

## North Carolina Business Court Changes Announced by Judicial Branch



**From** NCAOC Communications Office <NCAOCCommunicationsOffice@info.nccourts.org>  
**To** <sjohnston@tuesdayforumcharlotte.org>  
**Reply-To** <NCAOCCommunicationsOffice@info.nccourts.org>  
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COMMUNICATIONS OFFICE  
MEDIA@NCCOURTS.ORG  
PO BOX 2448, RALEIGH, NC 27602

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## North Carolina Business Court Changes Announced by Judicial Branch

### ***Judge Robinson to become Chief Business Court Judge Jan. 2025***

RALEIGH – Changes to the composition of the [North Carolina Business Court](#), a division of the General Court of Justice that hears complex and significant cases arising in corporate and commercial law, were announced today by the Judicial Branch.

[Chief Business Court Judge Louis A. Bledsoe, III](#), of Charlotte, N.C., announced his retirement effective January 1, 2025. Judge Bledsoe has served as a Business Court judge since 2014, and as Chief Judge since 2018.

Chief Justice Paul Newby will appoint [Judge Michael L. Robinson](#) of Winston-Salem, N.C., who has served on the North Carolina Business Court since 2016, as Chief Business Court Judge effective January 1, 2025.

Earlier today, the General Assembly confirmed Charlotte attorney A. Todd Brown to a Special Superior Court judgeship. Brown currently serves as the President of the North Carolina State Bar. Chief Justice Newby has announced his intent to designate Brown as a Business Court Judge once he assumes office.

"Congratulations to Todd Brown on his confirmation to the Superior Court bench," said [Chief Justice Paul Newby](#). "I am proud to designate him as a Business Court Judge. I am grateful for the service of experienced attorneys and judges on North Carolina's Business Court in furtherance of its mission to provide an appropriate forum for complex cases. I appreciate Chief Judge Bledsoe's years of committed service and have confidence that Judge Robinson will maintain the effective administration of justice in complex cases as our next Chief Judge of the Business Court."

The Business Court's docket includes those cases designated as complex business cases under G.S. 7A-45.4 and certain exceptional cases the Chief Justice assigns to the Business Court under Rules 2.1 and 2.2 of the General Rules of Practice and Procedure for the Superior and District Courts. Once a case is designated or assigned to the Business Court, all proceedings in the action are heard by the Business Court judge to whom the case has been assigned. The court consists of six special superior court judges, including a chief judge who oversees administrative matters in addition to a regular caseload.

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### **About North Carolina Judicial Branch**

The [North Carolina Judicial Branch](#) is an equal and distinctively separate branch and core function of government. More than 7,400 Judicial Branch employees statewide administer justice in courthouses in North Carolina's 100 counties. The [Judicial Branch budget for FY 2022–23](#) was \$712.8M, 87% of which is used to pay salaries and 11.5% is used for operations. The Judicial Branch receives 2.64% 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.

### **Media Contact**

[Chris Mears](#)



North Carolina Administrative Office of the Courts  
901 Corporate Center Drive, Raleigh, NC 27607  
919-890-1000 | [www.NCCourts.gov](http://www.NCCourts.gov)

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