



The North Carolina Chief Justice's Commission on Professionalism  
*Enhancing professionalism among North Carolina  
lawyers, judges, and law students*

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EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

## Joint Statement Regarding Professionalism among District Attorneys and Criminal Defense Attorneys

September 27, 2021

We both serve as *ex officio* members of the Chief Justice's Commission on Professionalism and have been asked to reflect on what professionalism means for us and our respective constituencies.

While there is nothing good to say about the pandemic, it has given us an opportunity to see professionalism in action. Over the past 18 months, the district attorneys who represent the State of North Carolina and the attorneys who represent people charged with crimes have worked diligently and creatively to address extraordinary challenges. Both of us have had reports from the field about how many of you have been working cooperatively on a host of issues, ranging from scheduling to pretrial release to making our courtrooms safer.

Attorneys who work in the criminal justice system, whether it be for the State or for the defense, are all working towards the same end – a fair and just result in a court of law. Remembering that touchstone, and treating each other with respect and civility, will help us all maintain our mental and physical health so that we can do our best work on behalf of our clients and ensure that justice is served.

Thank you for the work that you do. We are proud to work on your behalf.

Mary Pollard  
Executive Director  
Office of Indigent Defense Services

Kimberly Overton Spahos  
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Conference of District Attorneys