

Christy Underwood Clark

Background Report

June 2018

Updated in June 2020 and August 2022

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Summary of Findings

Christy Underwood Clark is a 51-year-old paralegal currently residing in Mecklenburg County, North Carolina. Originally from Galax, Virginia, she attended and graduated from Roanoke College in Roanoke, VA before moving to the Pacific Northwest with first husband Matthew Laas.

Laas and Clark had three children between 2001 and 2006 before she left him to pursue a high-school sweetheart, Charles “Chris” Clark. In moving to North Carolina in mid-2010 to marry Chris, Clark relinquished custody of her three children to her ex-husband and was ordered to pay child support for their care.

Chris also has two children from a previous marriage, although it is our understanding that their mother has primary custody of the younger, Will, as Matthew is 18-years-old and no longer subject to a custody plan. It is unclear where he lives primarily.

In 2014, Clark attempted again to get custody of her three children; however, the courts affirmed the 2010 decision. Documents filed by Laas in the 2014 custody hearing alleged that Clark regretted her decision to leave the children behind and detailed the on-line relationship she established with Chris before moving to North Carolina.

Despite this complicated custody situation, Clark claims in her financial disclosure to run for office that all five of their shared children reside in their residence.

Outside of the family law situation, there is little in Clark’s background that would prevent her from running for office. She and her husband own a home in Huntersville, NC and all taxes on the home are current and were paid on-time. It should be noted that the Clarks hold two mortgages on their home, a traditional loan through Capital One and a private loan through relatives. The Clarks consolidated all loans into one private loan in 2019, and that is how it remains in subsequent disclosures. Additionally, after losing her seat in the North Carolina General Assembly in 2020, Clark took a second job as a substitute or “guest” teacher in Mecklenburg County.

After earning more than 90% of the vote in the May 2018 primary, Clark defeated John Bradford III, a three-term incumbent, by just 415 votes in the general election. In a rematch in November 2020, Bradford defeated her by more than 2,000 votes. As a candidate, she received significant funds, more than \$1.2 million, from Democratic candidates and committees followed by more than \$160,000 from people who described themselves as not employed or unemployed.

Clark gave more than \$3,445 to state candidates and committees during the last few years, although about \$800 of this went to her own committee. She gave \$297 to federal candidates and committees in 2019 and 2010, of which more than \$100 went to the North Carolina Democratic Party.

Background and Biography

Identifying Information

Name: Christy Clark (aka Christy L. Underwood, Christy U. Laas)

DOB: June 23, 1971

Address: 3902 Conner Glenn Drive
Huntersville, NC 28078

Family: Husband: Charles Christopher Clark (3/1971). Five children. Three biological – Grady (9/11/2001), Hadley (5/13/2004), and Quincy (6/30/2006) – and two stepchildren – Matthew and William
Former husband: Matthew Edward Laas (11/1969) – remarried and resides in Oregon with wife Dacia

Biography

The following biography was taken from [Clark's campaign website](#):

I believe it is time for our legislature to focus on what really matters to North Carolinians. In recent years, our legislators have been more focused on their own agenda and get themselves reelected than they have been on taking care of the people in North Carolina. It's time for that to stop. North Carolinians are concerned about issues like quality education, affordable healthcare, job opportunities, clean drinking water, voting rights and being safe in our communities.

Previous representatives have failed to do what is good for North Mecklenburg. I'm committed to work for the best interests of District 98. I'm running to ensure North Carolina is a place where my children, neighbors, friends, and family can thrive.

I was raised in a family dedicated to volunteerism and community service. For the past five years, I dedicated myself to working on gun violence prevention. I spent many hours in the General Assembly working with legislators on both sides of the aisle, attending committee meetings and sessions of the House and Senate. I saw first hand how citizen's voices could impact the legislative process and decided to move from advocate to candidate.

