on the Court of Appeals has been a great honor. I would be very grateful for the support of the members of the NCADA. I believe that my record as a judge demonstrates that I am committed to being a fair and impartial jurist that writes decisions that are timely, clear, easy to follow and based upon the law as written by the legislature.

Michael Stading

Michael is a native and lifelong resident of North Carolina. He is the son of a North Carolina public school teacher and construction engineer. He graduated from Independence High School where he was captain of the wrestling team and began dating his wife Jennie. Michael completed undergraduate studies in business at the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill and law school at Campbell University. After earning his law degree, Michael and Jennie returned to their hometown where they raise their three children. In his spare time, Michael enjoys spending time with his family, CrossFit, running, and coaching baseball.



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Seat 11 Continued

Stading continued

Michael is an active member of the community where he served as pro bono legal counsel to the Mint Hill Athletic Association and Judge Advocate for American Legion Post #555. He is also a member of Mint Hill Kiwanis, Mint Hill Historical Society, Mecklenburg Chapter of Sons of the American Revolution, Charlotte Chapter of the Federalist Society, and a Worship Coordinator at Christ Covenant Church.

Since his admission to the North Carolina State Bar in 2006, Michael has practiced civil law and a substantial amount of criminal law. In addition to the North Carolina State Bar, he has been admitted to practice in the District of Columbia, the Western District of North Carolina Federal Court, as well as the Supreme Court of the United States. Michael has an exceptionally broad base of legal experience not simply limited to one side of the courtroom. He served as an assistant district attorney in Mecklenburg County for more than five years where he worked diligently in pursuit of preserving the safety of the community. He was counsel in numerous bench trials and jury trials. In 2012, Michael successfully completed the requirements of the North Carolina State Bar to become a Board Certified Specialist in North Carolina Criminal Law. This accomplishment requires a high level of competence in criminal litigation, substantial involvement in criminal trials conducted to verdict, representation as principal counsel in serious felonies, many appearances in substantive criminal proceedings, and a spotless track record of professional conduct backed by judicial and peer references. In 2018, he successfully completed the requirements of specialist recertification. In 2019, Michael was sworn in as a Special Assistant United States Attorney to handle cases originating out of Shaw Air Force Base.

Until his investiture as a district court judge in January of 2019, Michael operated his own law practice where he zealously and effectively represented thousands of clients. As a part of his law practice, it has been Michael's privilege to serve as one of a few select attorneys for the Fraternal Order of Police at Lodge #9 where he provided necessary legal services to law enforcement officers. In his current role as a judge, Michael continues to contribute to the betterment of the court system and legal profession by serving as a Truancy Court judge, Drug STEP Court judge, lead domestic violence judge and member of the Mecklenburg County Bar Professionalism Committee. He regularly presides over criminal, civil, and domestic cases. Moreover, he has the distinct honor to litigate while wearing the uniform of the United States Air Force as a Captain for the Judge Advocate General's Corp. In 2016, he took the oath to commission as an officer in the United States Air Force. Thereafter, Michael graduated from Officer Training School, Judge Advocate General's School, and Squadron Officer School (Distinguished Graduate). His station of duty is the legal office at the 20th Fighter Wing, Shaw Air Force Base. As a reservist, he will continue to have the opportunity to serve the higher calling of our nation throughout the year.

**Michael J. Stading is a reservist for the United States Air Force. Use of his military rank, job titles, and photographs in uniform does not imply endorsement by the Department of the Air Force or the Department of Defense.*

2022 Judicial Candidates' Forum

Wilmington Convention Center

June 17, 2022

11:00 a.m.—12:30 p.m.

NCADA's 12th biennial Judicial Candidates' Forum will be held in conjunction with the 2022 Annual Meeting. The Forum will feature judicial candidates in statewide elections for seats on the North Carolina Supreme Court and the North Carolina Court of Appeals.

The Judicial Candidates' Forum provides members of the bar, the business community and the public an opportunity to learn about the candidates who wish to serve the state at the appellate court level. Each candidate will have the opportunity to briefly discuss his or her qualifications for the position and answer brief questions regarding areas of concern for businesses, civil defense attorneys and their clients.

The NCADA brings together civil trial attorneys to promote the exchange of information, ideas, and litigation techniques, and to strengthen the practice, improve the skills, and enhance the knowledge of lawyers defending individuals and businesses in North Carolina.