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Access to Justice Campaign continues through March 2004

Legal Aid programs seeks support from private firms, attorneys

Legal Aid 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**, Legal Aid of NC'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 2003-04 "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 nearly \$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."

See [Annual Campaign](#) (Continued on page 11)



July 1, 2002
United for Equal Justice
www.legalaidnc.org

2004 Legal Services Statewide Conference

Ethics CLE's, Trainings, Banquet - April 27-28, Sheraton Imperial, Durham

Mark your calendars for the 2004 Legal Services Statewide Conference will be held on April 27-28 at the Sheraton Imperial Hotel & Convention Center in Durham, NC! The Conference will offer 32 training sessions, including 18 continuing legal education (CLE) sessions.

"The statewide conferences offer opportunities for the legal services community to come together every two years to discuss challenges that have and are facing us."

-Celia Pistolis, Chair
2004 Legal Services
Statewide Conference

-See page 5 -2004 Statewide Conference Registration/Agenda

second day of the Conference:

- "Client Confidentiality" (Ethics CLE)
- "Update on New Ethics Rules" (Ethics CLE)
- "Substance Abuse" (Ethics CLE)

The keynote luncheon speaker will be Dr. Reverend William Barber, a noted civil rights advocate, who will speak on the need for partnerships in social justice. Gene Nichol, Dean of the University of North Carolina School of Law, will

See [2004 Statewide Conference](#) (Continued on page 7)

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
 Editor: Dock Kornegay, 919/856-2564
 Executive Director: George R. Hausen, Jr., Esq.

Legal Aid of North Carolina is a nonprofit, 501(c)3 organization that provides free legal services to low-income persons in North Carolina and operates through **25 field offices** and **four statewide projects**:

- Ahoskie Office**, 610 East Church Street; 252-332-5124
Senior Managing Attorney: Reynauld M. Williams, Esq.
- Asheville Office**, 184 East Chesnut; 828-236-1080
Senior Managing Attorney: Angeleigh Dorsey, Esq.
- Boone Office**, 171 Grand Boulevard; 828-264-5640
Senior Managing Attorney: Angeleigh Dorsey, Esq.
- Charlotte Office**, 1431 Elizabeth Avenue; 704-971-2621
Senior Managing Attorney: Theodore Fillette, Esq.
- Concord Office**, 133 Union Street; 704-786-4145
Managing Attorney: Judy Newbold, Esq.
- Durham Office**, 212 North Mangum Street; 919-688-6396
Senior Managing Attorney: Gina Reyman, Esq.
- Fayetteville Office**, 157 Gillespie Street; 910-483-0400
Senior Managing Attorney: Dale G. Deese, Esq.
- Gastonia Office**, 111 East Third Ave, Ste 200; 704-865-2357
Managing Attorney: Sharon S. Dove, Esq.
- Goldensboro Office**, 102-A South William Street; 919-731-2800
Interim Managing Attorney: Maccene Brown, Esq.
- Greensboro Office**, 122 N. Elm St, Ste 700; 336-272-0148
Senior Managing Director: Ronald B. Halpern, Esq.
- Greenville Office**, 427 W. Evans Street; 252-758-0113
Senior Managing Attorney: Evan Lewis, Esq.
- Lexington Office**, 6-B Fourth Street
Senior Managing Attorney: Ron B. Halpern, Esq.
- Morganton Office**, 211 East Union Street; 828-437-8280
Senior Managing Attorneys: Barbara Degen & Andrew Cogdell
- Monroe Office**, 100 West Jefferson Street
Managing Attorney: Judy Newbold, Esq.
- New Bern Office**, 213 Pollock Street; 252-637-9502
Senior Managing Attorney: Evan Lewis, Esq.
- Pembroke Office**, East Main & 2nd Street; 910-521-2831
Senior Managing Attorney: Dale G. Deese, Esq.
- Pittsboro Office**, 959 East Street, Suite A&B; 919-542-0475
Senior Managing Attorney: Gina Reyman, Esq.
- Raleigh Office**, 219 Fayetteville St. Mall, 1 Exchange Plaza, Ste 810
Senior Managing Attorney: Victor J. Boone, Esq.; 919-828-4647
- Rocky Mount Office**, 148 S. Washington St, Ste 105
Interim Managing Attorney: Maccene Brown, Esq.
- Sanford Office**, 133 South Horner Boulevard; 919-774-6241
Senior Managing Attorney: Gina Reyman, Esq.
- Smithfield Office**, 312 South Third Street; 919-934-5027
Senior Managing Attorney: Victor J. Boone, Esq.
- Sylva Office**, 1286 West Main Street; 828-586-8931
Senior Managing Attorneys: James Holloway & Larry Nestler
- Wilmington Office**, 201 N. Front St, Ste 1002; 910-763-6207
Senior Managing Attorneys: Richard M. Klein & James J. Wall
- Wilson Office**, 409 North Goldsboro Street; 252-291-6851
Interim Managing Attorney: Maccene Brown, Esq.
- Winston-Salem Office**, 216 West Fourth St; 336-725-9166
Senior Managing Attorney: Hazel Mack-Hilliard, Esq.

Statewide Projects (4):

- ♦ **Advocates for Children's Services**, Raleigh, 919-865-7200
Senior Managing Attorney: Lewis Pitts, Esq.
- ♦ **Domestic Violence Initiative**, Raleigh, 919-865-7200
Project Director: TeAndra Miller, Esq.
- ♦ **Environmental Poverty Law Project**, Greensboro, 1-800-398-5437
Project Director: Melany Earnhardt, Esq.
- ♦ **Farmworker Unit**, Raleigh, 919-856-2180
Senior Managing Attorney: Mary Lee Hall, Esq.



From the Executive Director...

Good changes ahead in 2004 for LANC

Thank you for your efforts and support on behalf of our clients in 2003, the first full calendar year for LANC. The program had an excellent year.

Among other things, we increased the overall number of advocates and we made some changes that should improve our ability to retain experienced staff, which should put us in a position to serve more clients and to serve them better.

We already have made some service area changes and will continue to reconfigure our service areas in 2004 to provide better and more convenient services. Our **Smithfield Office** now occupies a new building in the downtown area. The **Hillsborough Office** has become the **Pittsboro Office** when we moved staff to a new building in Pittsboro in mid-January to be closer to that area's clients.

In keeping with a state planning objective, the **Raleigh Office** will be moving into the first floor of our LANC Administrative Office building in March. The **Winston-Salem Office** is negotiating for space for a move to a new downtown building in April.

Our **Concord Office** hasn't moved, but it is now part of the Triad Region, along with Greensboro and Winston-Salem.

