



Annual "Access to Justice Campaigns" kick off for LANC offices across NC

Legal Aid of NC seeks support from private firms, attorneys and local communities

Legal Aid of NC (LANC) offices and programs across North Carolina are reaching out to their communities for support during the annual "Access to Justice" campaign this winter.

"We run the campaign to enhance our capacity to provide free representation in civil matters to low-income families," said **George Hausen**, LANC's executive director. "The *Access to Justice* donations and pledges help us fill the gaps in our struggle for equal justice and demonstrate the strong support of our legal aid

programs by the bar."

During the campaign, legal aid staff and advisory board members approach law firms, businesses and individuals for support. The requests are made through mailings, telephone calls and presentations.

"All donations made during the annual campaign can be designated," added Hausen. "This means that local donations and pledges can go toward support of legal aid within the local community."

In efforts to encourage donations in the rural, less populated areas of North Carolina, IOLTA is again providing "Rural Incentive Grants." These grants provide additional funds to those offices that achieve specified fundraising goals during the 2004-05 "Access to Justice" campaign.

"IOLTA's support for this campaign is greatly appreciated," remarked Hausen, "and is another example of how strongly the legal community in North Carolina supports our work for equal justice."

The seven Legal Aid of NC offices that are eligible for the IOLTA Rural Incentive Grants include: Ahoskie, Boone, New Bern/Greenville, Morganton, Pembroke, Sylva and Wilson.

The annual "Access to Justice" campaigns have raised more than \$2 million statewide over the past 12 years.

"The success of our *Access to Justice* campaign will be critical to our capacity to provide legal services this year," says **Chris Marks**, Legal Aid of NC's assistant director of finance & administration. "Inflationary costs continue to impact us, even at a time when we are making technological advances to increase our capacity."

Although contributions are requested all across the state, the *Access to Justice* campaign primarily targets attorneys and private law firms, both for financial donations and commitments for *pro bono* work

during the coming year. Expectations are high for support from the legal community.

In the Preamble to the Revised Rules of Professional Conduct that guide attorneys in North Carolina, there is the provision [Rule 0.1(9)] that states: "Basic responsibility for providing legal services to those unable to pay ultimately rests upon individual lawyers....Every lawyer should support all proper efforts to meet this need for legal services."

"Many law firms here in North Carolina respond well," said Hausen. "Some firms ask their attorneys to donate the equivalent of one billable hour per month to help our programs fill the gap for equal justice in our communities. Other firms are also willing to provide financial as well as *pro bono* support."

Hausen noted that for the poor and disadvantaged, access to the legal system can often be the single most important factor in determining the course of their lives.

To make a contribution and/or pledge to the *Access to Justice* campaign, call the local Legal Aid of NC office [Note: A list of the Legal Aid of NC offices is on page four of this edition.]. Contributions can also be made online at the Legal Aid of NC website:

<http://www.legalaidnc.org>

Or simply mail a check (made payable to "Legal Aid of North Carolina") to:

Access to Justice Campaign
Legal Aid of North Carolina
P.O. Box 26087
Raleigh, NC 27611



LEGAL AID NEWS is the newsletter of Legal Aid of North Carolina. Please send comments to: Legal Aid of NC, 224 South Dawson Street, Raleigh, NC 27601
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 Executive Director: George R. Hausen, Jr., Esq.
Legal Aid of North Carolina is a nonprofit, 501(c)3 law firm that provides free legal services to low-income persons in North Carolina through **24 field offices** and **five statewide projects**.

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From the Chair...

Significant Accomplishments for LANC

Legal Aid of NC (LANC) staff of less than 100 attorneys closed more than 19,000 cases last year and are on track for an equal number this year.

So, what are the typical day-to-day accomplishments of our LANC staff? Here are some examples:



Leo L. Allison

- ◆ The **Ahoskie Office** successfully renegotiated a predatory loan for an elderly couple so that they saved over \$100,000 and kept their home.
- ◆ The **Asheville Office** continues to operate its popular Pro Se Divorce Clinic despite losing half of its staff due to funding cuts.
- ◆ The **Boone Office** paired with volunteer attorneys to help 76 victims of a local cemetery that filed for bankruptcy. (A similar clinic was also conducted through the **LANC-Sanford Office**.)
- ◆ The **Charlotte Office** created *pro se* forms that NC Bar Association recommended to NC Administrative Office of the Courts for statewide adoption.
- ◆ The **Concord Office** provided legal information and representation to hundreds of laid-off Pillowtex workers.
- ◆ The **Durham Office** provided a staff attorney to work collaboratively with the UNC School of Law Clinical Program and its students on Legal Aid cases.
- ◆ The **Gastonia Office** successfully handled every Medicaid appeal accepted for representation.
- ◆ The **New Bern Office** established a Low Income Tax Clinic Project to serve a new legal need as more and more clients enter the work force.
- ◆ The **Greensboro Office** obtained 12 favorable Court decisions where rent abatement has been ordered, thereby obtaining funds for the client and/or preventing eviction.
- ◆ The **Morganton Office** shifted service for Cleveland and Lincoln counties to the Gastonia office in order to improve access to services for clients in those counties.
- ◆ The **Pembroke Office** provided repre-

