

Celebrate NORTH CAROLINA COURTS

DISTRICT COURT AT 50

BY JIM DRENNAN





In 1970



In 2015-16



JUDICIAL DISTRICTS, 1960-2000

- 1960 – Thirty for all purposes
 - Six one-county districts, two seven-county
- 2015
 - District Court – 44 districts for elections
 - District Court – 41 for administration
 - 15 one-county districts; two seven-county



JUDICIAL DISTRICTS, 1960-2000

- 1960
 - Largest – 272,000 (Mecklenburg)
 - Smallest – 73,000 (1st, 6th, and 24th)
 - Ratio – 4/1
 - Average size – 151,871
- 2015 (estimated)
 - Largest – 1.034 million (26th), 1.024 million (10th)
 - Smallest – 62,000 (9A); 60,700 (20A)
 - Ratio – 17/1
 - Average size – 228,000



JUDGES LOOKED DIFFERENT

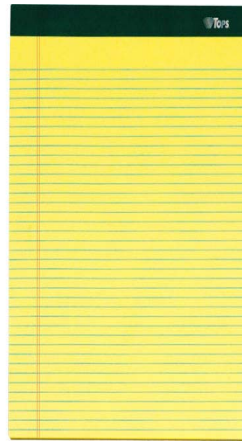




SO DO COURT USERS



Me in 1974





It was a time of movements



SOCIETY CHANGED



STOP
DOMESTIC VIOLENCE

*Support. Encourage. Empower
the Scared, the Silent, the Abused*



SO DID THE LAWS

50B

50-20

IV-D

50A

7B



AND THERE WAS STILL CRIME (AND TRAFFIC)



Class H and I

Discretion

1970
69%

2015
low 30's

COURTS, JUDGE'S ROLES CHANGED TOO

IS THERE A
DRUG COURT
IN YOUR TOWN?



THE FISHBOWL GETS BIGGER



AND ELECTIONS ARE NEVER FAR AWAY



CURRENT CHALLENGES

- Technology support
- Changing roles and norms for lawyers
 - 23,100 and 6124
- Access
 - Lawyers
 - Interpreters
- Local funding and uniformity challenges
 - Jurisdiction
 - Programs
- Maintaining judicial independence and public confidence





IT'S IN YOUR HANDS.



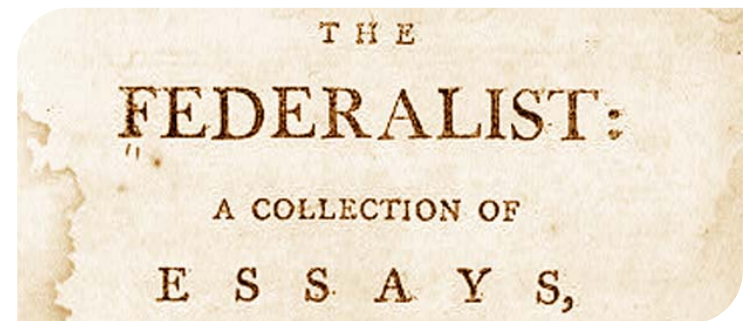
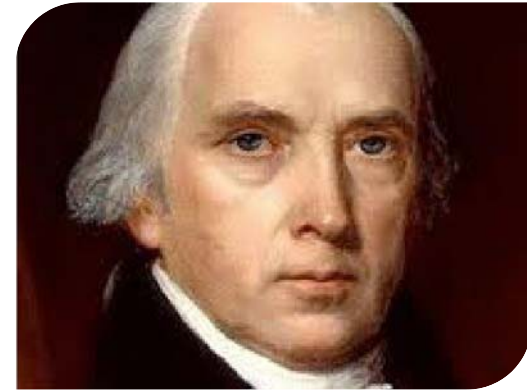
IT'S NOT REALLY NEW

- (39) No free man shall be seized or imprisoned, or stripped of his rights or possessions, or outlawed or exiled, or deprived of his standing in any way, nor will we proceed with force against him, or send others to do so, **except by the lawful judgment of his equals or by the law of the land.**
- + (40) To no one will we sell, to no one **deny or delay right or justice.**



OR EVER FINISHED

JUSTICE IS THE END OF GOVERNMENT. IT IS THE END OF CIVIL SOCIETY. IT EVER HAS BEEN AND EVER WILL BE PURSUED UNTIL IT BE OBTAINED, OR UNTIL LIBERTY BE LOST IN THE PURSUIT.



No. 51



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CELEBRATE.NCCOURTS.ORG