I am also pleased to announce that Hazel Mack-Hilliard has moved to Winston-Salem Office as the new senior managing attorney. Maccene Brown is now the Interim Managing Attorney in the **Wilson Office**.

We enter 2004 faced with some serious funding challenges. The slow economy, the down market, and plain old politics presents us with some significant fundraising challenges in 2004. Federal and IOLTA funding is flat for 2004, state funding is down, and our overall revenue is off by about \$500,000. However, our LANC Board of Directors has taken up the challenge and has made a firm commitment to improving our long-term financial position.

In the short-term, we have some major hurdles to overcome, particularly with our domestic violence funding, but I remain optimistic about improving our position by mid-year. We have a hiring freeze in place that should help us bring our payroll in line with our reduced reve-



George R. Hausen, Jr.
 Executive Director, Legal Aid of North Carolina

nues. We will be moving ahead with the design of salary scales for all positions, but it does not appear that will have much room to implement any scale that would call for significant salary movement in 2004.

The early bright spot in 2004 funding is that the Z. Smith Reynolds Foundation has awarded LANC a grant of \$150,000 for its **Foreclosure Defense Project** that will focus on saving homes and equity in Eastern North Carolina. We will also be looking for significant funding for fair housing enforcement to help combat rampant NIMBYism ("Not In My Back Yard" -ism) throughout the state.

You are, of course, already aware of the changes to our health benefits package that were required in the face of an increase of approximately 50%. I think the employee committee did terrific work in maintaining benefits while designing an affordable plan. Even with the modifications, it is still one of the best health benefits packages offered by any employer. Kudos to Jim Wall and the other members of the Health Benefits Subcommittee for their extraordinary work.

Notwithstanding the fact that we will have less money in 2004, I believe we have an obligation in the coming year to strengthen and improve our advocacy where we can.

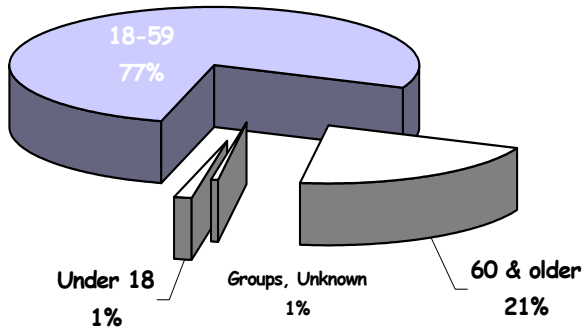
We will focus on two aspects of our services in 2004. The first focus will be on what we call "**practice groups.**" Heretofore, all of our services have been

See **Good Changes** (Continued on page 10)

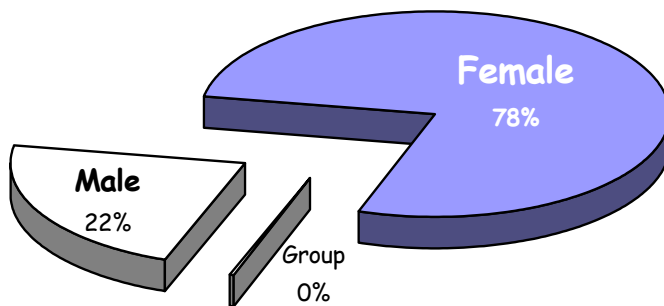
Communities Served by Legal Aid of NC

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.

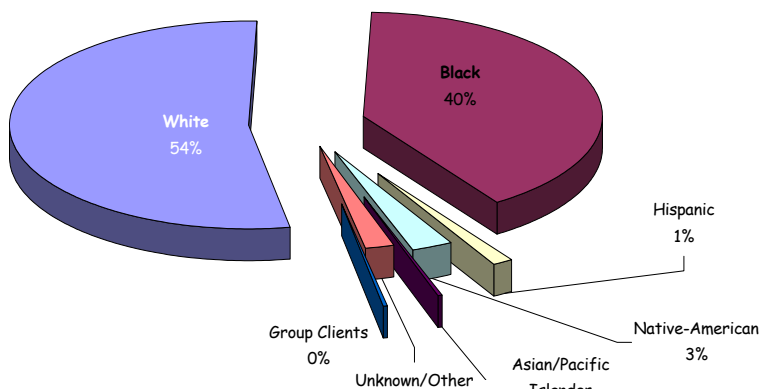
Age of Clients



Gender of Clients



Ethnicity of Clients



Upcoming Events Calendar

February 13, 2004

- ◆ *Legal Aid of NC Board of Directors Meeting*
Winston-Salem, NC

March 5, 2004

- ◆ *NC Planning Council Meeting*
Camp New Hope, Chapel Hill, NC

April 14-17, 2004

- ◆ *2004 Equal Justice Conference*
(National Legal Aid And Defender Association)
Atlanta, GA

April 27-28, 2004

- ◆ *2004 Statewide Legal Services Conference*
Sheraton Imperial Hotel & Convention Center,
Durham, NC

June 5-8, 2004

- ◆ *Litigation and Advocacy Directors' Conference*
(National Legal Aid And Defender Association)
Snowbird, Utah

June 13-16, 2004

- ◆ *NC Academy of Trial Lawyers Annual Meeting*
Sunset Beach, NC

June 16-20, 2004

- ◆ *NC Bar Association Annual Meeting*
Asheville, NC

June 18, 2004

- ◆ *Legal Aid of NC Board of Directors Meeting*
Asheville, NC

June 18, 2004 (tentative date)

- ◆ *NC Planning Council Meeting*
Asheville, NC

September 20-24, 2004 (tentative dates)

- ◆ *Legal Services Task Force Meetings*
Greensboro, NC

September 17, 2004

- ◆ *Legal Aid of NC Board of Directors Meeting*
New Bern, NC

September 24, 2004 (tentative dates)

- ◆ *NC Planning Council Meeting*
(Site TBA)

December 13-16, 2004 (tentative dates)

- ◆ *Legal Services Task Force Meetings*
NC Bar Center, Cary, NC

December 10, 2004

- ◆ *Legal Aid of NC Board of Directors Meeting*
Hillsborough, NC

Job Opportunities - Legal Aid of NC

Job opportunities at Legal Aid of NC are listed on the "Jobs and Internships" webpage on the Legal Aid of NC website:

<http://www.legalaidnc.org>

Legal Aid of NC is an equal opportunity employer. Minorities, women, the elderly and the disabled are encouraged to apply.

Top Stories of 2003

Residents reach settlement with Town of Tarboro on discrimination lawsuit

Two years after filing a lawsuit alleging unfair housing practices, Tarboro residents and the Town of Tarboro reached a settlement with the Town of Tarboro in May..

