

PORTRAIT CEREMONY OF CLERK OF COURT  
CAMERON ROEDER



PORTRAIT PRESENTATION  
OF

*Christie Speir  
Cameron Roeder*

CLERK OF COURT  
SUPREME COURT OF NORTH CAROLINA  
1991 - 2016, 2017 - 2018



11:00 A.M.  
MARCH 12, 2020

SUPREME COURT OF NORTH CAROLINA  
RALEIGH, NORTH CAROLINA

CHRISTIE SPEIR CAMERON ROEDER  
SUPREME COURT OF NORTH CAROLINA



Ms. Roeder was born in Bethel, North Carolina, to David and Betty Speir. She attended undergraduate and law school at the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill. Ms. Roeder was the President of the Student Body at North Pitt High School and a member of the Phi Beta Kappa honorary society at Chapel Hill.

Upon graduation from law school, Ms. Roeder was employed as a research assistant to the Honorable John Webb at the North Carolina Court of Appeals from 1979-1981. In September of 1981, she was appointed as the Assistant Appellate Division Reporter for the Supreme Court of North Carolina. In 1984, Ms. Roeder was hired to head the Real Estate Department of Wyrick, Robbins, Yates and Ponton.

Ms. Roeder was appointed Clerk of the Supreme Court of North Carolina in April of 1991 where she served until May 31, 2016 and was asked to return from retirement for five months from October 2017 until March 2018. Ms. Roeder and her staff were credited with creating one of the first Case Management Systems for any court and with creating the first statewide appellate electronic filing system in the nation. Ms. Roeder was intent on seeking ways to make practicing before the Court and receiving information about the casework of the Court easier for anyone – whether they resided in Raleigh or in the far reaches of the State.

While Clerk of the Supreme Court, Ms. Roeder was President of the National Conference of Appellate Court Clerks (NCACC), recipient of the NCACC's J.O. Sentell Award, President of the Wake County and 10th Judicial District Bars, and a Counsel of State Governments' Toll Fellow. She received the Court's Amicus Curiae Award, the North Carolina State Bar's John B. McMillian Distinguished Service Award, and the Order of the Long Leaf Pine.

Other civic activities have included: Chair, North Carolina Child Advocacy Institute; Chair, Triangle Transit Authority; Vice Chair, North Carolina Railroad; Chair, Board of Directors of the North Carolina Museum of History Associates; Chair, Parent's Panel of the North Carolina Task Force on Excellence in Secondary Education, and member of the Board of Directors of the North Carolina Board of Corrections, the North Carolina Museum of Natural Sciences, Phi Beta Kappa Society of Wake County, and Kid's Voting of Wake County. Ms. Roeder has also been a member of several Legislative Study Commissions.

Ms. Roeder is married to Richard D. Roeder, and her children are David Price and his wife, Leah, and John Price, and his wife, Grace. Her step-children are Gabrielle Cameron, Lindsay Roeder and Kyle Roeder. She has two step-grandchildren, Owen and Jaysie.

*Sounding of the Gavel*AMY FUNDERBURK  
CLERK OF THE SUPREME COURT*Invocation*

JOYCE MCFARLAND

*Welcome*

CHIEF JUSTICE CHERI BEASLEY

*Presentation of the Portrait*FRANKLIN E. FREEMAN  
RETIRED ASSOCIATE JUSTICE OF THE  
SUPREME COURT OF NORTH CAROLINA*Thank You Remarks*

CHRISTIE SPEIR CAMERON ROEDER

*Unveiling of the Portrait*

JOHN &amp; DAVID PRICE

*Adjournment*AMY FUNDERBURK  
CLERK OF THE SUPREME COURT*A reception with light refreshments to follow  
on the first floor of the Supreme Court*

PORTRAIT ARTIST  
REBECCA PATMAN CHANDLER

Rebecca Patman Chandler studied at the Ringling School of Art, Pennsylvania School of Fine Arts and the Italian Academy of Fine Arts in Rome. She is represented by Portrait South and galleries in North Carolina. She has had 25 shows in her 40-year career, and her paintings and portraits are in private collections and institutions throughout the USA. Ms. Chandler has received numerous awards in both oils and watercolors. She has won awards in the Watercolor Society of North Carolina and the American Pastel Society at the National Arts Club Gallery in New York, and she has exhibited with the Oil Painters of America. Her work is represented in the Encyclopedia of Watercolor Techniques and Painting Beautiful Paintings from Photographs published in England.

