



NCRPA

P.O. Box 4116

Pinehurst, NC 28374

Affiliated with:

The National Rifle Association

Civilian Marksmanship Program

North Carolina Rifle & Pistol Association surveys NC court candidates

You may not know their names or know what they do, but be assured they are vitally important to your freedoms. The Second Amendment and laws designed to protect the right to keep and bear arms are meaningless if they are not adequately enforced in our courts. To that end, your board sent a Questionnaire to each of the candidates for the North Carolina Supreme Court Justice, Associate Justice, and for the Court of Appeals. This is a partisan race, but your Board will not take a position regarding political party registration or their responses. We seek to educate our members so you can make an informed decision and vote with confidence in the November election. Below are the responses to the following Questionnaire.

- 1. Are you a member of the National Rifle Association?**
- 2. If so, why?**
- 3. If not, why not?**
- 4. Are you a member of the Federalist Society? (The Federalist Society for Law and Public Policy Studies is a forum for legal experts, founded in 1982 on the principles that the state exists to preserve freedom, that the separation of governmental powers is central to our Constitution, and that it is emphatically the province and duty of the judiciary to say what the law is, not what it should be.)**

Questionnaire Responses

NC Supreme Court Chief Justice Seat 01

Cheri Beasley (Dem)

<https://www.chiefjusticebeasley.com/>

No Response

NC Supreme Court Chief Justice Seat 01

Paul Newby (Rep)

<https://www.paulnewby.com>

Are you a member of the NRA? *Yes (as are my wife and daughter)*

If so, why? *I'm a NRA member because the NRA works to protect our right to bear arms. As our Framers understood, the right to bear arms is foundational to our other rights. Our rights come from God: life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness (property). Both our federal and NC constitutions protect these rights and also protect the right to bear arms. I appreciate the NRA's educational efforts, teaching about the history of gun ownership rights in America as well as gun safety.*

Are you a member of the Federalist Society? *Yes*

NC Supreme Court Associate Justice Seat 02

Lucy Inman (Dem)

<https://www.lucyinmanforjustice.com/>

Are you a member of the NRA? *No*

If not, why not? *Since becoming a judge, I have abstained from membership in organizations advocating for the protection and enforcement of legal rights, and in particular constitutional rights, because I believe it is necessary to maintain the appearance of impartiality to parties before the court, counsel, and the general public.*

Are you a member of the Federalist Society? *No. I have, however, attended Federalist Society programs over the past decade, in North Carolina and in Washington, DC.*

NC Supreme Court Associate Justice Seat 02

Philip Berger, Jr. (Rep)

<http://philbergerjr.org/landing/justice/>

Are you a member of the NRA? *I am not currently a member of the NRA. I was a member several years ago.*

If not, why not? *As a judge, I am bound by the Code of Judicial Conduct. In this capacity, I am to avoid even the appearance of impropriety. As such, I am not a member of any organization that advocates for a specific issue because a party to a lawsuit could move to disqualify me from hearing a case on the basis of that membership. I realize other judges have different views concerning mere membership. However, this personal policy allows me to do my work with limited scrutiny. For example, if I were currently a member of the NRA, a party could make a motion to disqualify me from hearing cases involving guns or the Second Amendment. My preference is to do my work and avoid these types of motions.*

Are you a member of the Federalist Society? *Yes*

NC Supreme Court Associate Justice Seat 04

Mark Davis (Dem)

<https://justicemarkdavis.com/>

No Response

NC Supreme Court Associate Justice Seat 04

Tamara Barringer (Rep)

<https://www.tamarabarringer.com/>

Are you a member of the NRA? *No*

Are you a member of the Federalist Society? *No*

While I am not a member of the NRA or the Federalist Society, my voting record as a Senator in the North Carolina General Assembly reflects my support of our Second Amendment Constitutional Rights, as evidenced by my earning an "A" rating with the NRA as a NC Senator.

