



2026 FORUM FOR STATE APPELLATE COURT JUDGES

THE FUTURE OF JUDICIAL INDEPENDENCE

Saturday, July 25, 2026

AGENDA

Time	Program Information
8:00-8:40 am	Registration and Continental Breakfast
8:40-8:55 am	Welcome Remarks Andre Mura, President, National Civil Justice Institute Justice Sanjay T. Taylor, Supreme Court of Illinois
8:55-10:15 am	Judicial Independence and Court-Curbing: Comparative Insights Author: Prof. Mila Versteeg, University of Virginia School of Law Panelists: Prof. Robert Yablon, University of Wisconsin Law School Hon. Bernice Donald, U.S. Court of Appeals, Sixth Circuit (ret.) R. Jeffrey Lowe, DRI Lawyers Representing Business Anthony Tarricone, Kreindler & Kreindler LLP, Boston, MA
10:30-11:45 am	Discussion Groups —Group assignment and location are in your packet
12:00-1:15 pm	Keynote: Justice Cheri Beasley, former Chief Justice of the North Carolina Supreme Court
1:30-2:50 pm	Gerryshopping Author: Prof. Adam Sopko, University of Colorado Law School Panelists: Prof. Fred O. Smith, Jr., Stanford Law School Hon. Elizabeth Welch, Justice, Michigan Supreme Court Mark Burden, Donohue Brown Smyth, Chicago, IL Jennifer Scullion, Seeger Weiss LLP, Ridgefield Park, NJ
3:00-4:15 pm	Discussion Groups —Group assignment and location are in your packet
4:30-5:00 pm	Closing Plenary: Final comments by participants, questions from the floor, a summary of discussion group comments.

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