

NC Conference of Clerks of Superior Court Installs 2025–26 Leadership at Summer Educational Conference



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New leadership and conference logo designs were unveiled in Beaufort.

BEAUFORT, NC — The NC Conference of Clerks of Superior Court recently held its 2025 Summer Educational Conference in Carteret County at the Beaufort Hotel, where more than 130 clerks and guests gathered for professional development, networking, and the installation of new leadership.

At the evening banquet, North Carolina Supreme Court Chief Justice Paul Newby administered the oath of office to the 2025-2026 executive officers. The installation of the new president, the Honorable **Jess Hill**, Clerk of Superior Court for Columbus County, was conducted by Judicial District 13A Senior Resident Superior Court Judge C. Ashley Gore. North Carolina Judicial Branch Director Ryan Boyce also provided welcome remarks.



Clerk Hill, who has served as clerk of superior court since 2014, was officially installed as president on August 21, 2025. He has been actively involved in the Conference, including serving as legislative chair for the past two years, and is known for his strong community engagement. From organizing the Columbus County Fair to supporting his four children's

activities, Clerk Hill is a familiar presence both locally and in Raleigh. As president, he looks forward to strengthening legislative partnerships and continuing to advance the statewide eCourts transition to better serve court users. *[Pictured: Senior Resident Superior Court Judge Ashley Gore administers the oath as incoming President Jess Hill (Columbus) is sworn into office surrounded by his family and wife Jessica, holding the bible. Chief Justice Newby and wife, Macon, stand with them on stage.]*

Other officers sworn in alongside Clerk Hill include:

- The Honorable **Deborah "Susie" Thomas**, Lee County – First Vice President
- The Honorable **John Deaton**, Montgomery County – Second Vice President
- The Honorable **Dean Tolson**, Dare County – Secretary
- The Honorable **Ginger Efird**, Stanly County – Treasurer

"Our motto is to serve clerks, unify efforts, and improve justice," said Conference Executive Director Jamie Liles. "We are excited to begin a new year of leadership and build on the accomplishments of past presidents, many of whom joined us at the banquet in Beaufort." *[Pictured: the officers of the conference in their order of leadership from left to right starting with Treasurer (Efird -Stanly), Secretary (Tolson-Dare), 2nd VP (Deaton-Montgomery) and 1st VP (Thomas-Lee).]*



Clerk Hill has also appointed the 2025-2026 Executive Committee, which represents clerks from counties of varying sizes across the state. The Committee meets monthly to address issues related to the court system, county needs, and the role of the association. Members include:

- **Vickie Daniel**, Richmond County
- **Dana Hackney**, Chatham County
- **Charles Haynes**, Watauga County
- **Shelena Smith**, Robeson County
- **Katie Madon**, Brunswick County
- **Michelle Ball**, Johnston County
- **Jim Mixson**, Iredell County – Immediate Past President

In addition to officer installations, two awards were presented during the ceremony:



The "Boots on the Ground" Award was presented to the Honorable **Ginger Efird**, Stanly County Clerk of Superior Court, for her perseverance and leadership as chair of the Public Relations Committee. Partnering with the NCAOC Communications Office and graphic designer Nicole Welsh, Efird led the creation of two new logos for the Conference. Outgoing President James

L. Mixson III praised the designs, noting that "they perfectly represent the NCCCSC, capturing the spirit of our state from the mountains to the sea."

[Pictured: From left: Clerk Efird (Stanly) and Clerk Mixson (Iredell) with the Boots on the Ground Award.]

The President's Award was given to the Honorable **Deborah Barker**, Person County Clerk of Superior Court, in recognition of her selfless service, mentorship, and willingness to support colleagues and the work of the Conference. Outgoing President Mixson described her as "a gem to the conference." *[Pictured: Clerk Barker (Person) and Clerk Mixson (Iredell) sharing a hug after receiving the President's award.]*



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About the NC Conference of Clerks of Superior Court

The Conference of Clerks of Superior Court was created in 2006 by the N.C. General Assembly to improve the administration of justice in North Carolina. The Conference, consisting of the 100 elected clerks from across the state and supported by an executive director and administrative staff, works to improve public accessibility to the courts through the clerk of Superior Court, serve as a resource for the clerks in key areas of court administration, and to act as a liaison on behalf of all elected clerks of Superior Court to both governmental and non-governmental stakeholders.

About North Carolina Judicial Branch

The [North Carolina Judicial Branch](#) is an equal and distinctively separate branch and core function of government. The 7,600 Judicial Branch employees statewide administer justice in courthouses in North Carolina's 100 counties. The [Judicial Branch budget for FY 2023–24](#) was \$750.7M, 90.9% of which is used to pay salaries and 9.1% is used for operations. The Judicial Branch receives 2.53% 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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