

Beasley Makes History as the First African-American Female Chief Justice in North Carolina

By appointment of Governor Roy Cooper, a member of the General Baptist family makes history by becoming the first African-American woman to serve as Chief Justice of the North Carolina Supreme Court.

On March 1, The Honorable Cheri L. Beasley becomes the Chief Justice and will lead the North Carolina Supreme Court.

In the Supreme Court's 200-year history, Justice Beasley is the eighth woman and only the second African-American woman to serve on the Court. With her appointment by Governor Cooper, Beasley becomes the first African-American woman to serve as Chief Justice of the state's highest Court.

She is a graduate of Douglass College of Rutgers University and of The University of Tennessee College of Law. In 2018, she earned an LL.M. in Judicial Studies from Duke University School of Law. She first practiced law in the

Twelfth Judicial District's Public Defender's Office before receiving her initial appointment as a District Court Judge.

Justice Beasley and her husband Curtis Owens are the proud parents of twin sons, Thomas and Matthew, who are college freshmen

Justice Beasley's commitment to serve North Carolina and her residents has extended far beyond the halls of justice. She has worked tirelessly mentoring students and judges. She lectures at area law schools and travels extensively nationwide and abroad to promote the rule of law and the administration of justice and the importance of an independent judiciary and fair judicial selection. Committed to supporting the legal profession, Justice Beasley serves in numerous bar organizations and a host of other professional and civic organizations.

Justice Beasley is a distinguished member of

the General Baptist State Convention of North Carolina, Inc. Her home church is the First Baptist Church (Moore Street) in Fayetteville. She and her family are active members of the First Baptist Church in Raleigh where the Justice also serves as a Trustee.

In 2011, the Convention honored the Justice with the Presidential Award of Distinctions for Public Service.

Her role as Chief Justice includes oversight of the Administrative Office of the Courts which has over 6,000 employees and manages the court system throughout the state.

In remarking on the appointment, President Leonzo D. Lynch pointed out the history making appointment marks the first time in the 200 year history of the Court that a black woman would lead the Court. "It is an inspirational thought for young women interested in the law as a career," Dr. Lynch said. "Justice Beasley breaks



The Honorable Cheri L. Beasley becomes Chief Justice of the North Carolina Supreme Court. A proud General Baptist, she is the first African American female to be the Chief Justice of the state's highest court.

The glass ceiling in North Carolina and the shattering is so fine that it will never be put together again."

Other General Baptists who have served on the North Carolina Supreme Court include Chief Justice Henry Frye, Justice Patricia Timmons-Goodson, The Honorable G. K. Butterfield (a member of the United States House of Representatives) and The Honorable James A. Wynn, Jr. (Judge on the U. S. Fourth Circuit Court of Appeals.)



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**DR. LEONZO D. AND MRS. NI'COLE LYNCH
CORDIALLY INVITE YOU TO A DINNER
GIVEN IN HONOR OF**

**THE HONORABLE
CHERI L. BEASLEY
CHIEF JUSTICE OF THE
NORTH CAROLINA SUPREME COURT**

**FRIDAY, MARCH 29, 2019
7:15 P.M.**

**THE HILTON NORTH HILLS
3415 WAKE FOREST ROAD
RALEIGH, NORTH CAROLINA**

TICKETS:

\$100.00 PER PERSON

Tickets purchased by March 15 are discounted to \$75.00 each.

Due to the generosity of our sponsoring congregations,
youth up to age 20 may purchase tickets for \$20.00 each.

Seating is limited.

Please make your ticket purchases early.

For credit card ticket purchase, please call the Baptist Headquarters
(919) 821-7466

Checks should be mailed to the Baptist Headquarters,
603 South Wilmington Street, Raleigh, NC 27601-2338

Sponsoring congregations for the Beasley Dinner include
BAPTIST GROVE — Raleigh (Rev. Bankole Akinbinu)
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