

ANITA EARLS



Anita Earls, elected to serve an eight-year term as an Associate Justice of the North Carolina Supreme Court in November 2018, previously was a civil rights attorney with 30 years' experience litigating voting rights and other civil rights cases in partnership with community-based organizations. She was the founder and Executive Director of the Southern Coalition for Social Justice, a non-profit legal advocacy organization, where she also litigated voting rights and other civil rights cases, a position she left in January 2018.

Anita also has served on the North Carolina State Board of Elections and the North Carolina Equal Access to Justice Commission.

In 1998, Anita was appointed by President Clinton to the position of Deputy Assistant Attorney General in the Civil Rights Division of the U.S. Department of Justice, with responsibility for the voting, educational opportunities, disability rights, and federal coordination and compliance sections. From 2000 to 2003, she directed the Voting Rights Project at the Lawyers' Committee for Civil Rights Under Law. Returning to North Carolina in 2003, she joined Julius Chambers at the UNC Center for Civil Rights as Director of Advocacy.

For the first ten years of her career, Anita was in private practice in Charlotte, litigating voting rights, police misconduct, school desegregation, and employment discrimination cases with what was then the Ferguson, Stein, Watt, Wallas, Adkins & Gresham law firm.

Anita has taught as an adjunct professor at the University of Maryland and the University of North Carolina law schools, and in the African and African-American Studies Department at Duke University. In 2011 Anita received the national NAACP's Civil Rights Champion Award. In 2017 she received a "Defenders of Justice" award from the North Carolina Justice Center and was recognized as a "We Are Emily" honoree by Emily's List.

A mother of two, and now a grandmother, Anita lives in Durham with her husband Charles Walton.