



*State of North Carolina General Court of Justice*  
*26<sup>th</sup> Judicial District*

JESSICA DAVIS  
PUBLIC INFORMATION OFFICER  
TELEPHONE: (704) 686-0269  
FAX NUMBER: (704) 686-0340  
E-MAIL: [Jessica.C.Davis@nccourts.org](mailto:Jessica.C.Davis@nccourts.org)

**TRIAL COURT ADMINISTRATOR'S OFFICE**  
**COMMUNITY ACCESS & OUTREACH**  
**DIVISION**

832 E. FOURTH STREET, SUITE 4420  
CHARLOTTE, NC 28202

ROBERT BELL  
SENIOR RESIDENT SUPERIOR COURT JUDGE  
  
REGAN MILLER  
CHIEF DISTRICT COURT JUDGE  
  
CHARLESTON CARTER  
TRIAL COURT ADMINISTRATOR

February 4, 2020

Dear Mr. Oschner,

Thank you for request. It is my understanding that you have sent at least two requests to Judge Blake in the past 2 weeks. In the future, please direct all information, records, and interview requests regarding our judges and Trial Court Administrator's staff directly to me.

I am writing to respond to your message, date stamped on Thursday, January 30, 2020 at 10:58PM regarding a story that you plan to run on Thursday, February 6, 2020. To give context to the items you plan to cover in your story, please note the following:

In the 26<sup>th</sup> Judicial District, Mecklenburg County, we have seven District Court Judges that handle Family Court/Domestic cases. If there is a child involved in the case, under the age of 18, the case will remain open. In FY 18-19, in the state of North Carolina there were a total of 97,640 domestic Family Court cases filed. Mecklenburg County had a total of 11,423 of those cases. You can review the data for yourself here: <https://www.nccourts.gov/documents/publications/district-domestic-aging-analysis-report> . We are still in the current fiscal year (FY 19-20) so data from July 2019 to the present is not available.

The caseload for each of our Family Court Judges is large, and while the numbers above may give you an indication of that load, they do not capture all of the actions that can occur in a case. One case can contain six different causes of action including: separation, divorce, custody, child support, alimony and equitable distribution. There may also be motions filed for modification or contempt. It is not uncommon for attorneys to file Writs to compel the entering of orders; however, it should be noted that the filing of these motions does allow for the billing of additional fees to the attorney's client.

Family-related cases are often highly emotional regardless of the outcome because they involve children and vital relationships. Our Family Court Judges are experienced in the handling of these cases. For more information and an overview of our Family Court, please visit: <https://www.nccourts.gov/courts/family-court> .

Regarding attendance, a Judge's work extends beyond the courthouse walls. In addition to their court dockets and schedules, they are often chairing committees related to their area of judicial oversight, attending or facilitating at conferences and workshops, or (as relevant to our Juvenile Court judges) holding court at off-site facilities. Badge swipes into and out of the building are not a reliable source of "tracking" an employee's hours.

You noted that in the review of information provided to you there were a minimal number of days that Judge Blake spent eight or more hours in the courthouse between October 1, 2019 and January 23, 2020. What your review did not take into consideration is the fact that during that timeframe, the courthouse was open for 74 days. Judge Blake was only scheduled to be at the courthouse for 47 of those 74 days. Of the total 47 days, Judge Blake was scheduled to be present in this building, she was present for six hours or more on 40 instances.

At this time, Judge Blake has not agreed to your request for an on-camera interview and has no comment. Please do not hesitate to contact me if you have any additional questions.

Sincerely,

Jessica Davis  
Public Information Officer  
Trial Court Administrator's Office- 26<sup>th</sup> Judicial District