



LANC Fund Tops \$750,000



Norfleet Pruden leads major gifts effort.

The Legal Aid of North Carolina Fund, an ongoing objective of the North Carolina Bar Association's 4ALL Campaign, received more than \$750,000 in giving commitments through June 30, 2008.

Major law firm gifts, solicited under the leadership of NCBA Past-President Norfleet Pruden on behalf of the Donate Working Group, account for \$340,000 or nearly one-third of the LANC Fund's \$1 million goal.

"North Carolina law firms tend to support great causes like this," Pruden said. "My part in this mission has been to make the larger firms of this state particularly aware of this effort."

The law firms of Kennedy Covington Lobdell & Hickman (now K&L Gates) and Smith, Anderson, Blount, Dorsett, Mitchell & Jernigan led the way with commitments of \$100,000 each.

The newly combined firm of Smith Moore Leatherwood will contribute \$75,000 to the LANC Fund while Parker Poe Adams & Bernstein is donating \$50,000.

Williams Mullen completes the current honor roll of larger firm contributions with its contribution of \$15,000.

Separate articles regarding each of these gifts appear in this edition of North Carolina Lawyer. Separate coverage also highlights gifts made independent of the NCBA 4ALL

effort directly to LANC through its Access to Justice Campaign.

Additionally, more major gift announcements are forthcoming, including a \$100,000 contribution from Clifford Britt of Comerford & Britt in Winston-Salem. Details of the gift will accompany coverage of the upcoming Justice Fund dedication ceremony.

In complimenting managing partners who graciously received him when making calls on behalf of the LANC Fund, Pruden recognized contributing law firms for generously contributing to this worthwhile cause.

"This is purely a matter of professional responsibility," Pruden said. "This is a cause that does not win them any business; no paying clients will be generated because of their gifts to this campaign."

Martin Brinkley and Caryn McNeill, who served as co-chairs of the 2008 4ALL Task Force, were extremely grateful to Pruden and the law firms for their collective efforts.

"The LANC Fund solicitation efforts would never have borne fruit so quickly and in such abundance without Norfleet's extraordinary leadership," Brinkley said. "His passion for proving that North Carolina lawyers and law firms are prepared to make tangible commitments to our state's needy citizens is what has made this campaign a success."

"These visionary gifts are sure to make a real difference in the ongoing effort to increase the provision of legal services to the poor," McNeill added. "They will allow LANC to continue to attract and retain top-notch lawyers who have a passion for this work, which means that thousands more North Carolinians will get the help they so desperately need."

"We are delighted these donors chose to step up and make a difference in this way, and hope that their leadership will inspire still more North Carolina lawyers to do the same."

The LANC Fund was established by the NCBA Board of Governors in January 2007 as a named fund within the NCBA Foundation Endowment restricted to Legal Aid of North Carolina. Hickory attorney Charles Dixon fully endowed the restricted fund last year when he contributed \$100,000 to establish the Charles D. Dixon Restricted Justice Fund.

The LANC Fund became a focal point of the 4ALL Campaign in 2007-08 under the leadership of NCBA President Janet Ward Black.

"The major law firm gifts allowed us to get to one-third of our \$1 million goal," Black said. "We are grateful to the law firms for stepping forward and supporting the provision of legal services to the poor in this state."

Black found added significance in the fact that the three largest law firms gifts came from firms that provided key leadership volunteers to the 4ALL Task Force.

Pruden, who solicited major gifts from larger law firms, is a longtime partner with Kennedy Covington (now K&L Gates); McNeill and Brinkley, the 4ALL Task Force co-chairs, are partners at Smith Anderson; Mona O'Bryant, who chaired the Donate Working Group of the 4ALL Task Force, is a partner at Smith Moore Leatherwood.

"These firms not only allowed us to put the fine minds of their lawyers to work for the needs of others in this state," Black said, "they also financially supported this good work." ■

K&L Gates Contributing \$100K to LANC Fund

K&L Gates, which combined with Kennedy Covington Lobdell & Hickman on July 1, 2008, will contribute \$100,000 to the Legal Aid of North Carolina Fund. The LANC Fund, established by the Board of Governors of the North Carolina Bar Association in January 2007, is a named fund within the NCBA Foundation Endowment restricted to Legal Aid of North Carolina.

The K&L Gates contribution is made in conjunction with the ongoing 4ALL Campaign to expand the provision of legal services to the poor provided by LANC.

"We have long thought that it should be a core value of our firm to give back to the community and provide leadership in the

bar," said Gene Pridgen, administrative partner for K&L Gates in Charlotte and former managing partner of Kennedy Covington. "The 4ALL Campaign provided us with an opportunity to do both.

"We believe this is a value that law firms should have and we're proud to be part of the 4ALL Campaign."

The gift, Pridgen added, mirrors the type of bar commitment that K&L Gates demonstrated prior to its combination with Kennedy Covington.

"We do think Kennedy Covington and K&L Gates have the same values in that regard," Pridgen said. "This was one of the important things we looked at when



combining the firms: how they view bar service and service to the community.

