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Four Republican Women Serve on North Carolina Court of Appeals, Bringing More Than 60 Years of Judicial Experience

Charlotte Observer and Raleigh News & Observer editorial overlooks four sitting female judges

RALEIGH, N.C. — Four Republican women currently serve on the North Carolina Court of Appeals: Judges Donna Stroud, Valerie Zachary, April C. Wood, and Julee Flood. Together, they bring more than 60 years of judicial experience to the people of North Carolina.

Yet an October 15 endorsement editorial published in the Charlotte Observer and the Raleigh News & Observer suggested that the departure of Democratic Judge Allegra Collins could leave the Court of Appeals without a single woman. That assertion is incorrect. The four Republican women serving alongside Judge Collins deserve to have their service and contributions accurately recognized.

Their collective experience spans decades of service on the trial and appellate benches. Judge Stroud served as a district court judge before joining the Court of Appeals, where she also served as chief judge. Judge Wood served 18 years as a district court judge before joining the appellate bench. These women bring substantial experience, distinct perspectives, and a shared responsibility to uphold the Constitution and apply the law fairly.

The newspapers are entitled to endorse the candidates of their choosing. Their readers are entitled to an accurate account of the court's membership. An endorsement should not erase the service of four women simply because they belong to a different political party.

Recognizing women's contributions to the judiciary requires recognizing Republican women, too. Their experience, leadership, and public service are no less meaningful because of their party affiliation.

The Charlotte Observer and the Raleigh News & Observer should promptly correct the factual error and give that correction sufficient prominence to reach the readers who received the inaccurate information.

North Carolinians deserve an informed discussion about their courts—one that acknowledges all the women who serve.