An experienced teacher, Ms. Chandler has taught many workshops in figure painting, portraiture, landscape and still life. She returns periodically to teach at La Romita, an art school in Umbria, Italy.

Ms. Chandler previously painted the portrait of Chief Justice Joseph Branch.



CHIEF JUSTICE

Cheri Beasley

ASSOCIATE JUSTICES

Paul M. Newby

Robin E. Hudson

Sam J. Ervin, IV

Michael R. Morgan

Anita Earls

Mark Davis



**OPENING REMARKS  
BY CHIEF JUSTICE CHERI BEASLEY**

In a moment, I will invite Justice Franklin Freeman to give remarks. But first, I would like to take a few moments to express my personal gratitude and admiration for Christie. In her twenty-five years of service as Clerk, Christie made an indelible mark on this Court as an institution and on the lives of those of us who were privileged to work with her.

In her time here, Christie saw twenty Associate Justices begin their service on this bench, and six Chief Justices. Each of us came to the bench with our own priorities and our own ideas of how this Court should be run. We represented differing backgrounds, ideologies, and political affiliations, and Christie worked with each of us to make sure the Supreme Court of North Carolina was doing its work for the people of this State with the efficiency and fairness the people expect.

Christie was devoted in her service to the people of this State. She maintained a fantastic relationship with the State Bar, and she took on leadership roles in national Clerk's organizations. She had her finger on the pulse of trends in court practices nationwide, and she was able to think broadly about this Court and its needs. It was under Christie's steady guidance that we were able to begin e-filing in the Supreme Court, a practice that put our Court—for a time—at the forefront of technological innovation nationally. Christie's knowledge of Court practices and tradition was so vast, and her contributions so appreciated, that we often affectionately referred to her as "the eighth justice."

Christie's influence on our Court was not merely professional, however. She also frequently brought us together socially. After every ceremonial session of Court, Christie invited the entire Supreme Court staff to her home for a chili supper as a way to thank them for their participation in the event. We all cherished those opportunities to gather informally, and we all benefitted immensely from the collegiality and fellowship fostered by those events.

I am so pleased to have had the opportunity to work with and learn from Christie and so glad to have the opportunity to celebrate her today.

**REMARKS BY JUSTICE (RET.) FRANKLIN E. FREEMAN**

MAY IT PLEASE THE COURT

Christine (Christie) St. Clair Spier was born in Bethel, North Carolina on February 12, 1954 to Betty Smith Spier and David Ordway Spier, who had married on June 10, 1950 following their graduation from Duke University. She was the second of two daughters born to Betty and David, having been preceded by her sister, who is present here today, Caroline Grace, on December 30, 1951. Her mother's roots in North Carolina trace back to the late 1600s. Her father's roots in the United States trace back to the early 1700s. Each parent brought a rich history of public service and engagement in the affairs of government and community to their union, undoubtedly contributing markedly to Christie's lifelong interest in government, public, and community service.

Betty Maude Smith was born in Bethel, North Carolina on March 3, 1928 to Carolyn Pollock Smith and William Jasper Smith. Both of her parents were from prominent eastern North Carolina families who had been residents of the state for eight generations or more.

