



## CLERK OF SUPERIOR COURT

MECKLENBURG COUNTY  
JUDICIAL DISTRICT 26

PO BOX 37971, CHARLOTTE, NC, 28237-7971  
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**ELISA CHINN-GARY**, ELECTED CLERK  
EX OFFICIO JUDGE OF PROBATE

March 18, 2021

Kathleen K. Lucchesi  
Hon. Chase B. Sanders  
c/o Mecklenburg County Bar  
2850 Zebulon Ave  
Charlotte, NC 28208

Dear Colleagues,

It's been a year since the coronavirus pandemic created an unprecedented disruption to court services. From the beginning, Mecklenburg County Superior and District Courts, and the Clerk of Superior Court Office remained open and operating. Yet, fulfilling the constitutional promise of access to justice demanded, and will continue to require, modifications to court operations. Key Court Officials, including the Senior Resident Superior Court Judge, Chief District Court Judge, Clerk of Superior Court, District Attorney, Mecklenburg County Sheriff, Chief Public Defender, and Trial Court Administrator, have been tasked with managing continuity of operations during an ongoing global health crisis. Our decisions have been guided by emergency orders of the Chief Justice, guidelines from the Center for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), and recommendations and directives from Mecklenburg County Public Health. We also thoughtfully consider and value the real-time, on-the-ground, cross-sector-experiences communicated by court and community stakeholders daily impacted by the pandemic.

As the dawn of a new day awaits us, there is both an opportunity and responsibility to emerge from the pandemic retooled and committed to advance court excellence. Just as sweeping as the changes wrought by the pandemic, the Integrated Case Management System ([ICMS](#)), scheduled to launch in Mecklenburg County on December 6, 2021, will result in monumental court advancements. Many of the frustrations that accompany a paper-based system will be relieved. The ICMS will allow documents to be filed electronically through secure eFiling, provide 24/7 access to litigants and their counsel to view case information and documents online, and streamline document management with cloud-based technology to eliminate paper handling. In the interim, the Key Court Officials will focus on education and training, adapting skills and roles of court personnel, securing equipment, and expansion of the infrastructure necessary to support a successful launch.

On behalf of the Key Court Officials, I extend our sincere appreciation to Justice Access Initiative (JAI) Co-Chairs, Attorney Kathleen K. Lucchesi, and the Hon. Chase B. Saunders, the JAI Committee members, and members of the Mecklenburg County Bar who served on Team Sectors. We value the time, talent and service dedicated to making the *Case for Change*.

Warm regards,

*Elisa Chinn-Gary*

Cc: R. William Bell, Senior Resident Superior Court Judge  
Elizabeth Thornton Trosch, Chief District Court Judge  
Spencer Merriweather, District Attorney  
Garry McFadden, Mecklenburg County Sheriff  
Kevin Tully, Chief Public Defender  
Erica Adams, Interim Trial Court Administrator

**W. ROBERT BELL**  
SENIOR RESIDENT JUDGE  
**LISA C. BELL**  
RESIDENT JUDGE  
**CARLA N. ARCHIE**  
RESIDENT JUDGE  
**KAREN EADY-WILLIAMS**  
RESIDENT JUDGE  
**DONNIE HOOVER**  
RESIDENT JUDGE  
**LOUIS A. TROSCH, JR.**  
RESIDENT JUDGE  
**GEORGE C. BELL**  
RESIDENT JUDGE  
**CASEY M. VISER**  
RESIDENT JUDGE