

Justice Cheri Beasley

Cheri Beasley is a former Chief Justice of the Supreme Court of North Carolina whose trailblazing career includes two decades on both trial and appellate courts. She is a Partner in the Raleigh office of McGuireWoods, LLP, and a member of the firm's Appeals and Issues team.

Justice Beasley joined North Carolina's highest court in 2012 and was appointed Chief Justice by Governor Roy Cooper in March 2019. As head of North Carolina's judicial branch, she initiated reforms to improve efficiency, fairness and accessibility in the state's court system. Under her leadership, state courts began adoption of electronic filing and cloud computing systems to make court services available remotely and expanded access to specialty treatment and family courts. As Chief Justice, she also launched North Carolina's Faith and Justice Alliance, bringing together legal and religious leaders to address the legal needs of low-income residents.

She previously served for four years on the North Carolina Court of Appeals and for a decade as a District Court judge in the state's 12th Judicial District. Throughout her career, Justice Beasley has advocated for fair, independent, and accessible courts. She has traveled nationwide and abroad to promote the rule of law and the administration of justice. She often lectures on trial and appellate advocacy at North Carolina's law schools and has served on numerous committees with both the American Bar Association and the North Carolina Bar Association to promote access to legal services.

Justice Beasley is a graduate of The University of Tennessee College of Law and Douglass College of Rutgers University. She earned a Master of Laws in Judicial Studies from Duke University School of Law. She is a member of the American Law Institute and has held several leadership roles in the American Bar Association and the North Carolina Bar Association. She also holds several honorary degrees and has been recognized repeatedly for her leadership and public service.