

The Judicial Endorsement Committee (JEC) of the North Carolina Association of Women Attorneys has made the following endorsements for the 2012 general election:

Supreme Court Associate Justice: Sam J. Ervin IV (Newby Seat)

Court of Appeals Judge: Linda McGee (McGee Seat)

Court of Appeals Judge: Wanda Bryant (Bryant Seat)

Court of Appeals Judge: Cressie Thigpen (Thigpen Seat)

Superior Court Judge District 10E: Bryan Collins

Superior Court Judge District 14A: Orlando F. Hudson, Jr.

Superior Court Judge District 18E: Susan E. Bray

District Court Judge District 03A: Faris Dixon (Vincent Seat)

District Court Judge District 05: Robin Wicks Robinson (Robinson Seat)

District Court Judge District 06B: Vershenia Ballance Moody (Newbern Seat)

District Court Judge District 10: Monica M. Bousman (Bousman Seat)

District Court Judge District 10: Lori G. Christian (Christian Seat)

District Court Judge District 10: Erin Mulligan Graber (Gray Seat)

District Court Judge District 10: Robert B. Rader (Rader Seat)

District Court Judge District 10: Christine M. Walczyk (Walczyk Seat)

District Court Judge District 10: Anna Elena Worley (Worley Seat)

District Court Judge District 11: Charles P. Bullock (Bullock Seat)

District Court Judge District 12: Stephen C. Stokes (Dickson Seat)

District Court Judge District 18: Susan R. Burch (Burch Seat)

District Court Judge District 18: Bill Davis (Crump Seat)

District Court Judge District 18: Jan H. Samet (Samet Seat)

District Court Judge District 18: Polly D. Sizemore (Sizemore Seat)

District Court Judge District 20A: Lisa Blue Thacker (Thacker Seat)

District Court Judge District 20D: Tripp Helms (Helms Seat)

District Court Judge District 21: David Sipprell (Davis Seat)

District Court Judge District 26: Jena Culler (Culler Seat)

District Court Judge District 26: Ty Hands (Hands Seat)

District Court Judge District 26: Donnie Hoover (Hoover Seat)

District Court Judge District 26: Kary Church Watson (Totten Seat)

District Court Judge District 27B: Meredith Amanda Shuford (Shuford Seat)

Meanwhile, please spread the word and get involved!

How can NCAWA members help?

The Judicial Endorsement Committee Board strongly encourages NCAWA members to get involved with judicial campaigns. The general public often is not informed about judicial candidates and thus people fail to vote or are uninformed when they do vote. Your advice can aid them and help ensure that good judges are elected.

Individual lawyers can make a personal commitment to help by:

(a) **Sending emails** or letters to friends, family members, clients and co-workers telling them about candidates and encouraging them to vote. Be sure to tell them that all judges run in *non-partisan* races, so simply voting straight ticket will not log a vote in these races. Each JEC board member puts in lots of hours in researching candidates. The payoff comes when NCAWA members spread the word!

(b) **Contributing** financially to the candidates directly and to the JEC to support our endorsed trial court candidates in contested races;

(c) **Posting signs** in your yard or neighborhood;

(d) **Volunteering** to work at the polls or otherwise for a candidate or candidates; and

(e) **Writing a letter** to the editor to your local paper.

Although the JEC sends press releases with our endorsements, these often get minimal coverage. A letter to the editor from a local resident is much more effective. When writing, a NCAWA member may say that he or she is a member of the Judicial Endorsement Committee for the NCAWA (every NCAWA member who does not opt out of membership is also a member of the JEC) and that he or she is supporting the candidates endorsed by the JEC. We have received feedback from around the state that the endorsement of our group is meaningful to many in the general public.

Please let JEC Chair Sheila Lambert (sheilamlambert@gmail.com) know if your letter appears in your local paper and when. A copy of the letter would be great!

How does the JEC decide?

The JEC board follows set criteria and procedures in making endorsements. The committee endorses a candidate for judicial office based on the following criteria: (1) the candidate's legal skill and ability; (2) the candidate's experience as a professional and in the community; (3) the candidate's temperament and demeanor for a judicial position; and (4) the candidate's support for women in the legal profession, the rights of women under the law and other positions of the organization.

The board evaluates each candidate for a race and conducts a thorough investigation. The investigation specifically includes interviewing members of the bench and bar about the candidates, both those that the candidate has listed as references and others in the relevant community. The procedure is thorough and the committee takes its obligation to investigate seriously.

Thanks!

Submitted by:

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Chair, NCAWA Judicial Endorsement Committee

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The North Carolina Association of Women Attorneys Judicial Endorsement Committee is a registered political action committee that makes non-partisan endorsements in judicial races only. The JEC board is elected separately from the NCAWA board.