

# FOR THE RECORD

AN E-NEWSLETTER FROM  
LEGAL AID OF NORTH CAROLINA



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## Also This Month

### LANC Victory Has Statewide Impact for People with Disabilities

Brenda is a disabled woman who is married to a disabled veteran. She was denied a Medicaid benefit called "Qualified Beneficiary Part B." This category of Medicaid eligibility provides help for low-income Medicare beneficiaries who need assistance paying their monthly Medicare Premiums. The state denied Brenda this benefit on the premise that her disabled and dependent husband was not included as part of her family in determining her "family size."

In 2008, LANC attorneys Angeleigh Dorsey and Emma Clark, along with Doug Sea from Legal Services of Southern Piedmont, argued this case in front of the NC Court of Appeals. In January of 2009, the court unanimously struck down the original denial decision and determined that family size should indeed include any dependent spouses living with the applicant. This verdict could have wide-reaching implications for other Medicaid recipients across the state. The cases of disabled low-income

LEGAL AID OF NORTH CAROLINA

Wednesday, July 21, 2010

## Striving to Achieve Justice for All: Access to Justice Campaign Updates

Imagine if you were about to lose your home...if you were afraid that your partner would injure you or your children...or if you were wrongfully denied disability benefits or health insurance. Every day, Legal Aid of North Carolina (LANC)

attorneys help low-income people across our state deal with serious civil (non-criminal) matters such as these.



Legal Aid's Access to Justice (ATJ) Campaign generates essential annual operating funds. The campaign is wrapping up for the 2009–2010 fiscal year, and we have raised over \$314,000 thus far across the state. These funds were generously donated by 465 individuals and law firms across the state. Our statewide goal is \$500,000; please consider a donation today at [www.legalaidnc.org](http://www.legalaidnc.org). Your donation can help Legal Aid attorneys and paralegals:

- Help a senior remain independent in her home—\$50 provides legal advice on managing resources (consumer issues) either in-person or via our Senior Hotline.
- Provide free legal advice—\$50 helps support legal advice on our toll-free statewide hotline.
- Prevent domestic violence—\$150 helps a mother and her children secure a protective order.
- Secure health care—\$100 helps a disabled individual secure Medicaid in order to access health care.
- Prevent homelessness—\$150 helps a family avoid unlawful eviction from their home.
- Save a home from foreclosure—\$500 can help a family stay in their home through loan modification and other advocacy techniques.

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people who have been wrongfully denied or terminated from certain Medicaid programs due to "excess" income or failure to meet Medicaid deductibles are now being reviewed by local Departments of Social Services to determine retroactive eligibility based on this court decision.

*The generosity of supporters across North Carolina helps ensure that LANC is able to continue to assist people like Brenda and her spouse.*

### Triad Associates' Drive Launches

LANC is holding our first annual Associates' Drive for Triad-area attorneys from July 15–August 31, 2010. Our Chair, Steve Russell, Jr. of Smith Moore Leatherwood LLP in Greensboro, has recruited firm coordinators from eight large Triad firms who will help us raise money during the drive. Firm participants include: Smith Moore Leatherwood, Kilpatrick Stockton, Womble Carlyle Sandridge & Rice, Carruthers & Roth, Tuggle Duggins, Brooks, Pierce, McLendon, Humphrey & Leonard, Bell Davis & Pitt, and Hill Evans Jordan & Beatty.

"This campaign is about cultivating a culture of giving to legal services agencies by the younger generation of attorneys. Our focus is on donors, not dollars. While we greatly appreciate every dollar received this year, a lifetime of giving from new donors will mean much more to the community. After all, LANC is our legal counterpart, serving low-income clients in our area. Their work makes our Triad communities better places to live and work." *Steve Russell, Jr., Smith Moore Leatherwood LLP*

### Corporate Development Efforts Are Underway

Our Corporate Development efforts are underway, through a statewide joint effort with Legal Services of Southern Piedmont (LSSP). A committee with representation from GlaxoSmithKline, Blue Cross & Blue Shield of North Carolina, VF Corporation, Bank of America, Replacements, Ltd., Carolinas HealthCare System, Dataflux Training, and TIAA-CREF has been formed. Multiple General Counsel signed a letter that was sent to both Speaker Hackney and Senate President Basnight in support of the work of LANC and LSSP. This strategy has been effective in other states in increasing or stabilizing legal services funding. LANC is proud to be working with corporations from across

