

STATEMENT OF JUDGE KRISTIN H. RUTH 5/18/2012

It is with great sadness that I today resign my elected position as a Wake County District Court Judge. As the public is aware, the State Bureau of Investigation has been conducting an extensive investigation into orders that I signed that were submitted to me by Attorney James Crouch and his staff. I have cooperated fully with the investigation. As a result of the investigation, it has come to my attention that I signed numerous orders for Mr. Crouch that should not have been signed. I must admit that, because I trusted Mr. Crouch, I did not read the orders when they were presented to me. Had I read the orders, I would not have signed them. Mr. Crouch, as an officer of the court, should not have presented inappropriate orders to me for signature. In fact, in a conversation with Mr. Crouch shortly after I learned of some of the facts involving the orders, he told me that he had violated my trust and assured me he would go to the elected District Attorney Colon Willoughby and clear my name. To date, he has taken no such action.

As a result of my inattention in failing to read the orders before I signed them, I believe my resignation is necessary to maintain the integrity of the judicial system. I trusted the wrong person, but that does not excuse not reading the orders before I signed them. I have always believed that the integrity of the judicial system is something every judge should put before herself or himself, and because of that I believe that my resignation is necessary.

I have served the citizens of Wake County in a manner of which I am proud. It was an honor to serve for 13+ years. Although my misguided trust of Mr. Crouch has resulted in my resignation, it should not reflect on the integrity of the judicial system of Wake County or the State of North Carolina. I accept my responsibility in contributing to this problem, and feel it necessary, although with great regret, to resign.