

Statement to the Bar.

My name is Joal H. Broun, and I am asking for one of your five votes for the District Court judgeship being vacated by Judge Beverly Scarlett's retirement.

I have a varied and deep involvement and professional experience in our community that gives me the experience to be a district court judge. I would approach the position of judgeship as I have approached my professional career and other community involvement with the deep commitment to public service. I believe that a courtroom must be a place where every participant is treated with respect and dignity. The courtroom must have the atmosphere of fairness and equity to everyone. I believe the law must be applied with consistency so that there is equitable and fair treatment to all.

Equally important, a judge should have the appropriate judicial temperament. This temperament "promotes public confidence in the integrity and impartiality of the judiciary." Canon 2a of North Carolina Code of Judicial Conduct. Finally, I believe that I have the experience, the temperament, and the commitment to serve the residents of Orange and Chatham counties.

My first legal job out of law school was clerking for the Honorable Richard C. Erwin of the Middle District of North Carolina. When I was in private practice, along with my criminal practice, I represented clients in child custody cases, including the successful representation of a client whose partner kidnapped the child and took the child to California. In my criminal practice, I served as second chair in a capital murder trial involving a prison murder where the jury came back hung and the jury in the second trial found the client not guilty.

After working in a boutique law firm in Washington, D.C. and in private practice with a law school classmate in Salisbury, North Carolina, I moved to Carrboro to work for the Public Defender's Office in 1992. During my tenure at the Public Defender's Office, I interviewed clients, tried over 100 misdemeanor trials and hearings, and tried over ten misdemeanor appeals and superior court cases.

Since I moved to Orange County, I have been deeply involved in the community. I have served in various appointed and elected boards. I served on the Orange Water and Sewer Authority Board for six and a half years, serving as vice-chair for one year. I served on the Carrboro Board of Alderman, spearheading the first bond in twenty years for sidewalks and the construction of the town's second fire station. During my time on the town board, I supported the purchase of land for two new parks, the Adams Tract and the newly opened Martin Luther King, Jr. Park.

I was appointed to the Chapel Hill-Carrboro Board of Education in 2016 and was elected in 2017. During my time on the Board, I have lead efforts regarding the elimination of the opportunity gap, and the emphasis on ensuring that every child can read on grade level by the end of the third grade. More specifically, I have championed the constitutional mandate that every child has the opportunity to receive a "sound and basic education" so that they can flourish in our society.

In conclusion, I hope to use my school board experience to help with the limitations and needs of our public school systems to strengthen the connections between the Department of Social Services and both public school systems to support families and create successful resolutions for our children. Finally, my experiences as an alderman will continue to bring the community together with our courts to work collaboratively and to continue to support the ongoing restorative justice programs that we have in place, such as the Orange County Street Outreach, Harm Reduction and Deflection program.

I appreciate your consideration in voting for me.

With warmest regards,

Joal H. Broun