

Biographical Statement

Gray Styers for North Carolina Court of Appeals

I was born, raised, and have lived my entire life in North Carolina. My father was a high school science teacher and principal of Hickory High School; my mother worked in the library at Lenoir-Rhyne College. I attended public schools in Hickory. Receiving a Carswell Scholarship, I attended and graduated *magna cum laude* from Wake Forest University. I obtained my law degree and an MBA degree from the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill. In law school, I was the Articles Editor of the North Carolina Law Review.

I met my wonderful wife Barbara when we were in school together in Chapel Hill. She later graduated from the Duke University Divinity School and now works as the Pastoral Assistant of Raleigh Moravian Church. We both have served in numerous lay leadership positions in the church, as well as in the Moravian denomination.

After graduating from law school, I served as a law clerk to the Honorable Sam J. Ervin, III, Chief Judge of the United States Court of Appeals for the Fourth Circuit. I have since practiced law in Raleigh for almost three decades. Starting my own law firm, Styers, Kemeraite & Mitchell, in 2010, I know what it is like to be an entrepreneur and take risks. I merged my firm into Smith Moore Leatherwood (now part of the national law firm of Fox Rothschild) where I now focus my practice on regulatory law matters, economic development, renewable energy, and infrastructure projects in both rural and urban areas throughout the state. In addition, I also assist those less fortunate, pro bono, through the "Lawyer on the Line" program of Legal Aid of North Carolina, a program that I helped start as its founding co-chair at the North Carolina Bar Association (NCBA).

I have served as President of the Wake County Bar Association, as President of the 10th Judicial District Bar, and on the NCBA Board of Governors. I was also on the NCBA's Litigation Section Council and was Chair of its Administrative Law Section Council. I frequently speak at continuing legal education courses and have taught legal ethics and Professional Responsibility as an adjunct professor at the UNC School of Law. I was appointed as an advisory member to the Ethics Committee of the North Carolina State Bar, and am a certified mediator to help resolve cases in Superior Court. I am a member of the Raleigh Kiwanis Club, the Susie Sharp Inn of Court, the Supreme Court Historical Society, and have served on the boards of the UNC School of Law Alumni Association, the North Carolina Museum of History Associates, the North Carolina Symphony Society, the Wake Forest University School of Divinity, and Big Brothers Big Sisters of the Triangle. For my volunteer work, I received a "Citizen Lawyer" award from the NC Bar Association and was named a "Leader in the Law" by Lawyers Weekly magazine.

I have lived and served in North Carolina my entire life. I have traveled its highways and byways. There are few counties in which I have not litigated a case, appeared before a town council or county board of commissioners or helped develop an infrastructure project. I love the state and its people and hope to now be able to serve as a judge on the Court of Appeals.