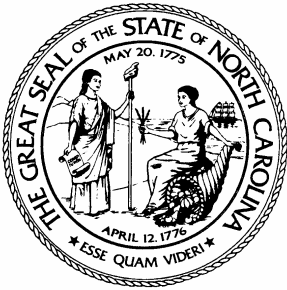


Unified Family Courts of North Carolina

Family Court Counties

Anson	Buncombe
Burke	Caldwell
Catawba	Cumberland
Durham	Greene
Halifax	Lenoir
Mecklenburg	Montgomery
Moore	New Hanover
Pender	Pitt
Randolph	Richmond
Stanly	Union
Wake	Wayne



OUR MISSION

To help resolve cases involving children and families through combined efforts of the family, the Court, and community services.

To approach each case in a way that is not overly adversarial or intrusive but always in a just, timely and efficient manner.

To be courteous, safe, and accessible and to provide quality service to those in need.

DISTRICT 8 FAMILY COURT WAYNE, LENOIR AND GREENE COUNTIES THE NEW YEAR: LOOK BACK, LOOK FORWARD

District 8 Family Court, serving Wayne, Lenoir and Greene Counties was one of the two new Family Court sites established in 2001. The original three pilot sites were established in 1998.

The major goal of Family Court is to coordinate all the case management and service agency efforts for a single family in distress. District 8 Family Court offers many services to address the needs of the family. Some of these include Custody Mediation, Parent Education, Family Financial Mediation and Child Planning Conferences.

Family Drug Treatment Court (FDTCC)

District 8 offers another option through FDTCC, which is available in Wayne and Lenoir Counties. This is a judicially supervised treatment program designed to address the substance issues of parents and guardians in child protection cases. Wayne County currently has sixteen active participants and four new referrals. Lenoir County is serving nine active participants with two new referrals.

Every Child Deserves a Christmas

The Family Court Office, Guardian ad Litem Office and the Department of Social Services for District 8 have joined forces for the past nine years for the "Every Child Deserves a Christmas" campaign. New toys and clothing are collected and provided to abused, neglected and dependent children who live in relative placements. One of the courtrooms actually becomes a "Santa Workshop" with all of the items while they are sorted and bagged for each child. Donations come from professionals, schools, churches and many individuals to make this campaign a huge success.

Staff Changes

Judge Joseph E. Setzer, Jr. retired effective December 31, 2008 after twenty-eight years of service. Judge Setzer became Chief District Court Judge in 2000 and was instrumental in developing Truancy Court, Teen Court and Family Drug Treatment Court.

Judge David B. Brantley was appointed the Chief District Court Judge, effective January 1, 2009. Judge Brantley began practicing law in 1977. Since then, he was Clerk of Court for twelve years and for the last twelve years has been serving on the bench. Judge Brantley has been with Family Court since 2001 and demonstrates efforts to protect and preserve the rights of family members through the court process.

Judge Charlie P. Gaylor III was sworn in on January 5, 2009 as a newly elected District Court Judge. Judge Gaylor is currently presiding over criminal court but will join Family Court at some point in the future.

Jamie L. Ballance joined the Family Drug Treatment Court as Coordinator on December 15, 2008. Her main office will be in Lenoir County, but she will be in Wayne County for a couple of days per week.

Statistics

Juvenile petitions filed in 2008

238 Abuse/Neglect/Dependency;
79 Termination of Parental Rights
Domestic (July-December 2008)
758 domestic relations cases filed;
Dispensed/filed rate was **104.4%**;
Pending median age was **61.0 days**
Laura.H.Smith@nccourts.org

**FAMILY COURT NEWS FLASHES**

Anson/Richmond/Stanley-Judicial District 20A: Chief District Court Judge Tanya T. Wallace and District Court Judge Kevin M. Bridges both won seats on the Superior Court bench and took office January 1, 2009. They will both be missed as they have been a part of Family Court since March 1999. Family Court is pleased to announce that effective January 1, 2009, the new Chief District Court Judge is Lisa B. Thacker. And lastly, Family Court welcomes Amanda "Amy" Wilson, as a new District Court Judge. Tennelle.W.Hann@nccourts.org

