

LISA ANDERSON WILLIAMS

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Vigorous litigation. Compassionate representation.

My name is Lisa Williams and I ask for your support to serve as Durham's next Chief Public Defender. Please visit my **Facebook page @lisaforpublicdefender** to learn more about my life.

My commitment to indigent defense is at the heart of my entire career. I earned my Juris Doctor from UNC-Chapel Hill's Law School in 1994 and have been practicing law exclusively in Durham for 26 years. Upon graduation from law school, I was an Assistant DA in Durham from 1994-1998. Since 1998, I have been a criminal defense lawyer in private practice representing indigent clients privately and also on the Durham Court Appointed list. I have represented hundreds of indigent clients on major felonies and misdemeanors, such as: murder and other violent offenses, narcotics violations, traffic court, juvenile delinquency, abuse neglect and dependency court, child support contempt, and post-conviction cases. In 2014, I became the first African-American and first female Board Certified Specialist in State Criminal Law from Durham County.

While my practice is not limited to Capital Defense, I have represented over 100 people charged with first-degree murder in Durham. Five of which were death penalty cases. Of all my clients charged with murder, only two persons have been convicted of first degree murder and none was sentenced to death. I am a dogged and relentless advocate for the accused and in particular the indigent accused. The success I have achieved is attributable to being always prepared and using a holistic representation, that is representing the person, not just the case.

My passion for indigent defense stems in large part from growing up in New Orleans and being poor. I very much remember what it feels like to be sick or in need of professional services and having to take what is assigned to you. It is a vulnerable and quiet desperation to hope the person assigned to you is qualified and caring. My goal in life has always been to provide excellent service to people, no matter what I did. I became a lawyer and I have done that throughout my career.

I have lived here since the 1990s. I have been married to Anthony Williams for 25 years and we have maintained a law practice together since 2001. I worship at North East Baptist Church, and raised our two amazing daughters, Alexandra and Olivia Williams here. They also attended Public Schools and the Public Universities of this State.

I am gregarious, cheerful, and genuinely enjoy extending myself in service to others. Durham is not just my home – it is my chosen home. I love it and I know that my energy, intellect, and experience will allow me to lead the wonderful attorneys and staff of the Public Defender's Office as we serve the people of Durham together in delivering vigorous litigation and compassionate representation.

Thank you.