



February 7, 2020

To the Residents of Mecklenburg County,

The presumption of innocence is the bedrock by which our justice system is built. However, on February 6, 2020, WBTV attempted to try and convict my integrity and character in a politically initiated news broadcast.

Today, I utilized the publicly accessible Clerk of Court database in conjunction with the Family Court Administrator and applicable files to review the list of 52 cases that WBTV falsely identified in its news broadcast as awaiting decisions since 2017.

Here are the findings about the alleged unresolved cases:

- The WBTV list of 52 cases contained duplicate records and once reconciled reflected a list of 48 cases.
- I filed orders and resolved matters pending before me in **46 of the 48 cases** well in advance of WBTV's broadcast claiming they were currently outstanding.
- With respect to the two remaining matters, the facts of the cases are under further review and will be expeditiously addressed.

Here are a few general statistics related to my caseload:

Family Court

- 2017: I presided over approximately **696 hearings and trials** and approximately **1,125 child support cases**.
- 2018: I presided over approximately **968 hearings and trials** and approximately **2,625 child support cases**.

Juvenile Court

- 2019: I presided in **757 cases** involving children in foster care who have been abused, neglected, or without caregiver and children charged with delinquent acts.

Our community heavily relies on the local media to report the truth and inform the general public about matters that personally affect their daily lives. It is appalling that WBTV would show reckless disregard for the truth and fall subject to politically driven reporting that misinforms the public just one week prior to a crucial election.

A request has been sent to WBTV to immediately retract the false reporting of my work attendance and number of unresolved cases in its entirety.

I humbly ask for your re-election votes during early voting, February 13 – 29 or March 3, to re-elect me to District Court.

Sincerely,

Judge Aretha Blake

[Read Judge Blake's February 6, 2020 Letter](#)