As a North Carolina Certified Paralegal, I help many small business owners and entrepreneurs get their businesses off the ground. I've worked with the Secretary of State in North Carolina and seen how having policies that are welcoming to small businesses ensure the success of start-ups and entrepreneurs. Working with a wide

range of individuals and businesses from all across the state has given me the insight into what is needed to grow a business.

I currently work as an intellectual property and business law paralegal at a law firm founded by my husband, Chris. We were born and raised in Roanoke, Virginia, and currently, reside in Huntersville. I received my undergraduate degree in English at Roanoke College and Certificate in Paralegal Studies from Duke University. Together, Chris and I have five children and a rescue dog.

Voter Registration

Clark registered to vote in Mecklenburg County on June 18, 2010 as a member of the Democratic Party (ID: 001000011169). Since that time, she participated in fourteen elections, always pulling the Democratic ballot when available. Notable, she did not participate in the 2014 primary election

Election	Method	Party Affiliation (if available)
11/2/2010 General	In-Person	
5/8/2012 Primary	In-Person	Democratic
11/6/2012 General	In-Person	
11/5/2013 General	In-Person	
11/4/2014 General	ABS-1Stop	
11/3/2015 General	In-Person	
3/15/2016 Primary	In-Person	Democratic
6/7/2016 Primary	In-Person	Democratic
11/8/2016 General	ABS-1Stop	
11/7/2017 General	In-Person	
5/8/2018 Primary	In-Person	Democratic
11/6/2018 General	In-Person	
11/5/2019 General	ABS-1Stop	
3/3/2020 Primary	ABS-1Stop	Democratic

Professional License

Clark was certified as a paralegal in the State of North Carolina on May 20, 2011 (No. CP05581). Despite being listed as certified, her certification expired on July 1, 2018.

Clark's husband, Charles, was admitted to practice law in the State of North Carolina on August 24, 2001 (ID: 27748). There is no indication of disciplinary action against him.

Legal and Financial Records

Statement of Economic Interest

Clark completed statements of economic interest with the North Carolina Ethics Commission covering calendar years 2017 to 2021

Employment/Occupation

Clark worked as a paralegal at her husband's law firm, The Law Office of Chris Clark PLLC through 2020. In her 2021 disclosure, Clark listed that she is a "Guest Teacher" with Charlotte Mecklenburg Schools.

Household Members

In addition to her husband, who is employed at his own law firm, Clark listed her stepsons and their three other children of whom they do not have custody in the section of household members.

- Charles Christopher Clark – Spouse
 - Attorney, The Law Office of Chris Clark PLLC
- Matthew Jaeger Clark – Stepson
- GJL (Grady) – Son
- HBL (Hadley) – Daughter
- QEL (Quincy) – Son
- WAC (William) – Stepson

Property Ownership

The Clarks share 100% ownership of their home in Huntersville in Mecklenburg County.

Private Companies

The law firm is the only business disclosed in this filing, and she indicates that it does business with the State of North Carolina. Clark does not disclose the nature of this business beyond "law firm."

Clark is an employee of the company and her husband is listed as a member.

Liabilities in Excess of \$10,000

The Clarks have significant liabilities, including some that were incurred since her election to the legislature. It appears they consolidated their debts in 2019 to an "Individual" loan after listing four separate liabilities in 2018.

- 2017 – Commercial Bank (Clark)

- 2017 – Commercial Bank (Christopher)
- 2018 – Auto Loan (Both)
- 2018 – Credit Card Debt (Both)
- 2018 – Student Loan (Both)
- 2018 – Intra-Family Debt (Both)
- 2019 to 2021 – Individual Debt (Both)

Income

Both Clark and her husband receive wages from The Law Office of Chris Clark PLLC. He also receives “business income” in addition to his salary.

In 2020, Clark disclosed income from the North Carolina General Assembly, and in 2021, she listed her work with Charlotte Mecklenburg Schools.