The settlement opens the door for the development of affordable multi-family housing in areas that had been restricted by the Town's changes to its Unified Development Ordinance (UDO) following the Hurricane Floyd floods.

"We wanted to see our clients have a reasonable chance to return to affordable housing in Tarboro, their home town," declared Hazel Mack-Hilliard, senior managing attorney for Legal Aid of NC-Wilson Office, who led the team of attorneys who challenged the restrictions. "We believe that the removal of the May 2000 amendments to Tarboro's zoning ordinance will bring developers back to Tarboro and renew interest in building affordable housing."

In the settlement, the Town of Tarboro agreed to restore all land that its zoning changes had removed from multi-family apartment construction and to reduce some costly requirements for setbacks, fencing, traffic studies and on-site management. The Town also agreed to pay the named plaintiffs a total of \$95,500 for damages, including \$21,000 to the NC Fair Housing Center, a statewide nonprofit organization dedicated to equal housing opportunity.

"We alleged in the lawsuit that our clients had been harmed by the Town's moratorium and zoning changes," noted Mack-Hilliard. "In our view, it appeared that both the moratorium and the zoning ordinance were discriminatory and needed either to be modified or to be set aside, which the Town of Tarboro ultimately agreed to do as part of the settlement."

In September 1999, East Tarboro, primarily a low-income, African-American community, was flooded and devastated by Hurricane Floyd. With no alternative rental housing available, the Federal

Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) set up a temporary trailer park, the Keehlin FEMA Temporary Housing Site, in Tarboro to help house those who had lost their residences in the flood.

Two developers approached the Town of Tarboro in late 1999 and early 2000 to seek permission to build affordable multi-family apartments, with funding coming through the NC Housing Finance

began to examine the zoning changes and the availability of land after the new UDO.

"We found that Tarboro's May 2000 ordinances had dramatically reduced the amount of land available in Tarboro upon to build multi-family apartments in Tarboro where decent and affordable multi-family housing was already in short supply," stated Mack-Hilliard, "Simply put,

those people who had lost their housing during the floods were now locked out of Tarboro by the Town's ordinances. We could not allow apparently discriminatory and unfair ordinances to, in effect, kick minority residents out of town."

During the summer of 2001, a litigation team from multiple nonprofit, legal services organizations was assembled to meet with some of the residents who had previously lived in East Tarboro rental housing and to consider possible courses

of action. The team included attorneys from LANC, the North Carolina Justice & Community Development Center, the Land Loss Prevention Project, local private counsel and the NC Fair Housing Center (NCFHC).

"The Center contacted many public and private multi-family developers who felt that the zoning ordinance passed by the Town of Tarboro would add tens of thousands of dollars to development costs and would make the future projects unprofitable," said Stella Adams, NCFHC's executive director. "While we were pleased to see that Hawthorne Court was being constructed through our efforts, the Center joined with the individual residents to



Ms. Minnie White, a Tarboro resident and a plaintiff in the lawsuit, tells her story at the April 29, 2003 media conference in Tarboro. Pictured (l-r) are: Pamela Thombs (attorney, Land Loss Prevention Project), Ms. White, George Hausen (executive director, LANC), John Keller (supervising attorney, LANC- Wilson Office), Mrs. Linda Ruffin (Tarboro resident) and Laura Glasgow (paralegal, LANC-Wilson Office).

Agency. However, at an emergency meeting of the Tarboro Town Council in March 2000, the Town adopted a moratorium on all multi-family construction. Then in May 2000, the UDO was amended to remove certain tracts of land from apartment construction and to impose substantial restrictions and costly requirements to the remaining parcels of land where apartments could be built. One developer dropped its plan to build altogether; the other developer, Pendergrant, Inc., saw its plans for Hawthorne Court Apartments delayed for many months.

In April 2001, after having been contacted by the East Tarboro residents, attorneys from Legal Aid of NC (LANC)

See **Tarboro Case** (Continued on page 8)

Registration Form/Agenda

2004 Legal Services Statewide Conference

(Please indicate the above sessions that you would like to attend)

Tuesday, April 27

- 10:00 AM Registration**
- 11:00 AM Plenary Session**
- "Client Needs in the Present Economy" (panel)
- 12:30 PM LUNCHEON**
- Speaker: Dr. Rev. William Barber
- 2:00 PM Breakout Session #1**
- "Domestic Violence in the Workplace, Emerging Legal Issues" (CLE)
- "Identity Theft" (Trg/CLE)
- "Poverty IQ Test-Session #1" (Trg/CLE)
- "Navigating Education Policy in NC-Session #1**"(Trg)
- 3:15 PM Breakout Session #2**
- "Direct Examinations" (CLE)
- "Poverty IQ Test-Session #2" (Trg/CLE)
- "Credit Repair" (Trg/CLE)
- "Navigating Education Policy in NC-Session #2**"(Trg)
- 4:30 PM Breakout Session #3**
- "Cross Examination" (CLE)
- "Tax Issues Affecting Low-Income Persons" (CLE)
- "Advanced Negotiation" (CLE)
- "Navigating Education Policy in NC-Session #3**"(Trg)

6:00 PM Reception

6:45 PM Banquet

Speaker: Dean Gene Nichol, UNC School of Law
Julian Pierce Award
Service Awards

8:30 PM Social

**** NOTE:** The "Navigating Education Policy in NC" is a workshop based on NC education issues, presented in eight, autonomous sessions and designed for clients and non-attorneys. Presented by the staff of the NC Justice Center.

Wednesday, April 28

- 7:30 AM Breakfast**
- 8:30 AM Breakout Session #4**
- "Client Confidentiality and Conflicts" (Ethics CLE)
- "Legal Remedies for Battered Immigrants" (CLE)
- "PAI Update from Equal Justice Conference & Marketing Your PAI Program" (Trg)
- "Navigating Education Policy in NC-Session #4***" (Trg)
- 9:45 AM Breakout Session #5**
- "Update on New Ethics Rules" (Ethics CLE)
- "Using Exhibits at Trial" (CLE)
- "Time Management" (Trg)
- "Navigating Education Policy in NC-Session #5***" (Trg)
- 11:00 AM Breakout Session #6**
- "Substance Abuse" (Ethics CLE)
- "Effect of Cultural Diversity in Attorney-Client Relationships" (Trg/CLE)
- "Basic Legal Writing for the Non-Lawyer" (Trg)
- "Navigating Education Policy in NC-Session #6***" (Trg)
- 12:30 PM Luncheon**
- "How to Develop Successful and Effective Partnerships" (panel)
- 2:00 PM Breakout Session #7**
- "Counseling Unemployed (UI) Workers" (Trg/CLE)
- "Handling Administrative Hearings-Session #1" (Trg/CLE)
- "Serving Limited English Proficiency (LEP) Clients in Legal Services Offices" (CLE)
- "Navigating Education Policy in NC-Session #7***" (Trg)
- 3:15 PM Breakout Session #8**
- "Arbitration" (CLE)
- "Handling Administrative Hearings-Session #2" (Trg/CLE)
- "Government Benefits 101" (Trg/CLE)
- "Navigating Education Policy in NC-Session #8***" (Trg)
- 4:15 PM 2004 Statewide Conference concludes**

