

# DISPUTE RESOLUTION COMMISSION

NEWS AND UPDATES

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## WELCOME NEW COMMISSIONERS!

*At the recent November 16-17, 2018 Retreat, the following newly appointed Commissioners were sworn-in. (From left to right) Laura Isley, Judge Rebecca Knight, Judge William C. Farris (reappointed), Debra Griffiths and Judge J. Calvin Hill. Thank you Judge John M. Tyson for swearing in the new commissioners. (Judge Richard Gottlieb was unable to attend the retreat.)*

**Richard Gottlieb** is a Resident Superior Court Judge from District 21A in Forsyth County. Prior to joining the bench, Judge Gottlieb was a partner in the firm Kilpatrick Townsend & Stockton LLP, practicing in the areas of complex commercial and intellectual property litigation. Judge Gottlieb earned a BA in Political Science from Emory University with Phi Beta Kappa distinction and a law degree with honors from the University of North Carolina School of Law. Judge Gottlieb serves on a number of committees for the North Carolina Bar Association, he is a member of the Education Committee and the Pattern Jury Instruction Committee (civil) of the North Carolina Conference of Superior Court Judges, and he has been active on the boards of several community focused, non-profit entities.

**Debra A., Griffiths** received her J.D. from N.C. Central Law School in 2003 and was certified by the N.C. State Bar Board of Legal Specialization in the area of Family Law in 2008. She is a volunteer attorney with the Family Law Mediation Program with Wake County Family Court. She is a certified Family Financial and Superior Court Mediator. She teaches the Family Law Section of the 16 and 40-hour Family Financial Mediator training program with Carolina Dispute Settlement Services and has been a presenter at several continuing education programs for attorneys and paralegals. She serves on several committees with the Wake County Bar, 10<sup>th</sup> Judicial District Bar and the North Carolina Bar Association.



**J. Calvin Hill** is a Chief District Court Judge from D28 in Buncombe County. Judge Hill received his B.S.W. degree from Benedict College in 1989 and his J.D. degree from the North Carolina Central University School of Law in 1994. He began his law to practice at the firm of C.C. "Buddy" Malone in Durham, N.C. He was an Assistant Public Defender in Buncombe County, and became a Judge in July of 1995. In 2007, Judge Hill served as the President of the Bar Association for the 28th District, making him the first African-American elected by his fellow attorneys to hold this position.

**Laura Boyce Isley** is a Raleigh native and graduate of Wake Forest University, B.A. 1989, J.D. 1992. She is a former law clerk to Chief Justice I. Beverly Lake, Jr. of the N.C. Supreme Court and Chief Judge S. Gerald Arnold of the N.C. Court of Appeals. She served as a Staff Attorney to the Court of Appeals and was in private practice with her father, brother and husband. Upon taking a break from her legal career, Laura became a stylist with a direct-sales clothing business (Etcetera) and is an event coordinator for the Raleigh Hall of Fame. She also serves on the Rex Healthcare Guild and Saint Saviour's Center Board and is active in other community affairs.

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**Rebecca Knight** has been a certified Family Financial and Superior Court Mediator since 2013. She served as a District Court Judge in D28, from 1990-2012. She previously served 5 years on the NC Judicial Standards Commission and 12 years on the Conference of Superior Court Judges Pattern Jury Committee. She is a former felony prosecutor, Assistant County Attorney, and partner in a civil and criminal law firm in Asheville. She consults and volunteers on community projects on issues around domestic violence, sexual assault, child abuse, school mental health, and a variety of faith based projects. Judge Knight is married to Superior Court Judge Marvin Pope, has 2 adult children and a 4-year old granddaughter. She was raised in a military family and traveled and lived around the world. She moved to NC to attend Appalachian State University, graduated in 1977, and is a 1982 Campbell Law School graduate.



Judge William A. Webb was reappointed Chair of the NCDRC for 2 years by Chief Justice Mark Martin on October 1, 2018. Judge Webb was sworn in by Judge John M. Tyson at the recent retreat.

*Wishing you  
Happy Holidays  
and a  
Happy New Year!*

### CONFLICT RESOLUTION DAY 2018!

The Commission and the Dispute Resolution Section held a reception for Conflict Resolution Week on Thursday, October 18, at 10:00 AM at the NC Judicial Center, 901 Corporate Center Drive, Raleigh. The guest speakers were Chief Justice Mark Martin, DRC Commissioner and Section Member LeAnn Nease Brown, and Stephanie Smith, with the AOC Custody Mediation Program. Chief Justice Martin issued a Proclamation marking Conflict Resolution Week in our State. Please mark Thursday, October 17, 2019, on your calendars for the next Conflict Resolution Day.



DRC Commissioner LeAnn Nease Brown, Chief Justice Mark Martin, and E. Deneen Barrier (D14)



Stephanie Smith, AOC Custody Mediation Program



DRC Commissioner Diann Seigle, Ex-officio member Frank Laney, Chief Justice Mark Martin, and DRC Commissioner LeAnn Nease Brown



Tara L. Kozlowski, Executive Director

### POSTED FOR COMMENT

Standard VII and the Policy for Failure to Respond to a Complaint, were recently approved by the Commission at the recent retreat. Both items have been posted for comment, and be can found on the [Commission's Seeks Comment](#) page. **Please forward your comments to: [DRCMediators@nccourts.org](mailto:DRCMediators@nccourts.org), on or before January 2, 2019. All comments will be shared with the full Commission.**

**Standard VII** addresses Conflict of Interest for Mediators if asked to mediate a dispute where the mediator had previously served as a professional for one or more parties, or if asked to serve as a professional in a matter in which he/she had previously served as a mediator.

**The Policy for Failure to Respond to Complaint** addresses when a certified mediator fails to respond to a complaint within the deadline.

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