W. Jasper Smith was a leading manufacturer, public servant, and Methodist layman in Pitt County and eastern North Carolina. His family had lived in Martin and Pitt counties since the early 1700s. He was president of Bethel manufacturing, chairman of the Pitt county commissioners, one of the major founders of North Carolina Wesleyan College in Rocky Mount North Carolina, and the college's first business manager. Jasper's father, William Jordan Smith, moved to Bethel in 1909 to form and to establish a cotton gin and a lumber mill. Until his untimely death on September 3, 1930, when he was killed in automobile and train accident, he served as a Pitt county commissioner and earlier as Bethel town Councilman.

The family of Carolyn Pollock Smith is one of the oldest in North Carolina. The family progenitor, Thomas Pollock, came to the state on June 27, 1683 as deputy to Lord Carteret, one of the eight lords proprietors who oversaw the Carolinas for the King of England, Charles II. Between that day and his death on August 30, 1722, he amassed over 50,000 acres of property on the Chowan, Trent, and other rivers in northeastern North Carolina, served almost continuously as a member of the colonies executive Council, and was twice governor; first from September 12, 1712 to May 1714 and then again from March 30, 1722 until his death on August 30 of that year. His descendent, Carolyn's father, James Basil Pollock, was a banker during the Great Depression

in Trenton North Carolina and saw to it that every depositor of his bank who lost their money was made whole before he died.

These two families distinguished public service lead Betty Smith Spier, who is here with us today, to engage in a lifetime of active public and political service. For 30 years she taught in the public schools of Pitt County and thereafter continued her service and education by serving as the founder and Director of the Pitt County Educational Foundation. Early on she became engaged in the political affairs of the county and state, serving successively as president of the Pitt County Democratic Women in the mid -1960s, vice chair of the Pitt County Democratic executive committee, and then became the first woman to be elected chairperson of the Pitt County Democratic Party in 1973. She served in that role until 1976, followed by service as vice chair of the state Democratic Party and then Chairman of the state Democratic Party in 1980. She was a delegate to the 1980 Democratic national convention. She has served on numerous state boards and commissions including as a member of the Governors Crime Commission from 1978 to 1982, as a member thereafter of the State Board of Education for six years, and as a member of the East Carolina University board of trustees from July 1, 1995 to June 30, 2003.

David Ordway Spier was born in Summit, New Jersey on May 26, 1922 to Walter Snowdon Spear and Grace Dean Spear. He grew up in Madison, New Jersey where Walter was the mayor for a number of years, and Southern Pines, North Carolina. During World War II, he served in the 1885th Engineer Aviation Battalion of the United States Army and was stationed in Guam and Okinawa. Following the war, he attended Duke University, where he met Betty. After their graduations, they were married in 1950. Before his death on June 18, 2012, David served as president of Bethel Manufacturing Company, and on numerous boards and commissions in Pitt County including the county development commission, the Memorial hospital Board, and as president of the Pitt County United fund in 1968. He was an active and devout Methodist, serving as District Lay leader and chair of the Pensions Board of the North Carolina Conference of the United Methodist Church. He was a scoutmaster of the Boy Scouts of America in Bethel. An early ancestor, John Henry Spier, served as a colonel in the Revolutionary War and was honorably discharged by George Washington, returning thereafter to Boston to resume his law practice.

To know from whence someone has come helps us understand how they got to where they are and the stops made along the way. Such is the case with Christie. From an early age she showed that she was going

to follow in her family's footsteps of education, community and church service, and participation in public affairs. In 1970 at age 16 she was selected by then Governor Bob Scott to attend the White House conference on children and youth. In 1971 she was elected president of the North Pitt High School Student Body. While a student at North Pitt her academic achievements led her to be selected for membership in the National Honor Society. This academic achievement continued in her studies at the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill from which she graduated Phi Beta Kappa with a bachelor of arts in 1976. Thereafter, she graduated from that University's School of Law in 1979 with a Juris Doctor's degree.

