

NEWS RELEASE

Spencer B. Merriweather III
District Attorney

January 2, 2019

DA Merriweather sworn into office

CHARLOTTE, N.C. – Reaffirming his commitment to the community, District Attorney Spencer B. Merriweather III was sworn in this morning as Mecklenburg County's chief prosecutor alongside the Assistant District Attorneys who work to ensure that the pursuit of justice, fairness and safety are the hallmarks of the local criminal justice system.

In his remarks, DA Merriweather described the work of his staff as a calling. Prosecutors are called to stand up for mothers who have lost children to gun violence. They are called to give voice to those who have suffered domestic violence, sexual assault and child abuse, and they are called to help neighbors preserve the sanctity of their homes and property.

"We are called to do work that makes clear that everyone's neighborhood has value; that no one's neighborhood is written off; that violence, poison peddling and gunplay are not accepted on anybody's block," DA Merriweather said.

He said his office also has a responsibility to seek ways to redirect young people away from a trajectory of criminal behavior and to be active supporters of those who face addiction and mental health challenges.

"We are called to exercise discernment, to show grace and good sense, to provide people who made a small error in judgment an opportunity to keep their record clean, especially when that second chance represents our best chance of keeping a person from finding their way back into the criminal justice system," he said.

DA Merriweather said both safety and fairness are essential to his office's work. Consideration of both is the only way to achieve justice, he said, and neither can be an afterthought.

The oath of office was administered by The Honorable W. Robert Bell, Senior Resident Superior Court Judge.

DA Merriweather became District Attorney in November 2017 when he was appointed as District Attorney by N.C. Governor Roy Cooper to fill the vacant seat. Following the 2018 election, DA Merriweather now becomes Mecklenburg County's elected District Attorney. His four-year term began this week.



DA Merriweather speaks at the oath of office ceremony.



**Assistant District Attorneys
are sworn in as Mecklenburg
County prosecutors.**

DA Merriweather previously served more than 10 years as an Assistant District Attorney in a variety of roles at the Mecklenburg County District Attorney's Office. He sought justice for victims' families as a homicide prosecutor, supervised the Habitual Felon Team, served as a senior sexual assault prosecutor and worked as part of a treatment team that helped offenders confront addictions in Mecklenburg County's recovery court programs.

In the coming year, DA Merriweather plans to make adjustments within the office to keep crime victims more fully engaged in the prosecution of their cases. He will continue to help lead the push for a family justice center, a facility that would allow survivors of sexual, domestic and child violence to receive necessary services in one location. He also plans to collaborate with local court officials to establish new pretrial bail policies and build partnerships with law enforcement, neighborhood leaders and the faith community.

“With eyes on integrity, equity and justice, we will go forth today and do what you called on us to do,” DA Merriweather said, speaking to the community. “We will go and continue good work on your behalf.”

Note: For more information about the District Attorney's Office, visit www.charmeckda.com. For updates and other information, “like” the DA's Office on Facebook at www.facebook.com/charmeckda and follow us on Twitter: @CharMeckDA.

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