

# 2021 IMPACT REPORT

CELEBRATING NCBF VALUES,  
PROGRAMS + DONORS



NORTH CAROLINA  
BAR FOUNDATION

# FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

For many people in our state, the past year has been one of loss, pain and uncertainty. Issues brought about by the pandemic have impacted livelihoods, education and housing. There is very little that hasn't been changed or impacted in some way by the pandemic and the events of 2020 and 2021. Hearing the call to service and feeling the need to help, members of our legal profession are responding to the needs of the people of our state with resolve, conviction and empathy through the many programs provided by the North Carolina Bar Foundation.

Over the course of the 2020-2021 bar year, our Foundation adopted new methods of service delivery for the pandemic environment, including virtual COVID-19 hotlines, developing a digital Wills for Heroes platform to enable remote consultation and document preparation, and hosting our first fully virtual 4ALL Statewide Service Day. The knowledge drawn from years of program delivery combined with the commitment of our volunteers to serve those in need has made it possible for us to quickly develop and deploy these adapted programs. Our new delivery methods will serve us and the people of our state well through the remainder of the pandemic and beyond.

During the pandemic, nearly 4,000 North Carolinians have received free legal information through six COVID-19 Virtual Legal Hotlines. Over 1,677 individuals in 97 N.C. counties received pandemic-related pro bono legal advice through NC Free Legal Answers. The NC Lawyers for Entrepreneurs Assistance Program (NC LEAP) program offered a series of five webinars to advise and counsel low-wealth entrepreneurs. The Wills for Heroes program began hosting clinics on the virtual platform, allowing attorneys to provide end-of-life documents for first responders remotely. The Lawyers in Schools programs were responsive by providing civic educational opportunities to K-12 students remotely. These and other critical NCBF pro bono and public service programs were made possible by the generosity of donors and volunteers.

The Foundation's work is furthered through grants awarded from the Endowment. The Endowment, created in 1987, has a value that currently exceeds \$17.3 million. The Endowment grant process is competitive, making awards to legal service organizations with programs aligned to the Foundation's mission. The NCBF has made more than \$6 million in grants to statewide organizations, including meaningful support to the operations of Legal Aid of North Carolina (the value of the Foundation's LANC Fund currently exceeds \$2.8 million).

The need for legal assistance in North Carolina is as great as it has ever been. The Foundation is continuing to develop programs to meet new and expanding areas of need. The work of our Foundation, programs and volunteers is as important and necessary as ever. Throughout this report, I invite you to learn more about the Foundation's service to the people of our state. While you will see there is much to celebrate, there is much more to be done.



The work of the NCBF is made possible thanks to volunteer time and private philanthropic support. We are grateful to you for your engagement, commitment and service to the people of our state. The capacity of our profession and our organizations to engage and serve during this time of need is vital for the people of our state. Together, we will continue our important work to unite the talent and generosity of our profession to be a power of greater good for the people of North Carolina.

Thank you for being a member of the North Carolina Bar Association and for your support of the North Carolina Bar Foundation.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Jason M. Hensley". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Jason M. Hensley  
Executive Director, North Carolina Bar Foundation



## **NORTH CAROLINA BAR FOUNDATION 2021 IMPACT REPORT**

**“The work  
of our  
Foundation  
programs and  
volunteers is  
as important  
and necessary  
as ever.”**

**JASON M. HENSLEY,**  
Executive Director, North  
Carolina Bar Foundation

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### **NCBF MISSION STATEMENT**

Uniting the talent and  
generosity of our profession  
to be a power of greater  
good for the people of North  
Carolina.

### **NCBF VISION STATEMENT**

A vibrant North Carolina where legal services are available to all, regardless of ability to pay; where members of the legal profession provide community service and leadership that profoundly impacts the public, thereby demonstrating the value of our profession to society; and where all North Carolinians understand and have confidence in a legal system that serves them.

