

# NORTH CAROLINA PBA MAKES CRITICAL ENDORSEMENTS IN NORTH CAROLINA COURT OF APPEALS AND SUPREME COURT RACES

BY RANDY BYRD – NCPBA DIVISION PRESIDENT

**A**s part of the PBA's core mission we strongly believe in advocating for our members in multiple forums. This includes our endorsement of candidates seeking various offices. Nowhere is this more critical than the North Carolina Court of Appeals and Supreme Court.

The quality of justice in our courts for PBA members largely depends upon the quality of our judges who preside on the bench. The PBA screening process involves our members who serve on a committee that identifies the judicial candidates most likely to interpret our constitution and law favorably for the best overall interest for law enforcement officers.

In the last 25 years, the PBA has appeared in cases all across North Carolina fighting to protect our members through the judicial system. The PBA's success is predicated in part upon a more informed judiciary that is a result of our thorough process. This has led to favorable precedents in our appellate courts and better service for our members.

Our process has judicial candidates meet with us to answer and discuss our questions presented to them. These candidates' responses are evaluated in a graded format, and the committee discusses the results before making final recommendations to the North Carolina Division Board. The board then evaluates



*Chief Justice Mark Martin - NC Supreme Court*

**"I am highly honored to be the PBA endorsed candidate for Chief Justice of the Supreme Court and to have the support of our law enforcement officers." - Chief Justice Mark Martin**

the recommendations before voting on the endorsement of candidates. This interaction with the judicial candidates allows them to learn of the challenges we face and how they play a part a critical role in the lives of law enforcement officers.

Political decisions made at all levels of government occur throughout America on a daily basis. These decisions determine the standard of living, safety, and the rights and benefits of law enforcement officers. The PBA, since its inception, has been an advocate to properly influence these decisions. As a result of a changing political landscape, there is an even greater need for advocacy and involvement by officers. At every turn, our profession continues to come under attack by calculated legislative and executive actions by many public officials. The best way to alter these attacks is by political strength and to elect informed candidates that understand our profession and the challenges we face as officers.

Successful political endorsements require hard work, objectivity, commitment, and knowledge of the issues that are critically important to our profession. The wave of politicians who are focused on destroying officer employment rights and making all officers at-will employees must be challenged at every turn. Those who fight hard to protect and enhance these rights through political advocacy are going to prevail over those who sit on the sidelines. Unfortunately, we work in a profession where officers by and large consider political involvement someone else's problem and would rather just bemoan their discontent to fellow officers. This has to change. PBA members can no longer just complain; they have to become involved.



*North Carolina Police Benevolent Association members with Robin Hudson - Associate Justice - NC Supreme Court*



*North Carolina Police Benevolent Association members with NC Court of Appeals Candidate Lucy Inman*

On April 7th and June 6th of this year, many dedicated members of the PBA volunteered their time to meet with candidates seeking election/re-election to the North Carolina Court of Appeals and Supreme Court. The candidates were asked a series of questions related to the following issues: State Constitutional Claims, Constitutional Interpretation, Due Process for Law Enforcement Officers, First Amendment Protection for Law Enforcement Officers, Privacy of Law Enforcement Personnel Files, Equal Protection, Merit Based Qualifications, and to Identify Judges that are Respected or Admired. 🗳️

Based on the committee's recommendations and a division board vote, the PBA has chosen to endorse the following candidates in the General Election. A vote for these candidates is a vote for the men and women of law enforcement and the citizens they serve. It is also a vote for a well-informed judiciary.

**Mark Martin – Chief Justice, NC Supreme Court**  
**Sam Ervin IV – Associate Justice, NC Supreme Court**  
**Robin Hudson – Associate Justice, NC Supreme Court**  
**Cheri Beasley – Associate Justice, NC Supreme Court**  
**Mark Davis – Judge, NC Court of Appeals**  
**Lucy Inman – Judge, NC Court of Appeals**  
**Donna Stroud – Judge, NC Court of Appeals**



NCPBA Sr. Vice President Wardell Williams and NC Appeals Court Judge Sam Ervin IV - Candidate for NC Supreme Court

***"I value my relationship with the PBA. I am proud to have received the PBA's endorsement in my prior races and am grateful that the PBA has endorsed my candidacy for the Supreme Court this year. I believe that the PBA's endorsement is important to members of the North Carolina voting public."* - Judge Sam Ervin IV**

***"The PBA has created an exemplary formula for endorsing good candidates for public office. Their process is always professional and thorough. Great efforts are made during the interview to examine a candidate's credentials, qualifications and record of service. It has always been an honor to participate in the PBA process."* - Associate Justice Cheri Beasley**



Cheri Beasley – Associate Justice NC Supreme Court with NCPBA President Randy Byrd