



Chief Justice Cheri Beasley To Keynote Unity Banquet

The Honorable Cheri Beasley, Chief Justice of the North Carolina Supreme Court, has agreed to be the keynote speaker for this year's Unity Banquet in New Hanover County. New Hanover County Chair Richard Poole said "This is an unusual opportunity to celebrate historic progress in our state by a hard working judge and a Democratic Governor." When Governor Roy Cooper elevated Justice Beasley to the post of Chief Justice of the Supreme Court on February 21st, he made her the first African American woman to hold that post in the two-century-long history of the highest court in the state.

Governor Cooper said at the time of Chief Justice Beasley's appointment, "Justice Beasley is a well-respected jurist, and I know her to be fair and deeply committed to viewing all North Carolinians equally through the eyes of the law." In addition to serving as a Supreme Court Justice, Beasley now also oversees the Administrative Office of Courts, which has 7,000 employees.

Chief Justice Beasley's appointment is the high point of a distinguished career. She began her twenty-year judicial career as a District Court Judge in Cumberland County, North Carolina in 1999. Prior to her appointment to the bench, she practiced law in the Twelfth Judicial District's Public Defender's Office where she tried cases ranging from misdemeanors to capital murder. Her service as a public defender sets her apart from most appellate judges in North Carolina, and will add a valuable perspective to the high court.

In 2008 she was elected to the North Carolina Court of Appeals, becoming the first African American woman elected to statewide office without first being appointed to the office. According to the *Daily Tar Heel*, Jim Drennan, an adjunct professor in the UNC School of Government, said Beasley's experience gives her an excellent perspective on the legal issues she is called upon to oversee. "She's seen all those social problems that the District Court has to deal with — child abuse, juvenile delinquency, mental illness, substance abuse — all those things are issues that district courts have to deal with on a regular basis," Drennan said.

Because Governor Cooper appointed Chief Justice Beasley in the middle of a term to replace a retiring Justice, she will have to run to retain her seat in 2020. "I'm ready to lead," Beasley said. "I'm excited about leading, and I'm looking forward to continued service to the people of the state of North Carolina."

[To Sponsor the Unity Banquet and meet Chief Justice Beasley at a VIP Reception, click here.](#)

[To buy an Early Bird Ticket to the Unity Banquet for \\$75, click here.](#)

If you have any announcements, comments, questions or concerns regarding this email series, [please contact the Editor here.](#)

{{Disclaimer}}

Mailing Address:
NHCDP
PO Box 3036
Wilmington, NC 28406

Office Address:
5041 New Centre Drive
Wilmington, NC 28403

{{ForwardToAFriendLink}}

{{UnsubscribeLink}}