## Community Campaign Results

**Communities have raised the following amounts in the current Access to Justice campaign, totaling more than \$314,000:**

- Durham: \$25,323
- Greensboro: \$15,290
- Pittsboro/Sanford: \$8,970
- Raleigh: \$62,176
- Wilmington: \$7,585
- Winston: \$63,675
- Other/LANC General Fund: \$133,411

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### John Sarratt Raises Nearly \$1 Million for LANC

John Sarratt, leader of the Triangle ATJ committee for four years running, will be retiring from his Triangle ATJ chair efforts after the current campaign. Mr. Sarratt has been instrumental in tirelessly securing many large and medium firm gifts for our ATJ Campaign in the Triangle, **totalling nearly \$1 million.** We deeply appreciate his many hours of hard work on behalf of low-income North Carolinians.



Are you an attorney in the Triangle, the Triad, Fayetteville, Wilmington, Greenville, or Morganton? Please contact our Director of Development, Janeen Gingrich, if you are interested in serving on one of our Access to Justice Committees. Our 2011 Campaign begins in November 2010.

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### A Special Thanks to all of our ATJ Committee Members

Our Statewide Access to Justice efforts were co-chaired by Janet Ward Black of Ward Black Law in Greensboro and Cal Adams of Womble Carlyle Sandridge & Rice in Winston-Salem. The following attorneys, judges, LANC staffers, and community members have been active members of our Access to Justice committees this year:



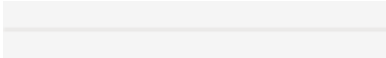
The Triangle co-chairs for '09–'10 were John Sarratt and John Mabe. John Mabe and Mal

the state to leverage their support of the work we do.

### Our Mission

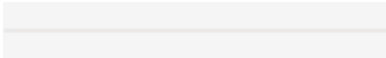
Legal Aid of North Carolina is a statewide, nonprofit law firm that provides free legal services in civil matters to low-income people in order to ensure equal access to justice and to remove legal barriers to economic opportunity.

Please add the following email address to your address book:  
[janeeng@legalaidnc.org](mailto:janeeng@legalaidnc.org)



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King of Durham will provide the leadership for the 2011 Campaign. Other '09-'10 committee members included: Bernell Daniel-Weeks, Burton Craige, Charles Holton, Charlie L. Steel, IV, George Hausen, Jr. (LANC), Gerald Hurst, Gina Reyman (LANC), Irving Joyner, Janeen Gingrich (LANC), Kari Hamel (LANC), Charlie Steel, King Prather, Lee Hogewood, Lisa Morgan, Lowell Siler, Malvern King, Mark Perry, Roger Smith, K. Alan Parry, Ted Edwards, II, The Hon. Burley Mitchell, The Hon. Sid S. Eagles, Jr., The Hon. Willis P. Whichard, Timothy P. Sullivan, Victor Boone (LANC), William O. King, Lucy Inman, and Sara Palmer.

The Triad co-chairs were Afi Johnson-Parris and Gerard Davidson, who will continue to serve as co-chairs in 2011. Other Triad committee members included: Andrew Spainhour, Bob Cone, Candace Cummings, Celeste Harris, Janet McCauley Blue (LANC), Jim Morgan, Jim Snow, Joe Beatty, Ken McAllister, Kyle Woosley, Lynn Chance (LANC), Paul C. Shepard, Ray Bretzmann, Rich Manger, Rick Pinto, Stanley Hammer, and Steve Russell, Jr.

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## Bob Baker Is First Chair of Statewide ATJ Leadership Council

Bob Baker of Durham will serve as the chairman of the new statewide Access to Justice Leadership Council at the request of John (Buddy) Wester, the North Carolina Bar Association's outgoing President. This effort came out of the work of the NC Bar Association's "4-ALL" Donate subcommittee. Several new communities will be targeted in the next ATJ campaign through this new effort, including Fayetteville, Greenville, Morganton, Wilmington, and Pittsboro.

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