Following law school, she continued her interest in the academic pursuit of the law by serving from 1979 to 1981 as a research assistant to then Court of Appeals Judge John Webb, who later joined this court as an associate justice in 1986. That was followed by a three-year stint from 1981 to 1984 as the assistant appellate division reporter for North Carolina. Having been engaged in some form of academic and legal study for eight years, she changed the direction of her legal career in 1984 and joined one of Raleigh and North Carolina's finest law firms, Wyrick, Robbins, Yates, and Ponton. There, she was tasked with developing a real estate department for the law firm assuming this position when loan closing packages began to become the complex traded instruments they are today. Through working closely with mortgage companies and relocation services, she created a real estate section in the law firm which grew from infancy to handling the most loan closings of any firm in the area. During those years from 1979 to 1991, she followed in the footsteps of her parents and grandparents by becoming involved in the civic and government affairs of Wake county and North Carolina. From 1979 to 1984 she was a member of the North Carolina Board of Corrections. She was appointed in 1989 to the Triangle Transit Authority and continued service on this increasingly important Authority until 1998. She served as treasurer of that body from 1989 to 1991, secretary in 1992, vice chairperson in 1993, and chair in 1994. From 1989 to 1991 she served as a member of the North Carolina Legislative Study Commission on Neurologically Impaired Infants. She became a member of the North Carolina Museum of Natural Sciences Board of Directors in 1990 and continued service there until 1993. Also in 1990, and reflecting her grandfather Smith's commitment to the Methodist Church, she became a member of the board of trustees of Raleigh's largest Methodist church, Edenton Street, and served in that role until 1995. All of this legal experience and civic involvement caught the eye of the North Carolina Supreme Court in 1991, when the Court was looking for a new clerk.



Since the election of William Robards as the first Supreme Court Clerk on January 4, 1819, all 14 of the courts clerks, 13 in Raleigh and one in Morganton during the 14 years the court met there from 1847 to 1861, had been male. This 172 year domination was shattered in April of 1991 when Christie was elected by the Court as its first female clerk and sworn in on April 17, 1991, the 14th clerk located in Raleigh and the 15th overall. For the next 25 years that office was led by this learned, innovative, hardworking, diplomatic, and positive woman.

Courts, and particularly appellate courts, are often slow to change. There is nothing unusual about this because appellate courts are naturally imbued with and guided by the principles of stare decisis and tradition. In 1991, this court was no exception to those rules. Christie soon began to work collaboratively and collegially with the Court, the Bar of North Carolina and her staff to implement modern court management principles. In 1992 she directed the creation of a case management system for the court. In 1998 she initiated and supervised the implementation of the first statewide appellate court electronic filing site in the nation. The case management system she had directed in 1992 was then integrated with the electronic filing system. Through calendaring and process changes, she helped eliminate the backlog of cases brought to the Court through appeals of right. She initiated a team approach to handling the business of the Clerk's office. She assisted in the creation of a style manual, website changes, and phone procedures which helped pro se litigants and first time appellate attorneys. She streamlined the appellate Printing Department that serves both the Supreme Court and the Court of Appeals. In managing the technology department for both courts, Christie challenged and encouraged the staff to continuously work toward innovations that made the Court's technology more efficient and equitable in the processing of cases for the courts and the litigants. On a national basis, she conceived of and implemented the creation of the National Conference of Appellate Technology Officials in 2000 and served as a member of the national advisory board for the court services division of the National Center for State Courts from 1997 to 2006. On a state basis, she assisted in the development and funding of the North Carolina Supreme Court Historical Society. Her innovations and changes to the Court's business practices helped make North Carolina's Supreme Court one of the most efficient and effective in the United States. That work, coupled with her national leadership, lead in 2010 to Christie receiving the prestigious J. O. Sentell award from the National Conference of Appellate Court Clerks, a body she served as president of in 2002-03.

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During her 25 years as the Clerk of this Court, Christie continued her commitment to her State and community. For 15 years, from 1999 to 2014, she served as a member of the Board of Directors of the North Carolina Railroad including serving as vice chair of the board from 2009 to 2014. She served as president of the Board of Directors of the North Carolina Museum of History Associates in 2014 and 2015 and on the North Carolina Child Advocacy Institute board from 1991 to 1998 including service as secretary and then chair of the board from 1992 to 1997. Importantly, Christie continued her family's long time commitment to the Methodist Church by serving on the Edenton Street United Methodist Church administrative board from 1999 to 2003. And in 2011, she was recognized for her leadership capabilities by her peers when she was elected president of the then 4500 member 10th Judicial District and Wake County Bar Association.