Buncombe-Judicial District 28: Bob Christy, who was the Clerk of Court for the past 18 years, and Superior Court Judge Ronald Payne both retired on December 31, 2008. Steven Cogburn is the new Clerk of Court as of January 2, 2009. Family Court welcomes a new Family and Juvenile Case Coordinator, Ellen Sprague. She came back home to Western North Carolina after almost five years in Raleigh with the N C Department of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention. Family Drug Treatment Court had two graduates in December and now has 23 participants. The Juvenile Courtroom is the recipient of a new, portable computerized sound system that allows the LLE-LINK telephone interpreting service to be utilized. Ellen.G.Rose@nccourts.org

Cumberland-Judicial District 12: The Honorable Cheri Beasley was sworn into office on January 5, 2009 as an Associate Judge for the Court of Appeals. She is the first African-American female to be elected to this seat without previously being appointed by the governor. She has worked all sides of the courtroom. A former public defender in Cumberland County, she also worked briefly in the Wake County District Attorney's office. She was appointed to her seat as District Court Judge in Cumberland County in 1999, where she served her community for eight years. Congratulations to Judge Beasley. She will be missed by the Family Court Staff. Mia.M.LaMotte@nccourts.org

Halifax-Judicial District 6A: Family Court welcomes newly elected District Court Judge Teresa Robinson Freeman. Judge Freeman was elected in the November election and sworn in on January 1, 2009. Prior to her election to the bench, Judge Freeman served as an Assistant District Attorney in Halifax County for five years and prior to that was in private practice. Though Judge Freeman will not be assigned to Family Court immediately, she will preside over pro se divorces, domestic violence and IV-D child support court as well as criminal court. Also, Judge Freeman has filled in for other judges in the Truancy Diversion Project in the past. Susan.W.Horrell@nccourts.org

Mecklenburg-Judicial District 26: On November 21, 2008 the Mecklenburg County Model Court Advisory Committee, in conjunction with the Mecklenburg County Family Court Administrator's Office, held the 1st Annual Mecklenburg County Abuse, Neglect and Dependency Conference, titled "Juvenile Court Collaboration: Promoting Teamwork, Excellence, and Service". A total of seventy-six people attended the free conference and CLE Credit for members of the NC State Bar was offered. The purpose was to promote collaboration and best practice efforts in Juvenile Court. The 2009 Conference will be even better! Elisa.A.Chinn-Gary@nccourts.org

Montgomery/Moore/Randolph-Judicial District 19B: After twenty eight years on the bench, Judge Bill Neely retired on December 31, 2008. As Chief District Court Judge for Judicial District 19B, Judge Neely was instrumental in developing Drug Treatment Court, Truancy Court and Family Court locally. He strongly believes that these programs benefit both the public and the members of the bar. In honor of his service, Courtroom 1A has been dedicated as the William Marcus Neely Courtroom. The staff welcomes newly elected Judge Rob Wilkins to the bench and looks forward to working with him in Family Court. Nancy.M.Butler@nccourts.org

Union-Judicial District 20B: 2008 was a very busy year for Family Court. Judges and staff worked hard to reduce the average age of domestic cases; closed old cases; hosted four CLE sessions and a Local Cable TV program; interviewed and aired interviews with all of the contested Court of Appeals and Supreme Court candidates; and appeared regularly on local radio station and in the local newspaper. During the annual Holiday Open House at the end of the year, over 125 guests attended and brought donations of boxes of food and Toys for Tots. The last community project for the year was a Red Cross Blood Drive with a donation of 36 pints. Martha.S.Hall@nccourts.org

Wake-Judicial District 10: Wake County Family Court welcomes the Honorable Anna Worley as its newest domestic court judge. Additionally, Family Court is delighted to announce that with the addition of five new staff members in 2008, Family Court is now fully staffed. They are looking forward to continued improvements and success in 2009. Melissa.C.LeVine@nccourts.org

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