Property Records

The Clarks own a single home in Huntersville, NC that was purchased in May 2011. Previously, she owned two parcels in Portland, OR with her ex-husband, Matthew Laas.

3902 Conner Glenn Drive, Huntersville, NC 28078

(APN: 009-391-61)

- Purchased from Federal Home Loan Mortgage on May 24, 2011 for \$171,700
- Refinanced to a \$184,000 loan through Capital One NA on July 22, 2015
- Refinanced to a \$66,000 loan by Connie and Deborah Clark on January 24, 2018
- 2,694 square foot, 3-bed, 2.5 bath home valued at \$205,200 in 2017

1330 Hume Court, Portland, OR 97219

(APN: R126986)

- Purchased by Matthew and Christy Laas on September 28, 2004 for \$258,500
- Secured a first mortgage at \$206,800 and a \$25,850 second mortgage through America’s Wholesale Lender on the same day.
- Refinanced to a \$59,000 mortgage on April 22, 2006 through Countrywide Bank
- Clark sold her interest in the home on May 7, 2010 to Matthew for \$72,105

2672 Hume Court, Portland, OR 97219

(APN: R524701290)

- Purchased by Matthew and Christy Laas on November 29, 1999 for \$169,900
- Secured a \$158,000 loan through Eagle Home Mortgage on the same day

Recorded Documents – Mecklenburg County

The following documents are recorded in Mecklenburg County and list Clark as a party:

- The Clarks purchased their current home, 3902 Conner Glenn Drive, Huntersville, NC, as a foreclosed parcel from Federal Home Loan Mortgage on May 24, 2011 for \$171,700.
- On June 21, 2011, the Clarks borrowed \$171,700 from Fidelity Bank dba Fidelity Bank Mortgage over thirty years.
- A certificate of satisfaction dated December 30, 2012 also includes an affidavit signed by the Clarks swearing that they are the owners of a \$25,000 loan from family members, Connie Mack Clark, Deborah Clark, Bill Clark, and Eleanor T. Clark on October 11, 2012. The filing on December 30, 2012 released the entire loan.
- The Clarks borrowed \$184,000 over 30 years from Capital One NA on June 22, 2015.
- On August 19, 2015, Fidelity Bank Mortgage released the loan signed by the Clarks on June 21, 2011.
- The Clarks borrowed \$68,000 from Connie Mack Clark and Deborah M. Clark plus a 5% commission for a trustee, Richard Holmes Esq.

Because the previous lender did not file a release of loan, it would appear that the most recent, private-party loan is in addition to the primary mortgage at \$184,000 for a total of \$252,000. The Clark's home is valued at \$205,200, which would place their loans at \$47,000 more than the value of the home..

Our searches also yielded matches to two real estate documents from Chris's first marriage:

- Chris and Kathryn Andersen Clark borrowed \$163,500 from NVR Finance Inc. over 30 years and secured it on a parcel at 12022 Snapping Turtle Lane, Huntersville, NC on August 1, 2001.
- On October 29, 2003, NVR Finance Inc. released the loan signed by Chris and Kathryn Clark on August 1, 2001.

Property Taxes

Taxes on the Clarks home are current and have been paid on time since they took ownership of the home in May 2011.

Tax Year	Date Paid	Amount Paid	Penalty/Interest
2011	11/16/2011	\$2,324.35	\$0
2012	11/15/2012	\$2,274.28	\$0

2013	11/23/2013	\$2,322.51	\$0
2014	11/25/2014	\$2,386.68	\$0
2015	11/17/2015	\$2,388.68	\$0
2016	11/27/2016	\$2,392.18	\$0
2017	11/21/2017	\$2,359.68	\$0
2018	11/13/2018	\$2,426.57	\$0
2019	11/21/2019	\$2,597.35	\$0
2020	11/18/2020	\$2,603.37	\$0
2021	11/19/2021	\$2,628.37	\$0

Our review yielded some matches to an additional parcel in Charlotte, NC from the early 2000s for a Christie Clark and some unpaid personal property taxes at the same address for a Charles Kristopher Clark III, but these do not refer to the subject of this report or her husband.