sentation of Lumbee Tribe for federal recognition

- ◆ The **Pittsboro Office** extended outreach and program services to a growing Hispanic population in its service area
- ◆ The **Raleigh Office** obtained favorable judgment against a former payday lender who claimed to be selling Internet services.
- ◆ The **Smithfield Office** successfully assisted a client (including litigating in NC and preparing *pro se* pleadings for the client to file in Florida) to keep his nephew from being removed by natural parents who were found to be unfit.
- ◆ The **Sylva Office** established an office in Cherokee to work with the Eastern Band of the Cherokee to provide legal assistance to victims of domestic violence.
- ◆ The **Wilmington Office's** disaster relief unit worked full-time to assist disaster victims, obtaining favorable results for hundreds of hurricane victims.
- ◆ The **Wilson Office** successfully negotiated a settlement of a public housing discrimination suit in Tarboro, removing restrictions imposed after the Hurricane Floyd floods.
- ◆ The **Winston-Salem Office** provided legal advice and training to a tenant organization in a Section 8 apartment complex regarding its concerns about substandard conditions in the residences.

Legal Aid of NC is a remarkably efficient means of helping those who live near the poverty line.

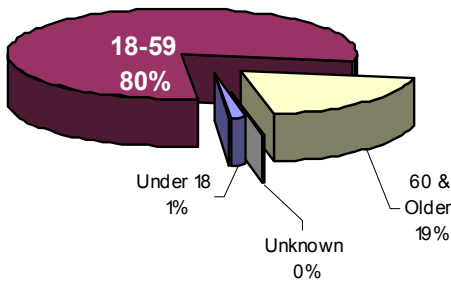
Our thanks to the dedicated LANC staff and its pro bono volunteers and supporters for their mission-driven efforts to provide legal services to ensure equal access to justice and to remove barriers to economic opportunity.

Leo L. Allison
 Chair,
 LANC Board of Directors

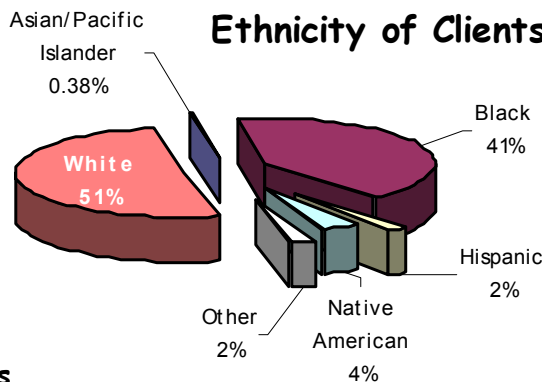
Communities and Cases of Legal Aid of NC

Legal Aid of NC offices serve vulnerable and indigent North Carolinians who need legal assistance in civil matters. Based upon the most recent statistics available, approximately 1.5 million persons are eligible for legal services throughout the state.

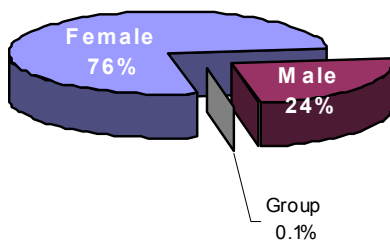
Age of Clients



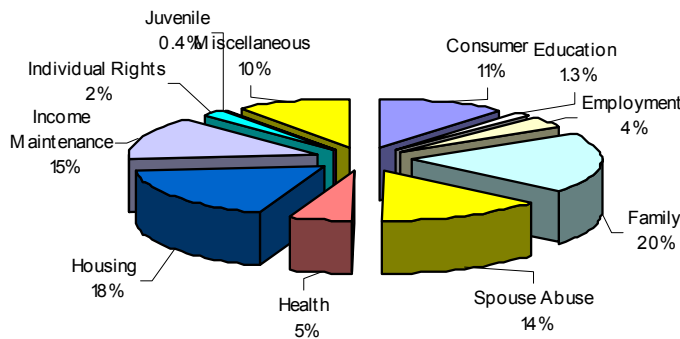
Ethnicity of Clients



Gender of Clients



Types of Cases



2004 Poverty Guidelines



As the only Legal Services Corporation (LSC) funded program in North Carolina, Legal Aid of North Carolina provides free, community-based, civil legal services in all 100 counties of North Carolina to those whose income falls below **125% of the federal poverty guidelines**:

Size of Family Unit	Maximum Income Level*
1	\$ 11,638
2	\$ 15,613
3	\$ 19,588
4	\$ 23,563
5	\$ 27,538
6	\$ 31,513
7	\$ 35,488
8	\$ 39,463

* [The figures in this table represent 125% of the poverty guidelines by family size as determined by the US Department of Health & Human Services.]