Legal Services Corporation 2002 Poverty Guidelines

As the Legal Services Corporation (LSC) funded program in North Carolina, Legal Aid of NC 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	\$ 11,225
2	\$ 15,150
3	\$ 19,075
4	\$ 23,000
5	\$ 26,925
6	\$ 30,850
7	\$ 34,775
8	\$ 38,700

* [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.

For additional information on Legal Services Corporation's policies and regulations, visit the LSC website: <http://www.lsc.gov>

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 and abuse, consumer protection and subsistence income.

North Carolina's Legal Services offices and projects work together to recruit, train, mentor and coordinate over 3,700 private attorney (*pro bono*) volunteers through local volunteer lawyers programs (VLP's).

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.

NAME: _____
First Middle Last Suffix

LAW FIRM: _____ NC Bar #: _____

Mailing Address: _____
Street Address or P.O. Box

City State Zip Code

Phone #(work): () _____ ext. _____ E-mail: _____

Meals: Vegetarian Meals Desired Other needs (specify): _____

Registration Fees:	On-Time Registration	Late Registration
(check must accompany completed Registration Form)	by April 1	AFTER April 1
<input type="checkbox"/> Entire Conference (does not include Banquet).....	\$ 245	\$ 295
<input type="checkbox"/> Banquet ONLY, April 27 th (includes reception @ 6:00 PM).....	\$ 30	\$ 30
<input type="checkbox"/> Day One ONLY, April 27 th (does not include Banquet).....	\$ 150	\$ 165
<input type="checkbox"/> Day Two ONLY, April 28 th (includes breakfast, lunch, CLE's).....	\$ 165	\$ 180
<input type="checkbox"/> CLE's Only (3 sessions) (includes 3 CLE's and breaks).....	\$ 130	\$ 130
<input type="checkbox"/> CLE's Only (2 sessions) (includes 3 CLE's and breaks).....	\$ 120	\$ 120
<input type="checkbox"/> CLE Only (1 sessions) (includes 3 CLE's and breaks).....	\$ 60	\$ 60
<input type="checkbox"/> LUNCH ONLY(@ \$20) <input type="checkbox"/> April 27 <input type="checkbox"/> April 28.....	\$ 20	\$ 20

Total Enclosed:
\$ _____

Send completed form along with check (payable to "Legal Aid of North Carolina") to:
2004 Statewide Conference, c/o Legal Aid of NC, P.O. Box 26097, Raleigh, NC 27611

Lifetime fighter

Lewis Pitts has been defending people against nuclear and other forms of power for more than 25 years

By Bob Geary, *The Independent Weekly*

[Note: The following article was published in the November 26, 2003 edition of *The Independent Weekly*. Reprinted with permission.]

Lewis Pitts' idea of a holiday? It's taking a little time off to go to South Carolina and defend Brett Bursey, the fellow arrested last December for daring to show up at a George W. Bush rally holding a "No War for Oil" sign. Bursey is charged with refusing to leave an area designated for the protection of the president.

Bursey faces a possible six-month prison term if convicted. But when his trial ended, Federal Magistrate Bristow Marchant delayed ruling while he considered Pitts' defense: While Bursey was ordered to leave, according to witnesses, many others were allowed to stay in the so-called restricted area, and not all had tickets for the Bush rally inside the airport. Only the handful of protesters were banished to a "free speech zone" a half-mile away.

Pitts even tried to subpoena Karl Rove, the president's political adviser, to ask whether the reason protesters are kept away is so no anti-Bush signs will show up in the photos. (The ACLU, he notes, has alleged a "pattern and practice" of discrimination at all of Bush's events based on people's political views--not any security threat.) The White House wouldn't accept service for Rove, however.

"We wanted the political context of this charge considered," Pitts says. "If you can't come out to a political event and just hold a sign, you're unplugging the basic notions of free speech--and that's just so un-American."

How did Pitts, a 56-year-old lawyer with Legal Aid of N.C., come to defend the pony-tailed activist Bursey in a case with national significance? Better to ask, how could he not?

First off, Pitts is from South Carolina (Wofford College, USC Law School), a self-described country boy who was friends with Bursey 25 years ago when both fought Chem-Nuclear Inc.'s expansion of its Barnwell, S.C., nuclear waste depository. Back then, Pitts was standing with rural folks against the power of the



Photo By Alex Maness

nuclear industry and the policies of the federal government. He's been on the underdogs' side, using the law and his own activism, ever since.

As a lawyer, Pitts has had his ups and his downs, in cases big and small. But he's never faltered in his cause: "Helping people get engaged in making choices to run their own lives--'We, the people,' remember?"

He worries that Americans today "have lost the ability to envision self-government, and to imagine themselves in charge of it." But he's never lost it.

He came to the Barnwell fight fresh from work as a public defender, and afterward followed the anti-nuclear power movement to the Southwest, where he helped organize the protests in one rural Texas community that stopped a nuclear plant from getting built, and won a jury trial when the protesters were arrested. In Oklahoma City, he was part of the legal team that forced the Kerr-McGee Corp. to pay damages in the death of nuclear-plant worker Karen Silkwood.

Pitts isn't exaggerating--that's not his style--when he says the movement helped stop the spread of nuclear power in the U.S.

Pitts has been on the other side of the bar, too. He's been arrested "six or seven

times" at protests, most recently as part of the N.C. WARN contingent that went to Progress Energy's corporate headquarters in Raleigh to demand that the company stop packing spent nuclear-fuel rods into the waste pools at its Shearon Harris plant in Wake County. Their contention: the pools invite a catastrophic terrorist attack. They were arrested in the lobby and charged with trespassing.

Interestingly, Pitts had never been convicted after any of those arrests--from South Carolina to Texas--until a Wake County judge found him and the others guilty in the Progress Energy case. And his perfect record may endure: Their appeal has reached the N.C. Supreme Court on the issue of whether people who haven't done anything--yet--can be arrested in a public lobby that serves not just the corporation but retail shops too.