# IMPACT AT A GLANCE

**853**

Attorney, paralegal and law student volunteers across NCBF programs

**12,879**

North Carolinians served through NCBF pro bono and public service programs

**\$433,704**

In Endowment grants distributed to statewide programs and organizations

## **4ALL STATEWIDE DAY OF SERVICE**

**436** volunteers  
**9,712** callers served

## **COVID-19 HOTLINES**

**3** regional hotlines  
**210** volunteers  
**743** callers served

## **LAWYERS FOR LITERACY**

**20** volunteers  
**200** students served  
**19** recorded read-along videos

## **LAWYERS IN SCHOOLS**

**16** classroom speaker volunteers  
**345** students served

## **MCINTYRE YOUTH LEADERSHIP CHALLENGE**

**21** volunteers  
**30** students involved

## **MIDDLE SCHOOL MOCK TRIAL**

**15** volunteers  
**50** students involved

## **PATENT PRO BONO PROGRAM**

**7** volunteers  
**10** low-wealth inventors served

## **NC FREE LEGAL ANSWERS**

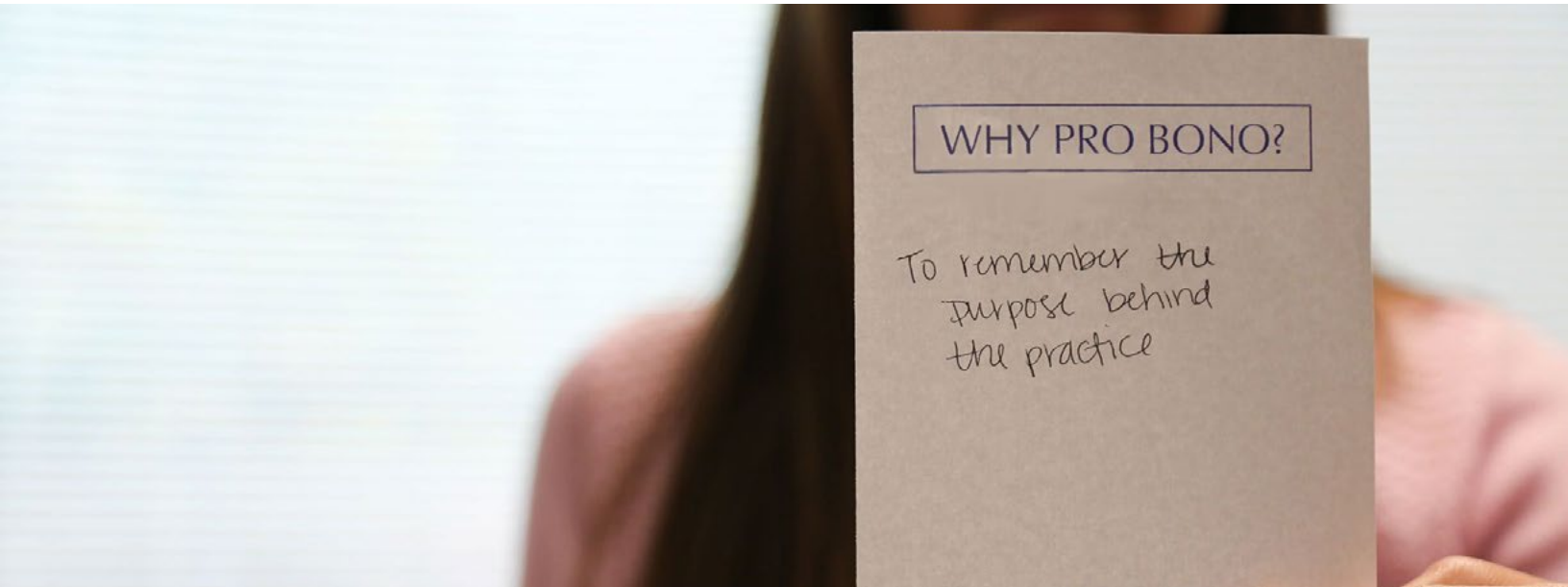
**1,667** questions answered  
**79** volunteers  
**97** N.C. counties served