Legal Records – Family Law

Clark was the respondent in her divorce from Matthew Laas in 2009. According to the filing, the Laases were married on May 1, 1999 in Roanoke, VA and had three children who were ages seven, five, and not quite three years old.

- Matthew Edward Laas v. Christy Underwood Laas (case no. 090666340)
 - Filed on June 16, 2009 in Multnomah County Circuit Court
 - Settled and disposed as a divorce absolute on April 29, 2010

According to Laas's petition, he wanted to assume financial responsibility and custody of the children.

On June 22, 2009, they filed a mutual restraining order preventing modification of the children's residence and present schedule, hiding them, or leaving the State of Oregon without written permission from the other parent.

Clark filed a counterclaim and response on July 14, 2009 requesting dissolution of marriage, sole custody of the children, permission to relocate more than 60 miles from the petitioner, and reasonable child support.

An order dated August 5, 2009 released the restraining order from June 22, 2009.

Laas and Clark both attended a seminar about helping children cope with change in October 2009, and the following month, an evaluation of custody by an independent party was ordered. In December 2009, the independent evaluator recommended that custody remain with Laas and that the children spend substantial time with their mother during the summer.

On April 29, 2010, a judgment for dissolution of marriage and money award was signed. It gave the parties joint custody until Clark relocated to North Carolina in June 2010. At that time, Matthew Laas would become primary custodial parent and they would remain in Oregon except or during specified holidays. This document indicated that Laas was earning almost \$8,000 per month

compared to Clark's \$2,750 that she would earn after she moved. Clark was ordered to pay \$750 per month.

Laas was awarded the family home in exchange for \$72,105 paid to Clark, and she was expected to leave the home by May 1, 2010. The filing also included a list of their debts, which included first and second mortgages on their home (to be assumed by Laas), a credit line, a car loan on a 2008 Sienna, a Bank of America Visa, an Old Navy Visa, a Target Visa, and a Bank of America Signature Visa. A 1999 Volvo had a repair bill was to be split by them.

2014 Attempt at Custody

Clark applied for custody and child support in 2014. According to her petition, Clark detailed Laas's marriage to new wife Dacia 2012, which resulted in moving her son Zane into the home in June 2012. She alleged that Zane physically hurt Quincy (7) and Hadley (10), and that the children were primarily cared for by a nanny. She additionally accused Laas of having subpar electronic devices which prevented her from talking to her children via phone or Skype.

She indicated her part-time employment, marriage to Chris, a home with more than 2,600 square feet, a prime school district, and her children's stepbrothers, Matthew (14) and Will (10) as reasons her kids should move to North Carolina. Clark also mentioned her ex-husband's home at less than 2,000 square feet as being insufficient for the number of people living there.

On August 7, 2014, an order set a custody hearing between September 22 and September 24, 2014 in Multnomah County Family Services Division.

Laas filed an amended response on September 10, 2014. He claimed no material or substantial change of circumstances since the last judgment, and that it was not in the best interest of the children to move to North Carolina. He denied any need for change in the financial arrangement, and that since Clark is requesting legal custody, that joint custody be discontinued, and he be allowed sole legal custody. Laas also requested attorneys fees.

A memorandum before the hearing provided by Laas described Clark as being "*...emotionally upset over the decision she has made...*" and that "*At the time of the divorce, Respondent...had wanted to move to North Carolina. She had reconnected on line with a friend that she had dated in high school and started an intimate relationship with this man that had turned into remarriage in 2010.*"

On November 24, 2014, a supplemental judgment awarded sole custody of the children to their father and included a parenting plan that gave the children the electronic means to contact Clark. Clark was ordered to pay \$281 per month in support. The judgment was affirmed by the judgment on February 9, 2015

Laas's counsel filed an affidavit for attorney's fees on December 8, 2014, which also included exhibits by which the parties agreed to keep proceedings confidential. In Clark's objection to this, dated December 18, 2014, she claimed "*...significant emotional consequences associated with the proceeding.*"

Clark was ordered to contribute \$3,500 toward Laas's \$15,426.25 in attorney's fees and court costs, and a lien against Clark for the amount was recorded in the court register on March 25, 2015.