Legal Aid of North Carolina provides legal representation and counseling in **civil (non-criminal) cases only**.

Because of limited resources, Legal Aid of NC's cases are generally limited to those that impact clients' basic needs, including housing, access to medical care, protection from domestic violence, consumer protection and subsistence income.

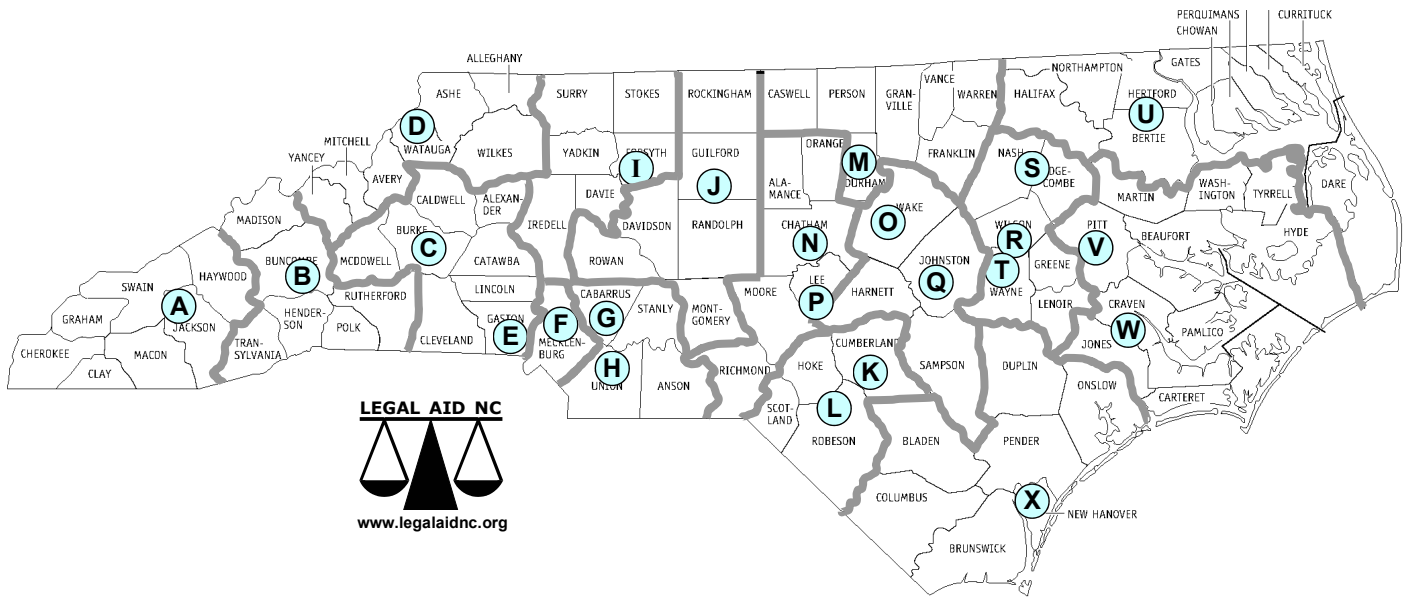
Legal Aid of NC receives **funding** from LSC (50%), the NC General Assembly (12%), and IOLTA (Interest On Lawyers' Trust Accounts; 12%). The remaining funds come from Title II funds for Older Americans, United Way, local governments, individual attorneys, foundations and other grants.

Legal Aid of North Carolina offices also recruit and coordinate private attorney (**pro bono**) volunteers through local volunteer lawyers programs (VLP's).

For additional information on Legal Aid of North Carolina (LANC) and its offices, visit the LANC **website**, www.legalaidnc.org.



