



**Candidate Profiles for May 2014 Primary**

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## 28th Judicial District Bar Buncombe County, NC



### Candidate Profiles for May 2014 Primary

#### *Race: District Attorney*

Ron Moore was first elected District Attorney in 1990. He honored his promise to reform the District Attorney's Office beginning with implementing open file discovery from his first day in office, years before it was mandated by law. His office helped develop and pilot electronic discovery for statewide use. Drug Treatment Court, DWI Treatment Court and a worthless check program that has collected millions of dollars in restitution and fees and kept cases out of the criminal courts are among the many innovations of Ron Moore's office. His decision to have low level felony pleas handled in District Court has kept over 6000 cases out of Superior Court and moved jail cases quickly, thereby saving the taxpayers over \$6 million dollars. Nuisance Court provides community service for cleaning up graffiti, and helps offenders avoid criminal records.



**Ron Moore**

Twenty years ago Ron Moore became the first elected district attorney in the state to achieve board certification in criminal law. He has taught trial advocacy for the North Carolina Conference of District Attorneys and for the National Advocacy Center. He has handled hundreds of cases himself, and has been active with the Conference of District Attorneys to help shape legislative changes. In 2013 he led the effort to pass legislation allowing local hospitals to test blood in DWI cases and signed a contract with a local hospital to do so. His office received the 2014 statewide MADD award for his innovative DWI absconder program. Moore's office leads the state in prosecution of habitual impaired drivers.

Moore received his undergraduate degree and law degree from the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill. He has been married for 29 years to Beth Arrowood, an attorney, and they have a teenage daughter. They are members of Central United Methodist Church.

# 28th Judicial District Bar

Buncombe County, NC



## Candidate Profiles for May 2014 Primary

*Race: District Attorney*

My name is Todd M. Williams. I am running to restore fairness, justice and integrity to the Office of the District Attorney. I will bring a fresh, new approach to the office.

I am a North Carolina native and am 44 years old. I was born in Winston-Salem and graduated high school in 1987 in Alamance County. I attended UNC-Chapel Hill, majored in English and graduated in 1992. After graduation, I taught at Alamance Community College where I became passionate about the law while helping homeless students. I graduated from Northeastern University School of Law in 1999 with an interest in criminal law. I moved to Buncombe County in 2001, and live in North Asheville with my wife Catherine and my young daughter.



**Todd M. Williams**

I have the experience and am qualified. I have practiced law in Western North Carolina since 2000. I recently entered private practice and represent seven defendants charged with First Degree Murder. Prior to entering private practice, I held employment with the state-wide Office of the North Carolina Capital Defender and was one of twelve Assistant Capital Defenders providing representation in capital-eligible prosecutions in this state. In addition, I have served as an Assistant Public Defender in Buncombe County and Senior Assistant Public Defender in District 29b. I have practiced in all criminal courts of North Carolina including juvenile court and in specialized courts such as adult drug treatment court. I have completed numerous trainings in forensic science with a recent focus on genetic evidence and neuroscience.

As a lawyer, I have represented thousands in court and developed many professional, collaborative relationships. My broad experience in criminal law will promote efficient prosecutions of crime in Buncombe County. I will strive to ensure fairness and access to justice. I ask for your vote.

# 28th Judicial District Bar

Buncombe County, NC



## Candidate Profiles for May 2014 Primary

*Race: Superior Court Clerk*

It has been an honor and my privilege to serve the citizens of Buncombe County since January 1, 2009. As Clerk of Superior Court I work with 63 dedicated public servants. Together our goal is to serve efficiently and provide a judicial system that is fair and just for everyone. My door is always open and I invite input.

The Clerk's office has a direct impact on many facets of life. As the Judge of Probate the Clerk makes decisions regarding competency, guardianship, involuntary commitment and adoptions. The Clerk also presides over name changes, partitions, vehicle seizures and foreclosures.

The Clerk is the record keeper for all documents filed in state court. Each year we open over 70,000 new files in Buncombe County. In addition to the responsibility of keeping all evidence introduced at trial, the Clerk assists judges in preparing judgments and keeping court minutes. As Comptroller I am responsible for over 10 million dollars processed each year.

I have demonstrated the ability to perform this important and complex job. I pledge to work each day to be fair and treat everyone with dignity and respect.



**Steven D. Cogburn**

Steve has been a licensed attorney since 1982. Born in Asheville, Steve grew up in Candler with his two brothers and two sisters. Steve's grandfather, father, brother and son are all lawyers. Being involved in the law and protecting its integrity has been part of Steve's life for over 30 years.

Steve graduated from Enka High School and UNC Chapel Hill where he obtained both his undergraduate and law degrees. Steve serves on several statewide committees. Steve is married to Carolyn Warren and has three sons, Chris, Clint and Jake.

28th Judicial District Bar  
Buncombe County, NC



**Candidate Profiles for May 2014 Primary**

*Race: Superior Court Clerk*

I was born and raised in Asheville, NC and raised with four siblings and our parents.