Among the courts findings included the following, "*...the Father had at times not been responsive to Mother's requests for communication with and about the children, the court also found that Mother's demanding style contributed to Father's lack of responsiveness.*"

Legal Records – Other

Our searches in North Carolina and Mecklenburg County did not provide any matches to civil, criminal, probate, or other suits naming Clark as a party.

Political Activities

Campaign Finance

Clark established a campaign finance committee – Committee to Elect Christy Clark (ID: STA-L3ETJB-C-001) – with the North Carolina Secretary of State on January 16, 2018. Since that time, she raised more than \$970,000. At the close of the February 15, 2020 reporting period, Clark had more than \$71,000 cash on hand.

Time Period	Contributions	Expenditures	Cash on Hand
Organizational	\$290.16	\$0	\$290.16
1/1/2018 – 4/21/2018	\$33,428.13	\$11,312.51	\$22,115.62
4/22/2018 – 6/30/2018	\$37,907.34	\$30,339.91	\$29,683.05
7/1/2018 – 10/20/2018	\$727,282.27	\$433,740.73	\$323,224.59
10/21/2018 – 12/31/2018	\$105,261.75	\$417,845.39	\$10,640.95
1/1/2019 – 6/30/2019	\$14,361.38	\$2,755.16	\$22,247.18
7/1/2019 – 12/31/2019	\$23,447.78	\$11,338.09	\$34,356.87
1/1/2020 – 2/15/2020	\$29,628.02	\$2,387.91	\$71,596.98
2/16/2020 – 6/30/2020	\$172,352.63	\$44,589.45	\$199,360.16
7/1/2020 – 10/17/2020	\$627,760.83	\$738,359.26	\$88,761.73
10/18/2020 – 12/31/2020	\$92,282.55	\$163,060.01	\$15,655.62
1/1/2021 – 6/30/2021	\$750.00	\$3,415.44	\$12,990.18
7/1/2021 – 12/31/2021	\$3,545.00	\$5,493.93	\$11,041.25
1/1/2022 – 4/30/2022	\$44,705.20	\$9,003.74	\$46,742.71
5/1/2022 – 6/30/2022	\$94,503.13	\$27,598.60	\$113,647.24

Contributions by Industry

Clark disclosed more than \$1.2 million in contributions from Democratic Candidates or Committees, mostly comprised of money from the North Carolina Democratic Party and more than \$161,000 from people who describe themselves as not employed.

Industry	Amount
Pro-Abortion	\$29,833.92
Agriculture	\$5,050.00
Alcohol and Beverages	\$598.75
Artists	\$9,869.89
Auto Sales	\$843.00
Athletics	\$116.76
Big Box Stores	\$230.68
Clergy	\$1,320.00
Communications	\$250.00

Construction and Developers	\$12,232.76
Democratic Candidates and Committees	\$1,234,031.33
Education	\$37,570.76
Energy	\$5,914.34
Engineering	\$6,534.34
Entertainment	\$2,500.00
Environmental Groups	\$7,704.88
Finance	\$32,294.67
First Responders	\$150.00
Government Employees	\$1,804.56
Anti-Gun Groups	\$1,061.13
Hospitality	\$1,367.29
Insurance	\$243.34
Legal	\$58,986.11
Lobbyists	\$100.00
Marketing	\$2,151.34
Media	\$3,772.99
Medical Industry	\$48,299.39
Military	\$63.83
Misc.	\$55,618.95
Native Americans	\$400.00
Non-Profits and Foundations	\$7,075.84
Not Employed	\$161,482.69
Pharmaceutical Companies	\$1,033.34
Real Estate	\$21,497.55
Retail	\$3,530.30
Retired	\$76,181.55
Sales	\$2,095.00
Self	\$809.83
Science and Technology	\$19,813.56
Transportation	\$636.27
Public Employee or Trade Unions	\$6,150.00
Writing/Editing/Publishing	\$8,872.55

A complete list of all contributions to Clark is included in a separate excel spreadsheet.