## **NC LEAP**

**24** volunteers  
**79** entrepreneurs served in virtual workshops and one-on-one sessions

## **WILLS FOR HEROES**

**3** clinics held  
**25** volunteers  
**43** first responder clients served



**North Carolina Bar Foundation pro bono and public services programs are made possible by generous support from donors and volunteers. Thank you for your support of the NCBF.**

**Learn more at [ncbarfoundation.org/our-programs](https://ncbarfoundation.org/our-programs).**



## ACCESS TO JUSTICE

**We believe access is an intrinsic part of justice and we are committed to ensuring equal access for all by giving generously to, and using our civic influence on behalf of, organizations that provide pro bono legal services.**

Clayton Morgan has lived the NCBF Access to Justice value statement throughout his career. His late father wouldn't have it any other way.

“No matter who my father was speaking with, he treated everyone the same — with dignity and respect,” said Morgan, president-elect of the NCBA and NCBF and immediate past chair of Legal Aid of North Carolina. “It could be the local man who seemed to always have too much to drink — yet no one knew he was a disabled vet who never received the help he needed after Vietnam and was never deemed employable after the war. Or it could be someone who was held in a ‘higher regard’ by the general public. Everyone was treated the same, regardless of their socioeconomic status, clothing, speech, etc.”

Those interactions helped Morgan realize how a helping hand here or there could shape an individual's path through life.

**“While one person can begin to lay the groundwork for providing help, many people can put that action plan into motion and change a generation. It is vitally important for the legal profession as a whole to take a personal inventory of our respective skillsets and push ourselves beyond our comfort zone to step up to help others.”**

**CLAYTON D. MORGAN**, Duke Energy, Raleigh



“You never forget those experiences, and you shouldn’t,” Morgan said. “Therefore, as a legal professional now, I carry both a personal desire and passion as well as a professional obligation to do something about it. If I am able to use my legal talent to help people, then I should.”

Heather Culp joined the NCBA as soon as she was admitted to practice and immediately became involved with the NCBF’s Lawyers in the Schools Committee, which has since evolved into Lawyers in Schools programming that includes Career Fairs, Lawyers As Guest Speakers, Lawyers for Literacy, Middle School Mock Trial and the McIntyre Youth Leadership Challenge.

“I wanted to help the public in ways that only lawyers can and meet like-minded lawyers across the state,” said Culp, who has served on the boards of the NCBA and NCBF and now serves on the NCBF Board of Directors as chair of the Programs Committee. “My service on the committee exceeded my expectations and became the first of many volunteer roles with the NCBA and NCBF.

I’ve seen firsthand for nearly 20 years the many ways in which NCBA and NCBF programs benefit North Carolinians and member volunteers, and I am proud to do my part by giving time and money.”



**“Access to justice means everyone having the ability to use the legal system — not only those who know a lawyer, not only those who can afford a lawyer. The NCBF gives members opportunities to educate and serve everyday folks who are part of our communities.”**

**HEATHER W. CULP,**  
Essex Richards, Charlotte



**FOUNDATION PROGRAM PARTNER SPOTLIGHT**

**Bell, Davis & Pitt**

“Our commitment to service to the profession, which has always been a hallmark of this firm, is underscored by our participation in the programs of the Foundation and the leadership of the NCBF Board of Directors, whose programs and policies advance that service which is so pivotal to this firm.”

**WALTER W. (WRENNIE) PITT**

## SERVICE THROUGH THE PROFESSION

**We are passionate about opportunities to use our education and experience to be of service to our fellow North Carolinians and we are proud of our flagship pro bono and public service projects that allow volunteer lawyers, paralegals and law students to strengthen and improve their communities all across our state.**

He serves on the NCBA Board of Governors and NCBF Board of Directors. She serves as co-chair of the NCBF 4ALL Statewide Service Day Committee. Together, husband and wife lawyers Ben and Alicia Edwards gladly demonstrate their commitment to service through the profession.

