

Clerks Of Court Through NC's History

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Colonial Court

- Justice of the Peace/county court, appointed by Governor, for life
 - Clerk of the county court appointed by Justices
- Superior Court, appointed by Governor, for life
 - Clerk appointed by judges

Early State Court

- JP's appointed by Governor, for life
- County court, composed of three JP's, which also served as local government governing body, and had probate court jurisdiction
- Superior court appointed by legislature for life
 - 1777, clerks appointed by superior court judge, for life
 - 1837, clerks (county court and superior court) elected for four year term.

Reconstruction Court

- 1868—Clerks established by constitution
 - Election
 - Probate judge jurisdiction
- 1875 amendments—Clerks retained in constitution
 - Probate judge jurisdiction taken out of constitution

1870's—1950's

- No constitutional changes
- Local courts bloom like wildflowers
- Clerks are haphazard—some use CSC, others use their own, some have none
- Clerk's probate jurisdiction remains largely intact

Court Reform

- Bell Commission process
- 1961 amendments
 - General court of justice, magistrate
 - Fee system
 - State/county relationship
- Unchanged items
 - Election of judges, clerks
 - Clerks jurisdiction
- Clerk assumes all clerical support functions

1970's-Present

- Clerks office largely unchanged
- Stresses on uniform court system
 - More people, more cases
 - Smaller districts
- Changing nature of judicial elections
- Clerk's jurisdiction clarified in 2000