"Two of the last three ABA presidents have been partners in K&L Gates, so they share our values in regard to community service and bar leadership, which is a big part of our feeling comfortable with our new firm."

The K&L Gates contribution also supports the efforts of longtime Kennedy Covington partner Norfleet Pruden, a past president of the NCBA who solicited major gifts from larger firms on behalf of the 4ALL Campaign.

"We are all very proud of all that Norfleet has done for the bar, not only as president of the NCBA but all that he has done throughout his career," Pridgen said. "His leadership role in this effort is just another example of his many contributions to the bar.

"We are proud to have him as our partner."

K&L Gates has more than 1,700 lawyers practicing in 28 offices in the United States, Europe and Asia, with North Carolina offices in Charlotte, Raleigh and Research Triangle Park. More than 175 K&L Gates lawyers and legal assistants are members of the NCBA. ■

Smith Moore Leatherwood Provides \$75,000 Gift

Smith Moore Leatherwood LLP, in conjunction with the North Carolina Bar Association's 4ALL Campaign to expand the provision of legal services provided by Legal Aid of North Carolina, will contribute \$75,000 to the LANC Fund.

A named fund within the NCBA Foundation Endowment restricted to Legal Aid of North Carolina, the LANC Fund was established by the NCBA Board of Governors in January 2007 under the leadership of President Clark Smith who is now a partner in the Smith Moore Leatherwood firm.

"The lawyers in our firm have had a long history of commitment to both the

North Carolina Bar Association and pro bono work in general," said Steve Earp, managing partner. "We have done innumerable things, typically in a way that is quiet and not for publicity; the 4ALL Campaign presented a real opportunity for us to support these efforts in a tangible financial manner."

The contribution, Earp added, is in keeping with the firm's longstanding commitment to public service.

"We have always been a firm that takes our responsibility seriously," Earp said. "This seemed like an excellent way to step up and do just that. This serves as an expression of the centerpiece of the

commitment that we ask every lawyer to fulfill."

The new Smith Moore Leatherwood nameplate was formed Aug. 1 when Smith Moore LLP, with offices in Greensboro, Raleigh, Wilmington, Charlotte and Atlanta, combined with Leatherwood Walker Todd & Mann of Greenville, S.C.

The combined firm comprises nearly 200 attorneys in three states. There are 136 lawyers and legal assistants with the firm who are members of the North Carolina Bar Association, including Mona O'Bryant who served as chair of the 4ALL Task Force Donate Working Group and NCBA Past-President Larry Sitton.



"It is important that we make sure Legal Aid is properly funded," said Sitton, who also served on the Donate Working Group. "It is also important that we donate our services.

"We as lawyers have been given a monopoly to practice law. Because of that, we owe a debt to make sure the rule of law is not just an empty promise and that everyone has access to the system." ■

Smith Anderson Commits \$100K to LANC Fund

Smith, Anderson, Blount, Dorsett, Mitchell & Jernigan, L.L.P. has committed \$100,000 to the Legal Aid of North Carolina Fund. The gift is made in conjunction with the North Carolina Bar Association's 4ALL Campaign to expand the provision of legal services provided by LANC.

The contribution serves as the perfect compliment to the firm's commitment to the 4ALL initiative. Partners Caryn McNeill and Martin Brinkley served as founding co-chairs of the NCBA's 4ALL Task Force in 2007-08, leading a sizable contingent of Smith Anderson attorneys and legal assistants who have contributed to the 4ALL effort.

Smith Anderson paralegals, independent of the firm's gift, contributed \$1,000 to the LANC Fund.

Managing Partner John Jernigan, a past-president of the NCBA, credited the leadership of the campaign's Donate Working Group for making "a very strong, compelling case" that encouraged the firm to contribute the major gift.

"We did it because it is our professional obligation to do so and is consistent with our firm culture," Jernigan said. "And we did it because two of our very best, Martin Brinkley and Caryn McNeill, had key leadership roles in this project."

The leadership gift is also intended to provide stimulus for other firms and individuals to support the LANC Fund.

"Those reasons are our basis for making the kind of commitment that we made," Jernigan said. "We remain hopeful that this sort of leadership gift will encourage others to support this important effort."

SMITH ANDERSON

The gift also continues Smith Anderson's longstanding commitment to the NCBA, which includes the establishment of the Willis Smith and Willis Smith Jr. Justice Funds and the naming of Dorsett Auditorium at the N.C. Bar Center in honor of firm namesake James K. Dorsett Jr.

"Time and time again," said NCBA Executive Director Allan Head, "the lawyers of Smith Anderson have shown their leadership by their commitment of

time, money and human resources to advance the cause of 'seeking liberty and justice.' "

Founded in Raleigh in 1912, Smith Anderson is recognized as the largest business and litigation firm based in the Research Triangle. More than 100 Smith Anderson attorneys and paralegals are members of the North Carolina Bar Association.

