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# Court Watch of North Carolina, Inc.

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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## COURT WATCH TO EVALUATE GUILFORD COUNTY JUDGES

**GUILFORD COUNTY, March 31, 2010** - Since judges continue to be elected, rather than appointed, it is increasingly important that voters know more about the candidates so that they can make more informed choices in the upcoming November election. When we go to the polls, how many of us really have any information on judges' performances or other qualifications to hold office. For this very reason many voters simply do not vote for judges or they vote based on name recognition, party affiliation or gender.

In an effort to educate voters, Court Watch is conducting an evaluation of Guilford County's District and Superior Court judges (Court Watch's last evaluation of Guilford County Judges was done in 1992). Once again, we will use our proven methodology of polling attorneys, bailiffs and clerks who frequently observe judges in a court room setting. The unbiased report will be completed in early October and will be widely distributed to the media, in time to give voters some much-needed insight to assist them in making their decisions at the polls in November and future elections. Also, Court Watch hopes that by publishing the survey many sitting judges will reevaluate and improve their conduct on the bench based on the survey feedback.

Court Watch is the only organization that continues to evaluate North Carolina's trial judges and publish a report on the findings. While Court Watch is pursuing grant funding for this project, we still need support from concerned citizens. Court Watch does not seek or receive government donations in order to preserve our independence. If you are interested in supporting this vital project, please go to our website, [www.courtwatchnc.org](http://www.courtwatchnc.org), or call the Court Watch office at 275-2346.

Court Watch of North Carolina, Inc. is a citizen watchdog group based in Greensboro. In addition to judge evaluations, Court Watch publishes a statewide Judicial Campaign Analysis, monitors courts, and helps children and their families who need assistance from the courts.

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