

**NC Supreme Court – Earls Life’s Work - Back up**

October 11, 2018

<b>Script</b>	<b>Back Up</b>
<p><b>VO:</b> I grew up at a time when my parents mixed-race marriage was illegal in many states</p>	<p><b>Earls is mixed race, her mother was white and her father was black.</b> “ Her mother’s white parents shunned the new family. And when she was 10, her parents moved from a black Seattle neighborhood to a white one. She was greeted by a white playmate’s mother who sprayed her with a hose and said she didn’t want blacks on her sidewalk. “My parents thought, if we can afford this house, we ought to be able to live here,” she said. “They were not pioneers, they just wanted a nice house.” As a grown woman in Charlotte, Hodgkiss tried going to a hair salon that catered to black clients. The hairdresser sent Hodgkiss home crying after claiming her straight hair was too unpleasant to style. “She’s not black enough for the blacks, not white enough for the whites,” said her husband, who is white. Her husband recalls watching Hodgkiss bristle when introduced around Charlotte and people asked about her nationality. “She’s very obviously American,” he said. “It was an early introduction for me to the code words. They’re really trying to say, Are you black?”” (Charlotte Observer, 5/16/98)</p> <p><b>The last anti-miscegenation laws were struck down in 1967, when Earls was 7 years old.</b> “A unanimous Court struck down state laws banning marriage between individuals of different races, holding that these anti-miscegenation statutes violated both the Due Process and the Equal Protection Clauses of the Fourteenth Amendment.” (Loving V Virginia, decided 6/12/1967; Justia, retrieved <a href="#">10/4/18</a>)</p>
<p><b>VO:</b> And I decided early on that I wanted to be a lawyer to help guarantee that everyone is treated equally</p> <p><b>CG:</b> Deputy US Assistant Attorney General        Founder of Southern Coalition for Social Justice        Anita Earls Civil Rights Attorney</p>	<p><b>SCREEN</b></p> <p><b>Earls Founded the Southern Coalition for Social Justice in Durham, which Would Work to Represent and Organize Minority Communities</b> “Citizens Against OLF in Gates County has hired Anita Earls, founder of the Southern Coalition for Social Justice and who formerly worked in the Civil Rights Division of the U.S. Department of Justice. Earls could not attend Monday but sent her representative, Jessica Holmes, said Laura Dickerson, spokes-woman for the Gates County group. Founded last year in Durham, the Southern Coalition for Social Justice will represent and help organize minority and low-income communities. Many black families live within what would be a high-noise zone around the proposed OLF site in Gates County.” (Virginian-Pilot, 2/22/08)</p> <p><b>Earls began her legal career as an attorney with Ferguson Stein, worked on some of N.C.’s “biggest civil rights cases.”</b> “This Yale law school graduate has worked on some of North Carolina’s biggest civil rights cases in her 10 years with the Charlotte law firm of Ferguson Stein Wallas Adkins Gresham &amp; Sumter. She has repeatedly taken police to court when blacks died at the hands of N.C. officers.” (Charlotte Observer, 5/16/98)</p>

<p>VO: After my brother was murdered and the killer was never prosecuted I personally experienced what it means to not get your day in court</p>	<p><b>Earls’s Brother was Stabbed to Death in Washington State.</b> “A career civil rights lawyer, Anita Earls said her faith in the justice system was shaken when prejudice helped her brother's killer go free. Earls was working at the University of North Carolina Center for Civil Rights in 2006 when her father phoned with the devastating news that her only sibling had been stabbed to death in Washington state. ‘I spent a lot of time gathering evidence, putting together a case, trying to convince the district attorney to bring charges,’ Earls said. ‘Two reasons were given to me for why they would not bring charges. The first was that it was a small, rural county and murder prosecutions are expensive. The second reason was that no jury in that county would convict a white woman of killing a black man.’ Earls and her brother are biracial, and the woman she had accused in her brother's death is Caucasian. ‘And that, to me, really challenged this notion that we could have a justice system,’ she said. ‘And it took me a while to conclude that ultimately I either had to go big or go home.’” (Wilson Daily Times, 3/26/18)</p> <p><b>A District Attorney Would Not Bring Charges Related to Earls’ Brother’s Death Because the Prosecution would be Expensive and Because No Jury in that County would Convict a White Woman of Killing a Black Man.</b> “A career civil rights lawyer, Anita Earls said her faith in the justice system was shaken when prejudice helped her brother's killer go free. Earls was working at the University of North Carolina Center for Civil Rights in 2006 when her father phoned with the devastating news that her only sibling had been stabbed to death in Washington state. ‘I spent a lot of time gathering evidence, putting together a case, trying to convince the district attorney to bring charges,’ Earls said. ‘Two reasons were given to me for why they would not bring charges. The first was that it was a small, rural county and murder prosecutions are expensive. The second reason was that no jury in that county would convict a white woman of killing a black man.’ Earls and her brother are biracial, and the woman she had accused in her brother's death is Caucasian. ‘And that, to me, really challenged this notion that we could have a justice system,’ she said. ‘And it took me a while to conclude that ultimately I either had to go big or go home.’” (Wilson Daily Times, 3/26/18)</p>
<p>VO: If we’re going to protect families and make communities safer we need equal justice under law VO: That’s my life’s work and why I’d be honored to have your vote VO: Anita Earls for North Carolina Supreme Court</p> <p>CG: Anita Earls for NC Supreme Court</p>	<p><b>Earls Was Motivated to Enter the Legal Profession by Seeing Her Parents Face Discrimination for Their Interracial Marriage</b> “Earls said growing up in a mixed-race household and witnessing discrimination against her parents motivated her to seek a career in law. ‘I saw the barriers that they faced,’ she said. ‘In fact, when they met and fell in love in Missouri, it was illegal for them to be married. It wasn't until I was 7 years old that they could legally marry in every state, but they moved out to Washington state, and that's why I grew up on the West Coast. ‘I believed from a very early age that the promise of equal justice under law was one worth fighting for and that we could use the legal system to try to break down barriers and try to ultimately achieve that promise.’” (Wilson Daily Times, 3/26/18)</p>