Not surprisingly, of course, Pitts has been branded a radical. "Boy," Pitts shrugs at that. "I think what I believe is totally balanced and therefore moderate. I think the essential political unit is the individual, and not corporations. So in that sense I guess I'm a populist."

The winners in the Silkwood case used their money to start the Christic Institute, a firm advocating spiritual ideas about the sanctity of the individual in the courts and concurrent political organizing. Everyone in the firm made \$400 a month--"whether we needed it or not," Pitts laughs. Sleeping on somebody's sofa was a way of life.

Pitts himself helped get the black mayor of a Mississippi Delta town acquitted of trumped-up murder charges. He won an important voting rights case in Georgia. He headed the team that organized in Greensboro after the Ku Klux Klan killings and, after a five-year struggle, won a wrongful death judgment against the Greensboro authorities whose informants helped incite the violence.

Pitts was also instrumental in getting Eddie Hatcher and Timothy Jacobs acquitted of kidnap charges in their federal trial in Raleigh, a monumental victory since their hostage-taking in Robeson County was televised live. Pitts defended Jacobs. Hatcher's lawyer was the famed civil rights attorney William Kunstler, who missed the trial.

But Robeson County was also the low

See [Lifetime Fighter](#) (Continued on page 10)

Barfield receives William L. Thorp from NC Bar Association

Glenn A. Barfield was named the recipient of the NC Bar Association's 2003 William L. Thorp Pro Bono Award during the NCBA President's Luncheon at the Grove Park Inn in June.

Barfield is an attorney and partner with Barnes, Braswell and Haithcock, P.A., of Goldsboro. Barfield also serves on the Board of Directors of Legal Aid of North Carolina (LANC).

Barfield was recognized due to his remarkable *pro bono* efforts on behalf of North Carolina's poor and marginalized persons. Not only has Barfield performed numerous hours of pro bono service himself, but he has also encouraged volunteer service among his partners and peers.

Barfield was instrumental in the consolidation of local legal services organizations into the new, statewide organization, Legal Aid of North Carolina. He dedicated countless hours to the cause, chairing three committees of the LANC Transition Board that contributed to the final structure of Legal Aid of North Carolina. Due in part to Barfield's dedication and passion, North Carolina now has an organization that offers a wider range of legal assistance to a greater number of North Carolina's needy.

Barfield received his undergraduate degree from the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill in 1983 and is a 1986 graduate of the University of North Carolina's School of Law. He lives in Goldsboro with his wife and two sons. ■



Glenn Barfield receives 2003 Thorpe Award from NCBA President J. Norfleet Pruden at the NCBA Annual Meeting in Asheville.

Andrew Cogdell selected for NCBA's "Outstanding Legal Services Attorney" Award for 2003



Andrew Cogdell, Esq.

Andrew Cogdell was named a co-recipient of the NC Bar Association's 2003 Outstanding Legal Services Attorney Award during the NCBA President's Luncheon Inn in June.

Cogdell has been a legal services attorney for 18 years. He worked two years with Legal Services of the Coastal Plains in Ahoskie (now the LANC-Ahoskie Office), and has worked with the Legal Aid of NC's Morganton Office (formerly Catawba Valley Legal Services) for the past 16 years. He received his bachelor's degree from William and Mary and his law degree at the University of North Carolina School of Law.

The NCBA program booklet included the following comments about Cogdell: "Cogdell's leadership, scholarship, generosity and courage have contributed significantly to the efforts of Legal Aid

attorneys across North Carolina who are engaged in housing advocacy. As a housing attorney, his work is consistently at the leading edge of statewide efforts to bring justice for Legal Aid clients facing critical housing-related legal problems. For example, he was lead attorney in *Stanley v. Moore*, 339 N.C. 717, 454 S.E. 2d 225 (1995), in which the NC Supreme Court liberalized the relief available to clients who have suffered illegal self-help evictions by landlords. In federal court he has litigated critical issues involving the rights of recipients of federal housing assistance to receive due process regarding threatened loss of such assistance. He has obtained tens, if not hundreds, of thousands of dollars of relief for such needy clients."

The Outstanding Legal Services Attorney Award has been presented annually since 1991 by the NC Bar Association to an attorney who provides exemplary legal service through an agency or other nonprofit entity that services low-income citizens in NC. ■

2004 Statewide Conference

(Continued from page 1)

be the speaker for the awards banquet, which will include presentation of the Julian Pierce Award and service awards. The Conference will open with a panel discussion on "Client Needs in the Present Economy."

"The statewide conferences offer opportunities for the legal services community to come together every two years to discuss challenges that have and are facing us," declared Celia Pistolis, 2004 Statewide Conference Chair. "This year's Statewide Conference will allow us to provide CLE's for attorneys, trainings for staff and an awards banquet."

The 2004 Statewide Conference will also include an awards banquet, lunches, a Cyber Cafe (Internet access area) and a centralized exhibit hall.

Registration by **April 1, 2004** is encouraged for best rates and selection of CLE's. Registration will also be available on both days of the 2004 Statewide Conference. [See page 5 for registration form.] Registration forms can be obtained from the Legal Aid of NC administrative office in Raleigh, 9191-856-2564. The registration form is also on the Legal Aid of NC website:

www.legalaidnc.org

A limited number of **scholarships** (to attend the 2004 Legal Services Statewide Conference) may be available for **clients of legal services organizations**. For scholarship information, contact Mary Hedgepeth, Clients Council Coordinator, 252-972-2100.

Legal Services programs and offices, nonprofit organizations and vendors are encouraged to provide educational **exhibits** at the Conference. The Exhibit Hall will be strategically placed at the Conference for maximum exposure, and all breaks and the "Cyber Cafe" (Internet access area) will be located in the Exhibit Hall.

To reserve exhibit space, contact Dock Kornegay at 919-856-2132, or dockk@legalaidnc.org. ■

**2004 Legal Services
Statewide Conference
April 27-28-2004
Sheraton Imperial Hotel &
Convention Center, Durham, NC**

Tarboro Case (Continued from page 4)

ensure that multi-family housing would be a viable option for Tarboro families in the future."

Fourteen Tarboro residents became named plaintiffs in the lawsuit filed in September 2001. The residents sued the Town of Tarboro. In their complaint, the residents alleged that the Town discriminated against them on the basis of race and familial status in violation of the Fair Housing Act when it adopted the March 2000 moratorium on multi-family housing and amended its UDO in May 2000.