NC Court of Appeals Judge Seat 04

Patricia Shields (Dem)

www.shieldsforjudge.com

No Response

NC Court of Appeals Judge Seat 04

April Wood (Rep)

<https://www.judgewoodforcoa.com/>

Are you a member of the NRA? *I am not a current member of the NRA.*

If not, why not? *As a judge, I believe that I should not belong to advocacy groups or groups that lobby about specific issues. I fully support the U.S. Constitution and all amendments thereto, including the Second Amendment right to bear arms. As the daughter of a U.S. Marine, I learned how to handle firearms and to shoot them at a young age. As a holder of a concealed weapons permit, I regularly carry a pistol for self-defense. Although I am not a member, I support the mission of the NRA and the NCRPA.*

Are you a member of the Federalist Society? *Yes*

NC Court of Appeals Judge Seat 05

Lora Cabbage (Dem)

<https://cabbageforjudge.com/>

Are you a member of the NRA? *No*

If not, why not? *No reason other than I have never owned a gun.*

Are you a member of the Federalist Society? *No*

NC Court of Appeals Judge Seat 05

Willie Frederick Gore (Rep)

<http://judgefredgore.com/>

Are you a member of the NRA? *I am a former member of the NRA.*

If not, why not? *Over time I have not renewed my membership. I am a member of the Army Reserve (28 years) and a conceal carry permittee. I do believe in the right to lawfully bear arms.*

Are you a member of the Federalist Society? *I am not a member of the Federalist Society. However, I do subscribe to a philosophy that government power is derived from our Constitution and the interpretation of said powers/law is the duty of the judiciary to say what the law is, not what it should be.*

NC Court of Appeals Judge Seat 06

Matthew Gray Styers (Dem)

<https://styersforjudge.com/>

Are you a member of the NRA? *No*

If not, why not? *I am a life-long hunter, whose family hunted for both food and recreation. I have taken gun safety classes. I enjoy shooting sporting clays on a regular basis, and plan hunting trips with my friends, including to South Dakota this past fall and one to South Carolina next month (February). I own firearms and feel I have considerable personal knowledge and experience with shooting sports, about the safe use and storage of firearms, and about the principles of marksmanship and self-defense.*

Are you a member of the Federalist Society? *No*

NC Court of Appeals Judge Seat 06

Robert Christopher Dillon (Rep)

Judgechrisdillon@gmail.com

Are you a member of the NRA? *No*

If not, why not? *The reason that I am not is because I think that, as an elected judge, I should avoid joining voluntary, advocacy organizations. If I were a member of such organizations, I may be required to recuse myself from cases involving the issues advocated by the organization. With that said, my background includes working at a community bank where I had the opportunity to help a client start and grow a business which sells firearms/supplies and operates a gun range in Raleigh. I have taken my sons to the range over the years. My older son owns a rifle, which we keep in our home.*

Are you a member of the Federalist Society? *I am not currently a member of the Federalist Society, again because of my personal preference not to join voluntary, advocacy organizations. However, I have been a guest speaker at Federalist Society functions and regularly attend the Federalist Society meeting in Raleigh.*

NC Court of Appeals Judge Seat 07

Reuben Young (Dem)

<https://www.keepjudgeyoung.com/>

No Response

NC Court of Appeals Judge Seat 07

Jeffery Carpenter (Rep)

<https://www.electjeffcarpenter.com/>

Are you a member of the NRA? *Yes, I am a longtime member of the NRA.*

If so, why? *I am a member of the NRA because I believe that the 2nd Amendment is imperative to the preservation of all other rights prescribe in the Bill of Rights, and the NRA is the only group that I am aware of that zealously protects the 2nd Amendment.*

Are you a member of the Federalist Society? *Yes*

NC Court of Appeals Judge Seat 13

Christopher Brook (Dem)

<https://www.keepjudgechrisbrook.com/>

Are you a member of the NRA? *No*

If not, why not? *As cases pertaining to the right to bear arms are pending in our court system and may come before me in my service as a judge on the North Carolina Court of Appeals, it would be improper for me to respond to this question.*

Are you a member of the Federalist Society? *No*

NC Court of Appeals Judge Seat 13

Jefferson Griffin (Rep)

<https://www.jeffersongriffin.com/>

Are you a member of the NRA? *Yes, a Life Member*

If so, why? *As a District Court judge, soldier, and an avid hunter and outdoorsman, Judge Griffin has sworn to uphold and protect our Constitution, including the Second Amendment and the right to bear arms.*

Are you a member of the Federalist Society? *Yes*

Note: Mrs. Katye Griffin responded on Judge Griffin's behalf as he was deployed to the Middle East with the NC Army National Guard brigade. (4/2/2020)