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Perjury Conviction in New Hanover County Superior Court

Barry Eugene Harris, Jr., age 67 of Wilmington, was found guilty by a New Hanover County jury of Perjury on Friday, September 11, 2026. Senior Resident Superior Court Judge R. Kent Harrell sentenced Mr. Harris to 24 months of supervised probation with a suspended sentence of 13-25 months in the Department of Adult Corrections. Mr. Harris was also ordered to serve 48 hours in jail. The jury failed to reach a unanimous decision in the case against Harris' wife, Melanie Harris.

The perjury charge against Mr. Harris arose during the litigation of an equitable distribution action between Mr. Harris and his ex-wife that was presided over by New Hanover County District Court Judge Jeffrey Noecker. On March 19, 2025, Mr. Harris filed a sworn affidavit in support of his motion seeking to have Judge Noecker removed from his case claiming that during a previous hearing in November of 2024 Judge Noecker "flew into a rage" and violently and physically assaulted him by pushing him into the witness box while yelling "get out of my way" in court. Melanie Harris filed a similar affidavit. Judge Noecker denied assaulting Mr. Harris or making any physical contact with him, and the audio recording from the November hearing did not corroborate Mr. Harris' allegation.

This case was prosecuted by Jonathan Holbrook and Carissa Thornton, Resource Prosecutors with the N.C. Conference of District Attorneys.



Barry Eugene Harris