Following a year of discovery that included dozens of depositions, the residents and the Town agreed to mediation in January 2003. During mediation, the Town agreed to the changes to the UDO and monetary damages for the plaintiffs. The residents in turn modified their damages claims against the Town.

"The NC Fair Housing Center is extremely pleased with this result," stated Adams, "and our congratulations to the Tarboro residents and to the legal aid community for its commitment to ensure equal justice. We also hope that this will serve as a cautionary tale to other communities that would use their governmental powers to deny housing opportunities to people of color or families with children."

Mack-Hilliard agreed. "We think that the Tarboro situation resulted in a win-win agreement," noted Mack-Hilliard. "Everybody deserves the opportunity to have a decent place to live. And in this case, citizens spoke up to ensure that such fair housing opportunity is available in Tarboro." ■



On behalf of LANC, George Hausen accepts the "Sister Barbara Sullivan Award" from the NC Low-Income Housing Coalition at the NCLHC meeting on April 24, 2003. The Sullivan Award is presented annually to an organization that has devoted itself to improving housing conditions for low-income and homeless families, through volunteer efforts or individual initiative.

Staff Updates

John Van Alst (Consumer Attorney, LANC-Durham Office), was named as Associate Clinical Professor of Law for the **UNC Clinical Program** to work for the spring semester in 2004. He will be supervising students on consumer cases 20 hours a week while continuing his duties at Legal Aid of Durham....**Marylee Hall** (senior managing attorney, LANC Farmworkers Unit) received the Thurgood Marshall Award from the **NC Academy of Trial Lawyers** in 2003. The Thurgood Marshall Award was established to recognize extraordinary and selfless service to the people of North Carolina in keeping with the legacy of Justice Thurgood Marshall....**LANC-Raleigh Office staff** received an "Award of Appreciation" from the City of Raleigh's Fair Housing Hearing Board in April 2003 for "outstanding dedication and service in the field of fair housing."**John Keller** (Supervising Attorney, LANC-Wilson Office) wrote an article, "Duke Law Education Inspires Alumnus to Pursue Poverty Law Practice," which appeared in the Spring 2003 *Duke Law Magazine*....**Roger Cook** (Staff Attorney, LANC-Raleigh Office) is serving a two-year term as a member of the Board of Directors of the Wake County Bar Association and also the 10th Judicial District Bar of North Carolina (it is a dual function bar)....**Gina Reyman** (senior managing attorney) and **John Van Alst** (staff Attorney) both of the LANC-Durham Office, were admitted to practice before the Supreme Court of the United States on Tuesday, October 7, 2003. Durham board member, **Lowell Siler** (who had been previously admitted) was the sponsor of the trip to Washington, DC, and presented Gina and John to the Court....**Jennifer Lee** returned to the LANC -Farmworker Unit on August 1 from a year with the Clinic at UNC Law School. She also studied Spanish in Mexico ("immersion training") between the end of the school year and her return to LANC....**Gina L. Reyman** (senior managing attorney, LANC-Durham Office and LANC-Hillsborough Office) has been elected as "President-Elect" of the 14th Judicial District Bar (Durham County) for 2003-04....**Victor Boone** (senior managing attorney, LANC-Raleigh Office),

Rona Karacaova (staff attorney, LANC-Charlotte Office), **Richard Klein** (senior managing attorney, LANC-Wilmington Office) and **Dock Kornegay**,(LANC-Administrative Office) served on the NC Bar Association's Pro Se Task Force....**Lori Elmer** (attorney, LANC Farmworker Unit) was quoted in an article today in a *News & Observer* article, "Mexico to review workers' issues, Complaints lodged about N.C. farms": " 'The fact that North Carolina was chosen as a focus of investigation,' Elmer said, 'should tell North Carolina that there's a problem here.' ".... The LANC-Farmworker Unit settled its long-running "mass action", *Villalobos et al v. North Carolina Growers Association et al*, in late September. The case, brought in the U.S. District Court for the District of Puerto Rico on behalf of more than 70 migrant farmworkers from Puerto Rico, was filed in 1997. Settlement came as a trial date of November 5 loomed. Although details of the settlement are confidential, the clients were very satisfied with the monetary recovery, and their lawyers with the total recovery and the rulings of the District Court.Attorney **Carolyn Burton** of the LANC-Sylva office accompanied Farmworker Unit staff members **Lisa Guerra**, **Omar Lainez** and **Mary Lee Hall** visiting migrant farmworkers in Christmas tree labor camps in Jackson County during the first week of December. Farmworker Unit staff will be returning to Sylva in the spring to do training for a Sylva-based group of service providers working with Latino immigrants and farm workers in the Jackson-Macon-Haywood-Swain county area with whom Carolyn is working....**Stan Sprague**, long time staff attorney in the LANC-Greensboro Office, was a guest columnist in the December 2003 *Campbell Law Observer* where his article, "The 2002 Judicial Elections in North Carolina," was featured on the front page....**Liz London** (staff attorney, LANC-Smithfield Office) and **Ceila Mansaray** (PAI coordinator, LANC-Raleigh Office) coordinated clinics of *pro bono* attorneys to assist with completion of bankruptcy "proof of claim" forms on January 24, 2004. The clinics advised low-income clients who might be owed services, goods, or burial plots by either Mount Lawn Memorial Park in Boone or Lee Memory Gardens in Sanford, both of which are in chapter 7 bankruptcy. ■

New Domestic Violence laws in North Carolina

By Robin L. Ames, Esq.

Several new laws were passed by the 2003 North Carolina General Assembly. These new laws will have a positive impact on the protection of domestic violence victims. The full text of these laws listed below can be found at www.ncleg.net.

The Protective Order Clarification Act (Senate Bill 630)

After a domestic violence victim files a lawsuit against the abuser asking for a protective order, some victims and abusers would reach an agreement before a judge would hear the case. The parties' agreement was put into writing and a judge signed a "consent order" with the agreement. There had been confusion over whether these "consent orders" gave victims the same protection as a court order of protection made after a judge has held a hearing. The Protective Order Clarification Act ended this confusion by stating that consent orders have the same effect as court orders made after a hearing.

For the victim, this means police departments and sheriffs' offices must enforce consent orders in the same way they enforce other standard protective orders.

This law also states that victims can renew a protective order multiple times for good cause. "Good cause" means for a good reason, but does *not* require any new acts of domestic violence.

The Homicide Prevention Act (Senate Bill 919)

According to the North Carolina Coalition Against Domestic Violence, a victim of domestic violence is killed every five days in our state. Many groups, including the Governor's Crime Commission and the North Carolina Sheriffs' Association, supported the Homicide Prevention Act (Senate Bill 919), which sets out new procedures for surrendering and disposing of firearms when a judge finds that an abuser should not have weapons.