The LANC Fund was established by the NCBA Board of Governors in January 2007 as a named fund within the NCBA Foundation Endowment restricted to Legal Aid of North Carolina. Adopted shortly thereafter as a major objective of the 4ALL Campaign, the LANC Fund has attracted more than \$750,000 toward a fund-raising goal of \$1 million. ■

Parker Poe Adams & Bernstein Pledges \$50K to LANC Fund

Parker Poe Adams & Bernstein LLP has pledged \$50,000 to the 4ALL Campaign of the North Carolina Bar Association for investment in the Legal Aid of North Carolina Fund.

The LANC Fund was established by the NCBA Board of Governors in January 2007 as a named fund within the NCBA Foundation Endowment restricted to Legal Aid of North Carolina. Proceeds from the endowment fund will support LANC in its mission of providing legal services to the poor.

"Lawyers have a special responsibility and opportunity to make a difference in the lives of the working poor, the disabled and

the elderly," said William P. Farthing, Jr., managing partner for Parker Poe.

"It was, therefore, natural for us to step up to that responsibility when asked by the N.C. Bar Association to provide a leadership level contribution in the early stages of their campaign, which has a \$1 million goal."

The gift, Farthing added, is an extension of the firm's longstanding support of community service exemplified by its pro bono program.

"Parker Poe has for 124 years supported our attorneys' commitments to their communities," Farthing said. "I believe that pro bono work is not just one of our most



important commitments, it is a responsibility.

"It is why our firm has an active pro bono program led by a pro bono partner and committee, and it is why we support the 4ALL Campaign."

The Parker Poe contribution also supports the efforts of one of its partners, Raleigh attorney Catharine Arrowood, a

founding member of the 4ALL Task Force who currently serves on the NCBA Board of Governors.

"Catharine Arrowood has been directly involved in the establishment and planning of the 4ALL program and she is one of its leading proponents," Farthing said. "We were delighted to have been able to support such a worthy cause."

Parker Poe Adams & Bernstein LLP operates six offices in the Carolinas, including North Carolina offices in Charlotte and Raleigh. More than 175 Parker Poe lawyers and legal assistants are members of the NCBA. ■

Williams Mullen Commits \$15K to LANC Endowment

Williams Mullen has committed \$15,000 to the Legal Aid of North Carolina Fund through its gift to the 4ALL Campaign. The firm maintains 12 offices in North Carolina, Virginia, Washington, D.C., and London, including offices in Raleigh, Wilmington and the Research Triangle Park.

"We are a regional firm with a very strong focus and longstanding roots in North Carolina," said Raleigh attorney

Keith Kapp, a vice president and director for Williams Mullen.

"What the North Carolina Bar Association presented through the 4ALL fund-raising effort was an opportunity to benefit a broad spectrum of our region since it will serve all of North Carolina."

Williams Mullen is headquartered in Richmond, Va. The firm established its presence in North Carolina in 2007 when it merged with Maupin Taylor, P.A. Williams Mullen comprises more than

325 attorneys; 70 of its lawyers and legal assistants are members of the North Carolina Bar Association.

The LANC Fund was established by the NCBA Board of Governors in January 2007 as a named fund within the NCBA Foundation Endowment restricted to Legal Aid of North Carolina. Expansion of the fund subsequently became a major objective of the 4ALL campaign to expand the provision of civil legal services provided by LANC.



The Williams Mullen gift also applies to the \$1 million fund-raising goal established for the LANC Fund by the 4ALL Campaign and its Donate Working Group. ■

Access to Justice Drive Also Boosting LANC

The financial support for the Legal Aid of North Carolina Fund featured in this edition of North Carolina Lawyer represents a formidable commitment from law firms across the state to the NCBA's 4ALL Campaign.

It also represents a key component in the universal effort to generate support for LANC that includes the Access to Justice Campaign of Legal Aid of North Carolina, Inc.

The Access to Justice Campaign, administered by LANC, has generated an unprecedented \$500,000 in pledges and contributions to date.

"The funds raised by the Access to Justice Campaign will help us fill the gaps in our struggle for equal justice," said George Hausen, executive director for Legal Aid of North Carolina, "and will enhance our capacity to provide free legal advice and representation to low-income families."

Law firms leading the way with major

commitments to the Access to Justice Campaign, according to LANC officials, are:

- Brooks, Pierce, McLendon, Humphrey & Leonard, LLP
- Cranfill Sumner & Hartzog, LLP
- Hunton & Williams, LLP
- Kilpatrick Stockton, LLP
- Manning Fulton & Skinner, P.A.
- Moore & Van Allen, PLLC
- Myers Bigel Sibley & Sajovec, P.A.
- Parker Poe Adams Bernstein, LLP
- Poyner & Spruill, LLP
- Smith, Anderson, Blount, Dorsett, Mitchell & Jernigan, L.L.P.
- Smith Moore Leatherwood, LLP
- Tharrington Smith, LLP
- Womble Carlyle Sandridge & Rice, PLLC
- Wyrick Robbins Yates & Ponton, LLP
- Young Moore and Henderson, P. A. ■