

Chief Justice Paul Newby Appoints Chief District Court Judge in District 36



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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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RALEIGH — [Chief Justice Paul Newby](#) announced the following appointment effective December 19, 2024:

Judge Robert A. Mullinax, Jr. has been appointed to serve as chief district court judge for Burke, Caldwell, and Catawba counties (Judicial District 36). He was appointed to the court in 2009 by former Governor Bev Perdue and first elected in 2010. Judge Mullinax received his undergraduate degree from Wake Forest University and law degree from Wake Forest University School of Law. Judge Mullinax will replace [former Chief District Court Judge Sherri Elliott](#), who was appointed as a superior court judge by Governor Roy Cooper.

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About North Carolina Judicial Branch

The [North Carolina Judicial Branch](#) is an equal and distinctively separate branch and core function of government. More than 7,400 Judicial Branch employees statewide administer justice in courthouses in North Carolina's 100 counties. The [Judicial Branch budget for FY 2022–23](#) was \$712.8M, 87% of which is used to pay salaries and 11.5% is used for operations. The Judicial Branch receives 2.64% of the overall State budget.

About North Carolina Administrative Office of the Courts

The North Carolina Administrative Office of the Courts (NCAOC) is the administrative agency for the [North Carolina Judicial Branch](#), providing administrative services to help the North Carolina court system operate more efficiently and effectively, taking into account each courthouse's diverse needs, caseloads, and available resources.

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