The purpose of this legislation is to "enhance the safety of victims in serious domestic violence cases." This new law states that a person who does not turn in firearms when ordered by the court to do so or possesses a firearm in violation of this section has committed a felony. It was already a felony for that person to purchase a firearm if the protective order prohibited the purchase of firearms.

Assault in the Presence of a Minor (House Bill 926)

It is well documented that domestic violence has serious consequences for adult victims *and* for their children. Upon the recommendation of the Child Well-Being and Domestic Violence Task Force, the General Assembly enacted stiffer punishment for persons convicted of assaults that take place in the presence of a minor (House Bill 926). A conviction for the first such offense will result in supervised probation. Subsequent offenses in the presence of a child will result in active jail time.

Employment Security Agency Bill (Senate Bill 439)

It is not uncommon for a victim of domestic violence to leave or lose a job as a result of the violence. Victims who did not get protective orders had difficulty showing that they should be eligible to receive unemployment benefits under these circumstances. The General Assembly (per Senate Bill 439) changed the Employment Security Laws to make it easier for victims of domestic violence to obtain benefits without seeking a formal protective order.

Other laws that were considered but did not pass...

A law that did *not* pass – but that the General Assembly can consider next year – would create a presumption or "requirement" for judges to favor placing children in the custody of the vic-

tim in domestic violence cases (**Senate Bill 718**). Presently, judges have the discretion or choice, but do not have to consider custody in domestic violence cases. This bill would require judges to rule on custody matters raised by the victim, and judges would be required to assume that custody of children should go to a victim when domestic violence has been found to have taken place.

Other laws that have *not* yet passed but are of interest for next year are the following:

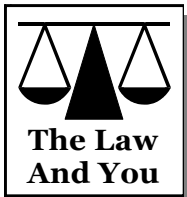
- **House Bill 304** would require supervised probation in cases of stalking.
- **House Bill 743** would give nurses the right to protect confidentiality of patients.
- **Senate Bill 916** would allow employers to file for protective orders on behalf of employees and would provide for a civil no-contact order for victims of sexual assault and stalking, regardless of the relationship between the parties.

In addition to the new laws, the 2003 General Assembly made no funding cuts for the North Carolina Council for Women domestic violence programs or the Governor's Domestic Violence Commission. A proposed reduction in Victim's Compensation funds will be offset by federal funds.

Also, the Victim of Crimes Act (VOCA) grant to Legal Aid of North Carolina, Inc. (LANC) was renewed and increased by the Governor's Crime Commission. The grant funds attorney positions at LANC throughout the state to provide free legal representation to victims of domestic violence.

Additional information on domestic violence protection can be found on the Legal Aid of North Carolina website, www.legalaidnc.org.

[Robin Ames is an attorney with Legal Aid of North Carolina in Ahoskie and serves on the Legal Aid Family Law Task Force. "The Law and You" is a regular publication of Legal Aid of NC, a nonprofit program that provides free civil legal assistance to poor and low-income residents of North Carolina.]



Good Changes (Continued from page 2)

provided by service area and organized around geography and location. This is a perfectly reasonable way to organize services, but the historical drawback has been that if a local office didn't have expertise or resources available in a given area--bankruptcy, for example--of law, the client often did not receive any service. Moreover, there was no one responsible for addressing the lack of expertise or resources.

We believe that practice groups will improve on the current structure. We are now putting together a new framework that will organize our work into **seven substantive law practice groups**; i.e., housing law, consumer law, family law, benefits law, employment law, education law and community economic development (CED).

Each of the groups will have a practice group (PG) manager whose first task it will be to determine the quality of our advocacy, our service capacity, throughout the state. The PG managers are reviewing case statistics and time records to determine how much work is getting done and who is doing it. In this way, the PG managers will be able to make recommendations about both the substantive as well as the practical skills training needs in each office. These recommendations will also affect hiring and transfers.

Furthermore, in appropriate cases, the PG managers will recommend, or directly take on, co-counseling relationships to ensure that we give clients the most zealous advocacy possible. Co-counseling, in addition to bringing more resources to bear in a case, also allows us to give younger advocates greater experience as they team up with senior colleagues.

The PG managers will be able to provide another level of supervision and assistance to each case, and that means better outcomes for clients.

Task Force groups will still be an integral part of our training and service delivery. Like Task Force, however, the practice groups will be directly tied to impact and legislative work.

The NC Legal Services Planning Council, through the NC Justice & Community Development Center, has established an **Advocacy Coordinator** in the person of **Evan Lewis** (also our Senior Managing

Attorney in Greenville-New Bern). Evan will be establishing working groups that will consider the advice of, and the information gleaned by, the PG managers to develop potential impact cases and legislative strategy. The PG managers, of course, will be the conduits of this information back to their LANC advocates to ensure that everyone is aware and has some participation in the strategic work.

I pleased to say that Gina Reyman will manage the Family Law Practice Group. Andrew Cogdell will manage Housing Law. Hazel Mack-Hilliard will manage Consumer Law. Evan Lewis will manage CED. And Richard Klein, along with all his other duties, has agreed on an interim basis to manage Education and Employment Law. A manager for Benefits Law has not been selected as yet.

The second aspect of service upon which we will focus in 2004 is **Private Attorney Involvement (PAI)**, which is sometimes also referred to as VLP (Volunteer Lawyers Program) or, simply, *pro bono*.

Improving our ability to recruit the private bar to our cases and to our outreach work is a major goal for 2004. We will be developing new and creative recruiting techniques, such as short-session CLEs, and improving our relationships with the larger firms in each service area.

We have a talented and experience staff of coordinators around the state, and I am confident that we can make PAI a bigger part of our service complement.

And finally, I hope you are able to attend the **2004 Statewide Legal Services Conference** in April. The primary purposes of LANC's biennial statewide conferences are to provide training (continuing legal education and trainings, **CLE's**) for attorneys and staff and to provide networking opportunities for the legal community, affiliates and vendors.

It should be an event that will motivate you and keep your fire for justice burning.

We've made some changes, but they are small and our commitment is unwavering.

Thank you for all that you do. Peace and happiness to you and yours in the 2004.

George R. Hansen, Jr.
Executive Director

Lifetime Fighter (Continued from page 6)

point of Pitts' career. A motion Pitts filed in court there, on behalf of activists gathering petitions against a sheriff they considered corrupt, got him slapped with a Rule 11 sanction--along with Kunstler and UNC Law professor Barry Nakell--for making baseless legal claims. Their fines were paid by the Center for Constitutional Rights in Washington.

