

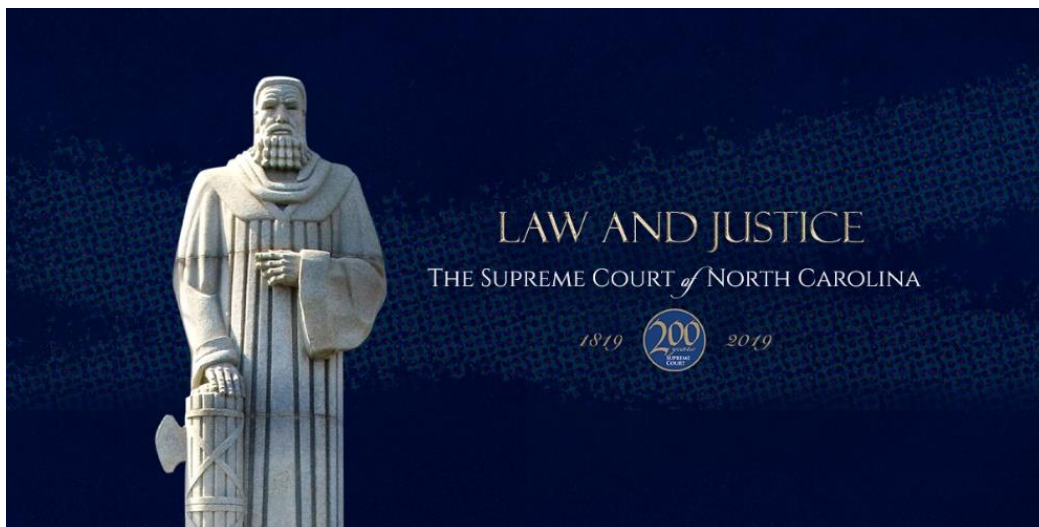
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All Rise! Newest Exhibit Celebrates the 200th Anniversary of the Supreme Court of North Carolina

Law and Justice: The Supreme Court of North Carolina, 1819–2019 opens November 15



November 5, 2019 (RALEIGH, N.C.) — On November 15, the North Carolina Museum of History will unveil its newest exhibit, [*Law and Justice: The Supreme Court of North Carolina, 1819–2019*](#) (#SupremeCourtNC200). Filled with stories, court cases, artifacts, and images, this timely exhibit celebrates the Supreme Court of North Carolina during its bicentennial anniversary and reveals the untold narrative of the state’s highest court from its founding until the present day.

“We are so excited about this new exhibit and the opportunity it provides to experience the evolution of our state’s highest court over the past two hundred years,” said [Chief Justice Cheri Beasley](#). “The Supreme Court of North Carolina was founded to improve the daily lives of the people of this state by interpreting the law in a way that is just, fair, and consistent. As we continue to strive toward that worthy goal in the Court’s third century of service to the people,

this exhibit reminds us how far we've come and celebrates the larger-than-life figures whose time on the Court profoundly shaped the law as we know it today.”

The Court's story unfolds on the walls of the exhibit and reveals the accounts of courageous men and women who resolved the essential legal issues of their day — the death penalty, crime and punishment, and the institution of slavery.

Who were the personalities that shaped North Carolina's highest court, and what were the circumstances that shaped North Carolina's body of laws? How does a court case move through the North Carolina system to reach the Supreme Court? How have the law and the Court evolved and adapted to a changing society? *Law and Justice: The Supreme Court of North Carolina, 1819–2019* answers these questions and more.

Former Associate Justice Willis Whichard said, “It is my hope that through this exhibit, North Carolinians will recognize the important role of the Supreme Court and join the celebration of our highest court's bicentennial anniversary year.”

Law and Justice: The Supreme Court of North Carolina, 1819 2019 will run from November 15, 2019 through May 31, 2020. The exhibit is a collaboration of the North Carolina Museum of History, the North Carolina Supreme Court Historical Society, and the North Carolina Judicial Branch.

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- **Photo:** Chief Justice Cheri Beasley. **Credit:** North Carolina Judicial Branch
- **Photo:** Portrait of Chief Justice Susie Sharp. **Credit:** North Carolina Judicial Branch
- **Photo:** Justice Patricia Timmons-Goodson. **Credit:** North Carolina Judicial Branch
- **Photo:** Supreme Court Library Book Bag. **Credit:** Supreme Court Historical Society
 - In the early 20th century, this book bag was used to transport heavy law books from the Supreme Court's law library to the Wake County Courthouse via trolley car down Fayetteville Street.)
- **Photo:** Robe. **Credit:** Campbell University Law School
 - Chief Justice Susie Sharp wore this robe during her seventeen years on the North Carolina Supreme Court, 1962-1979.
- **Photo:** Typewriter. **Credit:** Campbell University Law School
 - When Chief Justice Susie Sharp was a trial judge, she received this 1952 Royal manual typewriter as a gift so she could stay in touch with friends and family through letters while hearing trials all over the state.)
- **Photo:** Supreme Court Seal. **Credit:** North Carolina Judicial Branch
- **Photo:** Portrait of William Gaston. **Credit:** North Carolina Judicial Branch

For information about the NC Museum of History, a Smithsonian Affiliate museum, call 919-814-7000 or access ncmuseumofhistory.org or follow the museum on [Facebook](#), [Twitter](#), [Instagram](#), or [YouTube](#).

About the NC Museum of History

The North Carolina Museum of History, a Smithsonian Affiliate, fosters a passion for North Carolina history. This museum collects and preserves artifacts of state history and educates the public on the history of the state and the nation through exhibits and educational programs. **Admission is free.** Last year, more than 465,000 people visited the museum to see some of the 150,000 artifacts in the museum collection. The Museum of History, within the Division of State History Museums, is part of the NC Department of Natural and Cultural Resources.

About the Smithsonian Affiliations Network

Since 2006, the North Carolina Museum of History has been a Smithsonian Affiliate, part of a select group of museums, cultural, educational, and arts organizations that share Smithsonian resources with the nation. The Smithsonian Affiliations network is a national outreach program that develops long-term collaborative partnerships with museums, educational, and cultural organizations to enrich communities with Smithsonian resources. More information is available at affiliations.si.edu.

About the NC Department of Natural and Cultural Resources

The North Carolina Department of Natural and Cultural Resources (NCDNCR) is the state agency with a vision to be the leader in using the state's natural and cultural resources to build the social, cultural, educational, and economic future of North Carolina. NCDNCR's mission is to improve the quality of life in our state by creating opportunities to experience excellence in the arts, history, libraries, and natural assets in North Carolina by stimulating learning, inspiring creativity, preserving the state's history, conserving the state's natural heritage, encouraging recreation and cultural tourism, and promoting economic development.

NCDNCR includes 27 historic sites, seven history museums, two art museums, two science museums, three aquariums, and Jennette's Pier, as well as 39 state parks and recreation areas, the North Carolina Zoo, the nation's first state-supported symphonic orchestra, the State Library of North Carolina, the State Archives of North Carolina, the North Carolina Arts Council, the North Carolina State Historic Preservation Office, and the North Carolina Office of State Archaeology, along with the state Division of Land and Water Stewardship. For more information, call 919-814-6800 or visit DNCR.nc.gov.