

Ashley L. Watlington-Simms

www.watlingtonsimms4judge.com

Education

Charlotte School of Law Juris Doctor Honors: Pro Bono High Distinction	Charlotte, NC Dec 2012
Western Carolina University BSBA Business Administration and Law GPA 3.21/4.0 Honors: Dean's List Gate City Golf Foundation Scholarship Recipient Delta Sigma Theta Scholarship Recipient	Cullowhee, NC May 2010

Professional License

North Carolina State Bar Admission	April 2013
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Certifications

Westlaw Professional Research Certification	September 2012
LexisNexis Professional Research Certification	April 2011
Certified Mediator, NC	NCAMP, 2009
Certified Nursing Assistant, NC	Dec 2007-Aug 2011

Legal Experience

- Guilford County District Attorneys' Office
Assistant District Attorney (Previous: District Court Supervisor) Greensboro, NC
Aug 2013-present
Ensures the adequate administration of justice by decreasing crime in Guilford County through effective prosecution. Responsible for the training and supervision of other District Court ADA's.
- Hire Counsel/Special Counsel
Contract Attorney Winston Salem, NC
April 2013-Aug 2013
Assists Am100 Law Firm with document review and data entry for a fortune 500 company.
- Judge Elizabeth Trosch and Judge Charlotte Brown
Judicial Clerk Charlotte, NC
July 2011-August 2011
Prepared legal orders for judicial review and conducted an extensive amount of legal research.
- Legal Aid of North Carolina
MLK Summer Intern Concord, NC
May 2012-July 2012
Used my practice legal license to represent below poverty clients on a daily basis in consumer law, family law and unemployment law matters.

Administrative Experience

- Western Carolina University: Business Law Department
Administrative Assistant Cullowhee, NC
Aug 2007-May 2010
- Western Carolina University: Residential Life Department
Residential Assistant Cullowhee, NC
May 2009-May 2010

Healthcare Experience

- *Nurse Technician plus 3*, Wesley Long Community Hospital, Greensboro, NC, May 2008- Aug 2010
Assisted other health care professionals as needed with patient care; directly assisted patients with activities of daily living and served as a communicator between nurse and patient.
CNA, Skyland Care Center, Sylva, NC, Nov 2008- May 2009,
- *Certified Nursing Assistant – Independent Contractor*, The Nursing Network, Sylva, NC, Dec 2007– Nov 2008
Catered to the western North Carolina Area, providing assistance as a CNA to local hospitals, long term care facilities, nursing homes, Alzheimer and dementia care facilities.

Pro Bono- Legal Volunteer Work

Youth Empowerment Fair Coordinator, Charlotte, NC 2012
Charlotte Mecklenburg Self Serve Center Volunteer, Charlotte, NC 2012

Ashley Watlington-Simms
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July 15th, 2020

To Whom It May Concern,

I am writing to express interest in the recent judicial vacancy in District Court for Seat 3, currently held by The Honorable Judge Betty Brown. In December, I filed to run for Seat 3. I would be deeply honored to serve the citizens of Guilford County a few months earlier than I was slated to take office in 2021. I have served this county as an Assistant District Attorney for the past seven years and strive to ensure the adequate administration of justice on a daily basis. I focus on court room efficiency and value the time of others. I was born and raised in Guilford County and have always had a goal to uplift the community from which I came. I am duly licensed to practice law in Judicial District 24 and also reside in Guilford County.

Prior work experience has improved my intrapersonal communication skills and adaptation abilities in any working environment. I am able to handle multiple situations, execute all tasks, quickly adapt to any environment and build the rapport of the work environment through my prodigious work ethic. While acquiring my undergraduate degree, I worked as an independent contractor at various health care facilities as a certified nursing assistant. In addition, I maintained part time employment as a Nurse Technician plus 3 at Wesley Long Community Hospital while in college. At times, I balanced 60 hours a week while maintaining above a 3.0 GPA and received academic excellence awards and recognition.

As a Legal Aid Martin Luther King Jr. Summer Intern, I gained practical knowledge with unemployment, bankruptcy, consumer and family law. During this internship, I used my practice license to represent clientele on a daily basis under the direction of a supervising attorney. During my internship with Legal Aid, I received a favorable result in an unemployment hearing that secured unemployment benefits for my client. As a judicial legal intern, worked under the direction of Judge Elizabeth Trosch and Judge Charlotte Brown on various legal projects including but not limited to; transition to mandatory e-filing, the legality of service of process via telephone, extensive legal research and memo writing. I was also instrumental in the development of the ICAN program to give job and resource assistance to youth exposed to juvenile adjudication. As a pro bono volunteer for the Mecklenburg County Self-Serve Center, I provided legal information regarding filing legal motions, complaints and summons to pro se litigants. Also at the Self-Serve Center, I would teach clinics to pro se litigants regarding child custody, divorce and small claims actions.

As an e-discovery attorney for Special Counsel, I worked on a legal research and document review team for an Am200 Law Firm to review, organize and extract civil filings for Senior Counsel to review. On a daily basis, reviewed several complex civil filings and class action lawsuits regarding the 2010 BP Oil Spill and provided extraction services for the litigation team.

As a prosecutor for Judicial District 24, I work daily to ensure the adequate administration of justice through effective prosecution in District Court. My trial experience covers all matters that arise in district court including but not limited to cases that involve Driving While Impaired, Assault on Female, and Assault with a Deadly Weapon. In addition, I handle a multitude of criminal district court cases ranging from 100-750 matters daily. I have litigated and received favorable results for the State in a number of cases. I was previously the District Court Supervisor. Currently, I have been assigned to handle Superior Court cases in Guilford County and have acquired jury trial experience.

I am elated to have the opportunity to request consideration to fill this vacancy in District Court. It would be an honor to become a District Court Judge in Guilford County. I truly appreciate and thank all of my colleagues that have supported me in this journey and throughout the campaign process. I would like to express gratitude for taking time to review my letter of interest and resume in consideration to fill this vacancy.

Sincerely,
Ashley Watlington-Simms