I have operated a local HVAC business in the community for over 14 years. I served in Central America with the 101st Airborne 1/321 Field Artillery. I also served on the Iron Curtain with the 3rd infantry division. We assisted six East German's in crossing the Iron Curtain in 1982.

I am married and have 2 children.



**Cary Stone**

28th Judicial District Bar  
Buncombe County, NC



## Candidate Profiles for May 2014 Primary

*Race: District Court Judge*

I am Thomas Amburgey. I am seeking your vote for District Court Judge in the Buncombe County Primary Election on May 6.

I have spent my career working in and around the courtroom. Consequently, I have appeared in front of over thirty different Judges. This experience has helped me recognize that the best judges are knowledgeable of the law, consistent in its application, and fair to the parties before them. They are people of integrity. These judges are not content with simply knowing the law, but instead they constantly strive to learn new legal areas and to keep informed of evolving jurisprudence. Buncombe County deserves Judges that possess these qualities.



**J. Thomas Amburgey**

As a prosecutor, I took an oath to apply the law as justice requires. Throughout my career, I have made it a priority to treat all parties involved with professionalism, honesty, and respect. My reputation as a fair and diligent attorney is well-established in the legal community.

I am proud to have spent my career prosecuting crimes in an effort to improve our community. I therefore humbly ask for your support as I offer my skills and experience to serve Buncombe County in a different capacity.

Early voting begins April 24, 2014 ending with a primary election on May 6. Cast your vote for me and for a stable court in Buncombe County.

Education: 2007 Graduate of Appalachian School of Law

For more information, please visit [amburgeyforjudge.com](http://amburgeyforjudge.com)

# 28th Judicial District Bar

Buncombe County, NC



## Candidate Profiles for May 2014 Primary

*Race: District Court Judge*

Dear Fellow Attorneys of the 28<sup>th</sup> Judicial District Bar:

My name is Ed Clontz and I am one of your District Court Judges and have been since being entrusted with that position in April of 2011. Since that time I have taken great pride in being a judge for the citizens of Buncombe County. I have been diligent in my performance of my duties as District Court Judge. I aspire to perform my duties with the up-most integrity, dedication and sense of justice that I can.



**Ed Clontz**

Over the past three years I feel that I have become a well-respected member of the local judiciary and that I have earned the respect of my fellow attorneys, my fellow judges and my fellow citizens of Buncombe County.

I understand that my path to the judiciary was not a typical one but the path I followed provided me with insight to the judicial system that few judges ever obtain.

My 10 years serving as a magistrate judge gave me knowledge of the warrant and arrest procedures from beginning to end. I obtained knowledge about involuntary commitments, juvenile petitions, and search warrants, all of which are part of the knowledge a District Court Judge should have. In small claims I acquired knowledge on landlord tenant issues and contract deposes as well as writ of executions. These too often must be addressed by the district court.

My experience in the Clerk of Court's office embodied with knowledge regarding civil judgments, attachments, claim and delivery, foreclosures and countless other civil matters that district court judges often address.

My three years as your judge has allowed me to wrap all of this experience into one package that serves the citizens of Buncombe County in a manner that no other person can.

Thank you;  
Judge Ed Clontz





## Candidate Profiles for May 2014 Primary

*Race: District Court Judge*

J. Matthew Martin is the first American Bar Association (ABA)/National Highway Traffic Safety Administration Tribal Courts Fellow. A native of Asheville, Judge Martin retired in 2013 after almost eleven years of service as an Associate Judge for the Cherokee Court, the Tribal Court for the Eastern Band of Cherokee Indians. Additionally, he is an Adjunct Professor of Law at his alma mater, the UNC School of Law, and Elon University School of Law. Matthew also practices law in Buncombe County.

In the mid-1980s, before he entered private practice, Matthew served as a Judicial Law Clerk for the Honorable Richard C. Erwin, U.S. District Judge for the Middle District of North Carolina. In 1992, at age 31, he argued the petitioner's case in *Wade v. United States* before the Supreme Court of the United States.

Since 1995, Matthew has been Board Certified as a Specialist in Federal and State Criminal Law and Appellate Practice by the N.C. State Bar Board of Legal Specialization. In 2011, Matthew was inducted into the T.C. Roberson High School "Graduates of Distinction." In 2014, the Criminal Justice Section of the ABA selected him to receive the Livingston Hall Juvenile Justice Award.

Matthew is widely recognized as a judicial leader and innovator. He recently served as chair of the ABA's National Conference of Specialized Court Judges. In Cherokee, he implemented the Integrated Domestic Violence Model, combining two days of domestic violence cases into one, increasing efficiencies. Along with a dedicated group of professionals, he created the first Zero to Three Safe Babies Court Team within the State of North Carolina in Cherokee, dedicated to improving outcomes for maltreated and abused infants and toddlers. If elected, Judge Martin will make the implementation of a Veterans Treatment Court a priority in Buncombe County.

To learn more, please visit [www.electjudgemartin.com](http://www.electjudgemartin.com).



**J. Matthew Martin**