Election Results

Clark was unopposed in the 2022 primary election.

2018 Primary Election

Clark comfortably won the primary election by receiving more than 90% of the vote against Brandon Rosenlieb.

Candidate	Votes	Percentage
Christy Clark	3,275	90.32%
Brandon Rosenlieb	351	9.68%

2018 General Election

Clark barely defeated her general election opponent, John Bradford III, a three-term incumbent, by just 415 votes.

Candidate	Votes	Percentage
Christy Clark (D)	20,033	50.52%
John Bradford III (R)	19,618	40.48%

2020 General Election

After running unopposed in March 2020 primary, Clark was defeated by a larger margin than her victory in November 2018.

Candidate	Votes	Percentage
John R. Bradford III (R)	31,793	51.67%
Christy Clark (D)	29,743	48.33%

Contributions to Others

According to the Federal Elections Commission website, Clark made contributions totaling \$297 to federal candidates and committees, including \$107 to the North Carolina Democratic Party.

Recipient	Date	Amount
North Carolina Democratic Party via ActBlue	1/22/19	\$50.00
North Carolina Democratic Party via ActBlue	4/8/19	\$35.00
Friends of Lucy McBath via ActBlue	4/25/20	\$50.00
Biden for President via ActBlue	5/6/20	\$25.00
Biden for President via ActBlue	8/6/20	\$15.00
Alma Adams for Congress via ActBlue	8/29/20	\$100.00
North Carolina Democratic Party via ActBlue	2/22/22	\$22.00

State Contributions

According to the North Carolina State Board of Elections, Clark gave \$3,445 to state candidates and committees.

Recipient	Date	Amount
Ncae Pac	10/24/05	\$0.74
Ncae Pac	12/2/05	\$0.73
Mecklenburg Dw	1/13/17	\$30.00
Mecklenburg Dw	1/12/18	\$30.00
Mecklenburg Dw	1/12/18	\$30.00
Lillian's List Pac	4/3/18	\$200.00
Mecklenburg Dw	7/27/18	\$150.00
Nc League Of Conservation Voters Conservation Pac	8/13/18	\$75.00
Committee To Elect Christy Clark	8/16/18	\$200.00
Committee To Elect Marcia Morgan	9/24/18	\$100.00
Committee To Elect Leslie Cohen	9/24/18	\$100.00
The Committee To Elect Aimy Steele	9/27/18	\$100.00
Committee To Elect Christy Clark	9/28/18	\$19.99
Committee To Elect Christy Clark	10/19/18	\$411.84
Nc Dec - State	2/29/20	\$850.00
Mecklenburg Dw	5/20/20	\$30.00
Democrats Of North Mecklenburg	3/13/21	\$70.00
Lillian's List Pac	4/7/22	\$129.26
Mecklenburg Lgbt Democrats	5/14/22	\$250.00
Committee To Elect Christy Clark	6/7/22	\$32.12
Committee To Elect Christy Clark	6/7/22	\$176.00
Mecklenburg Dec	2/28/18	\$50.00
Josh Stein For Attorney General	4/8/19	\$100.00
Mecklenburg Dec	12/16/19	\$15.00
Mecklenburg Dec	3/13/21	\$50.00
Mecklenburg Dec	5/6/22	\$100.00
Mecklenburg Dec	5/12/22	\$45.00
Earls For Justice	10/16/18	\$100.00

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