The Rule 11 fine struck at Pitts' reputation. "For a time, I wanted to go to everybody on the street and say, 'Wait a minute, I've got some affidavits to show you. ...' It was difficult." Uncharacteristically, Pitts' voice trails off as he recalls the time.

But he's bounced back and is in great form these days. As head of Legal Aid's mental health unit, he's become one of the state's top advocates for children. Kids with mental problems are routinely expelled from school these days, Pitts says, and instead of getting the treatment they need, end up in juvenile detention.

Legal Aid fights these cases one at a time (a federal law bars it from bringing class-action suits or winning legal fees), but Pitts recently found a way to raise the larger issue: He sued Gov. Mike Easley and N.C. Chief Justice I. Beverly Lake for never convening, as co-chairs, their blue-ribbon commission on juvenile justice. State law requires the group to meet and make recommendations to the General Assembly. Thanks to Pitts, it does--meet, anyway.

"Lewis is tenacious, and he's fun to work with because he's always positive, always sees the big picture and stays on the offensive," says Jim Warren, N.C. WARN's leader. "And he has certainly done, at his tender young age, a lifetime's worth of good work." ■

Visit the Legal Aid of NC website:

<http://www.legalaidnc.org/>



“When you work to develop pro bono programs—in law schools and in the bar;
When you work to push your respective institutions toward an ideal of equal justice;
When you implement technological advances to make the delivery of legal services more efficient and accessible;
When you raise money to support legal services offices;
When you create and expand loan forgiveness programs;
When you step out and lead the way in the private bar; and most of all,
When you keep your faith in the work of representing the excluded when all around you are losing theirs;
You move at the forefront of this profession—acting to make real the promises we so often ignore.”

-Gene Nichols,
 Dean & Burton Craige Professor,
 UNC School of Law

[From Dean Nichols keynote address to the NLADA/ABA Equal Justice Conference, April 18, 2002.]

Annual Campaign (Cont. from page 1)

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. Some firms are also willing to

provide financial as well as *pro bono* support.”

Hausen also 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 two of this edition.]. Contributions can also be made online at the Legal Aid of NC website:

<http://www.legalaidnc.org>

Or simply complete the form below and return it with 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



“The success of our Access to Justice campaign will be critical to our capacity to provide legal services this year...”

Chris Marks,
 Assistant Director, Legal Aid of NC.



Support Legal Aid of North Carolina...Make a Commitment Today!!!

Legal Aid of North Carolina is a nonprofit, 501(c)3 organization with a mission to provide *free* legal representation in civil matters to low-income persons. Broad-based support is vital to Legal Aid of NC's efforts. Please provide a financial donation, volunteer your time, and/or tell others about Legal Aid of NC. **Please make a commitment today.**

- Yes, I want to pro bono time to support Legal Aid of NC. Please contact me.**
- Yes, I want to support Legal Aid of NC with my gift for:** \$100 \$250 \$500 \$1000 \$5000 Other: \$ _____
- Check** (payable to "Legal Aid of North Carolina")
- VISA** (please complete information box →)
- MasterCard** (please complete information box →)

- Please direct me gift to:**
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- LANC Office in: _____
- Other _____

(For credit card donations, please complete the information below.)

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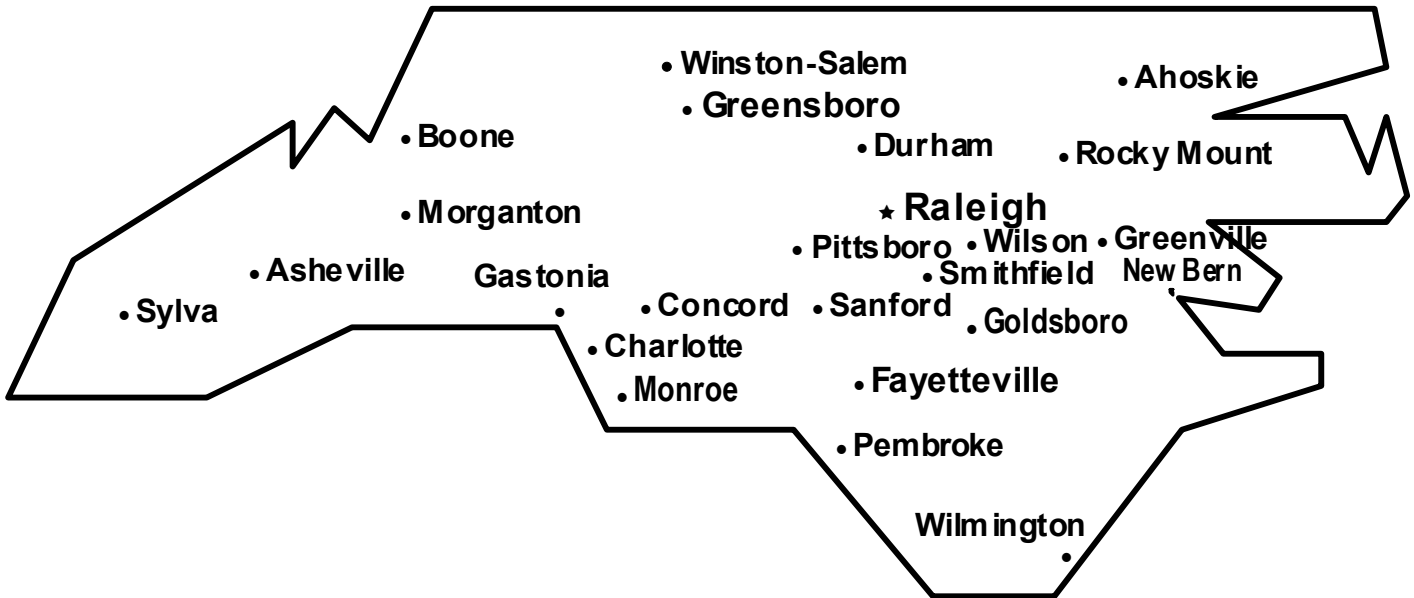
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Telephone #: _____ **FAX #:** _____ **E-mail Address:** _____

Please mail to: Access to Justice Campaign, Legal Aid of NC, P.O. Box 26087, Raleigh, NC 27611

Financial information about this organization and a copy of its license are available from the State Solicitation Licensing Section at 1-888-830-4989. The license is not an endorsement by the State of North Carolina. Legal Aid of North Carolina is a nonprofit, 501(c)3 organization. Donations are tax-deductible as allowed by law.

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



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