Legal Aid of North Carolina serves all 100 counties in North Carolina



A – Sylva Office

1286 West Main Street (828-586-8931)
 Senior Managing Attorneys:
 James Hollaway, Esq. & Larry Nestler, Esq.
(Service Area: Cherokee, Clay, Graham, Haywood, Jackson, Macon & Swain Counties & Qualla Indian Boundary)

B – Asheville Office

184 East Chestnut (828-236-1080)
 Senior Managing Attorney: Angeleigh Dorsey, Esq.
(Service Area: Buncombe, Henderson, Madison, Polk, Rutherford & Transylvania Counties)

C – Morganton Office

211 East Union Street (828-437-8280)
 Sr. Managing Attorneys:
 Andrew Cogdell, Esq. & Barbara Degen, Esq.
(Service Area: Alexander, Burke, Caldwell, Catawba & McDowell Counties)

D – Boone Office

171 Grand Boulevard (828-264-5640)
 Managing Attorney: Denise Lockett, Esq.
(Service Area: Alleghany, Ashe, Avery, Mitchell, Watauga, Wilkes & Yancey Counties)

E – Gastonia Office

111 East Third Avenue, Suite 200 (704-865-2357)
 Managing Attorney: Sharon S. Dove, Esq.
(Service Area: Cleveland, Lincoln & Gaston Counties)

F – Charlotte Office

1431 Elizabeth Avenue (704-971-2621)
 Senior Managing Attorney: Ted Fillette, Esq.
(Service Area: Mecklenburg County)

G – Concord Office

133 Union Street South (704-786-4145)
 Managing Attorney: Judy Newbold, Esq.
(Service Area: Anson, Cabarrus, Union & Stanly Counties)

H – Monroe Office

100 West Jefferson Street (704-283-2172)
 Managing Attorney: Judy Newbold, Esq.
(Union County)

I – Winston-Salem Office

216 West Fourth Street (336-725-9162)
 Senior Managing Attorney: Hazel Mack-Hilliard, Esq.
(Service Area: Davie, Forsyth, Iredell, Stokes, Surry & Yadkin Counties)

J – Greensboro Office

122 North Elm Street, Suite 700 (336-272-0148)
 Senior Managing Attorney: Ronald B. Halpern, Esq.
(Service Area: Davidson, Guilford, Montgomery, Randolph, Rockingham & Rowan Counties)

K – Fayetteville Office

157 Gillespie Street (910-483-0400)
 Managing Attorney: Olivia Scott, Esq.
(Service Area: Cumberland County)

L – Pembroke Office

101 East Second Street (910-521-2831)
 Senior Managing Attorney: Dale G. Deese, Esq.
(Service Area: Cumberland, Hoke, Robeson & Scotland Counties)

M – Durham Office

201 West Main Street, Suite 400 (919-688-6396)
 Senior Managing Attorney: Gina L. Reymann, Esq.
(Service Area: Caswell, Durham, Franklin, Granville, Person, Vance & Warren Counties)

N – Pittsboro Office

959 East St., Ste A&B (919-542-0475)
 Senior Managing Attorney: Gina L. Reymann, Esq.
(Service Area: Alamance, Chatham, Lee, Moore, Orange & Richmond Counties)

O – Raleigh Office

224 South Dawson Street (919-828-4647)
 Senior Managing Attorney: Victor J. Boone, Esq.
(Service Area: Harnett, Johnston, Sampson & Wake Counties)

P – Sanford Office

133 South Horner Boulevard, Suite 8 (919-774-6241)
 Senior Managing Attorney: Gina L. Reymann, Esq.
(Service Area: Lee County)

Q – Smithfield Office

312 South Third Street (919-934-5027)
 Managing Attorney: Vilma Suarez
(Service Area: Johnston & Harnett Counties)

R – Wilson Office

409 North Goldsboro Street (252-291-6851)
 Interim Managing Attorney: Maccene Brown, Esq.
(Service Area: Greene, Lenoir, Nash, Edgecombe, Wayne & Wilson Counties)

S – Rocky Mount Office

148 South Washington St., Ste 105 (252-442-0635)
 Interim Managing Attorney: Maccene Brown, Esq.
(Service Area: Nash & Edgecombe Counties)

T – Goldsboro Office

102-A South William Street (919-731-2800)
 Interim Managing Attorney: Maccene Brown, Esq.
(Service Area: Wayne County)

U – Ahoskie Office

610 East Church Street (252-332-5124)
 Senior Managing Attorney: Reynauld M. Williams, Esq.
(Service Area: Bertie, Camden, Chowan, Currituck, Dare, Gates, Halifax, Hertford, Northampton, Pasquotank & Perquimans Counties)

V – Greenville Office

301 South Evans Street, Suite 200 (252-758-0113)
 Managing Attorney: Charlotte-Anne T. Alexander, Esq.
(Service Area: Hyde, Martin, Pitt, Tyrrell & Washington Counties)

W – New Bern Office

213 Pollack Street (252-637-9502)
 Managing Attorney: Watsi Sutton, Esq.
(Service Area: Beaufort, Carteret, Craven & Pamlico Counties)

X – Wilmington Office

201 North Front Street, Suite 1002 (910-763-6207)
 Senior Managing Attorneys:
 Richard J. Klein, Esq. & James J. Wall, Esq.
(Service Area: Bladen, Brunswick, Columbus, Duplin, New Hanover, Onslow and Pender Counties)