The many duties and responsibilities Christie held during her 25 years as clerk of the Supreme Court stand as a testament to her characteristics of innovation, hard work and versatility. Those characteristics admirable as they are, only partially describe Christy. People like her former employees who knew her well and intimately describe her caring, her compassion, and her outgoing, positive attitude. How many of us who know her can identify her entrance into an office or room, without even seeing who it is, by her trademark, cheerful greeting of "Yoohoo"? One of her employees describe her as a, "kind and giving boss who would bend over backwards to help you". This commitment to kindness and helping reflected the way she ran the office and expected everyone else in the office to do the same. One new employee once remarked to her that she could not believe how nice everyone in the office was. Christie's response speaks volumes about her. It was; "This is the Supreme Court, the last chance for people. It is hard for them to get here and therefore we need to be nice regardless."

Those who have worked with her or know her, know how convincing she can be. This ability was on full display when she worked with the Court in 2013 to help convince the Court to take the unprecedented action of allowing the partial filming of a Hollywood movie, Homeland, in this courtroom.

Christie is a modest person and rarely says anything about her work, service or achievements. The one thing, in addition to her family, that I have heard her state she was proud of was at the age of 16 she applied for and received a \$10,000 grant from the federal government to build a park for the half of Bethel's children that did not have one. The living family she is so proud of includes her mother, Betty; her sister, Caroline

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(Candy) Grace ; her two sons, David Craig Price, who is 38, and his wife, Leah; John Harvey Price, who is 37 and his wife, Grace; her husband, Rick Roeder, and three stepchildren: stepson, Kyle Roeder, who is 30; stepdaughter, Lindsay Roeder, who is 27; and 30 year old Gabrielle Cameron, daughter of her late husband and my great and dear friend of over 35 years, Dallas Cameron, who served this Court for over 25 years as Assistant Director and Director of the Administrative Office of the Courts. All are here today.

Of the sixteen former clerks of this Court, only four have been previously honored with the presentation of a portrait to the Court. The first portrait to be presented was that of the sixth clerk of the court, Thomas S. Kenan, who served as clerk from 1886 to 1911. His portrait was presented on December 15, 1914, following his death. That presentation was followed by a presentation of the portraits of the third clerk of the supreme Court, Edmond B. Freeman, who served from 1843 to 1868, the fifth clerk, William Henry Bagley, who served from 1869 to 1886, and that of the longest serving Clerk of the Supreme Court, Adrian Jefferson Newton, who served as the 11th clerk of the Court from 1941 to 1976. His was the most recent portrait to be presented in a court ceremony on March 4, 1977.

Twenty-five years ago, it was my honor to present to this Court the portrait of the late Chief Justice Susie Sharp. At that ceremony, I related one of Chief Justice Sharp's favorite stories. It regarded her first jury case, conducted in the 1920's before women were allowed to serve on juries or serve as court personnel. Thus, on that day, she was the only woman in the courtroom. The attorney on the opposite side was a famous Northwest North Carolina attorney and orator of the old school, Allen D. Ivie, Junior. As he commenced his presentation to the jury, Mr. Ivie said, "Gentleman of the jury, the presence of sweet womanhood in this courtroom today rarefies the atmosphere". Concluding my presentation of Chief Justice Sharp's portrait, I said, "This portrait of Chief Justice Sharp presented today will rarefy the atmosphere of this courtroom". Today, twenty five years later, as I now present to this Court the portrait of the first female Clerk of the Supreme Court, Christie Spier Cameron Roeder, I conclude by saying that this portrait will rarefy the atmosphere of the Supreme Court Clerk's office.