“Being involved with the NCBA enables you to become intimately familiar with the great programs supported by the NCBF,” shares Alicia Edwards. “There are many creative ways that our profession is getting out there to provide legal services to our most vulnerable citizens, who would otherwise not have any legal counsel or services available to them.”

The NCBF is meeting the needs of legal professionals who are anxious to volunteer, and legal professionals from all walks of life are answering the call to serve.

“Civil access to justice is a real problem in our state,” Ben Edwards explains. “The NCBF leverages the programs and agencies that are best suited to meet that need head-on. Not every North Carolina lawyer can dedicate a career to public interest work, but every lawyer can find a way to volunteer or otherwise support the important work of the NCBF to meet those crucial needs.”



### FOUNDATION PROGRAM PARTNER SPOTLIGHT

## Ward and Smith

“Ward and Smith’s commitment to service through the profession is strong and remained steadfast in the face of the turbulence of the past year. We are thankful to be a part of the Foundation for opportunities to volunteer, engage with valued colleagues, and support the mission of the Foundation across North Carolina.”

**E. BRADLEY (BRAD) EVANS**





## Williams Mullen

“Williams Mullen values collaborative partnerships which enable our attorneys to serve people and organizations throughout our state. The NCBF provides a variety of structured programs which allow our attorneys to efficiently support pro bono activities which interest them as individual professionals and allow them to advance their personal passions.”

**DAVID F. PAULSON JR.**

Ben and Alicia’s commitment of time and financial support to the profession and to the NCBA and NCBF is a labor of love.

“Every year we participate in character and fitness interviews for new bar candidates,” they said. “It’s a great chance to see enthusiastic people on the verge of entering our profession, and it’s a reminder that nearly every one of us became a lawyer because we want to help people solve problems. Supporting the NCBF, through volunteering and financial support, is a way that every North Carolina lawyer can make a difference ... and is a way to get back to that idealistic foundation of why each of us entered the profession in the first place.”

**“Participating in the work of the NCBA and NCBF provides an avenue for us to make a small contribution toward that ‘greater good’ mission for the people of North Carolina. We’re proud to make our small contribution, along with so many other fantastic volunteers and supporters of the NCBF throughout our state.”**

**BENJAMIN (BEN) EDWARDS**, Lincoln Financial Group, and **ALICIA EDWARDS**, Legal Aid of North Carolina, Greensboro



## CIVIC EDUCATION

**We embrace our role as educators and are enthusiastic about helping our fellow North Carolinians — both school children and adults — understand and have confidence in the rule of law and our justice system.**

Ann David, through her longtime commitment to the NCBF Lawyers for Literacy program, and Bob Edmunds, through his service as chair of the NCBA Judicial Independence & Integrity Committee, have a longstanding commitment to civic education programs that partner with schools across the state.

“Having volunteered in North Carolina schools for about 20 years, I have seen firsthand the impact that volunteers can have on students,” said David, who serves on the NCBF Board of Directors. “Giving of your time allows students to see the importance of our justice system and government through our eyes.

Volunteering in programs like Lawyers for Literacy not only assists students with their reading and comprehension skills, it facilitates volunteers as mentors and role models for these students as we encourage them to reach for their dreams to become anything that they want to be — especially becoming the next generation of judges, elected officials and attorneys.”

**“I personally feel as an attorney that I and my firm have a responsibility to be active leaders in our community and to give back whenever we can. The NCBF affords us numerous opportunities to volunteer and financially support programs that not only uplift the communities in our state but also uplift our profession as we participate.”**

**ANN M. DAVID**, David & Associates, Wilmington



**“Working with and supporting the North Carolina Bar Foundation is a natural extension of my belief — a belief that we all should share — that all North Carolina lawyers ought actively to support attorney outreach and civics education.”**

**ROBERT H. (BOB) EDMUNDS JR.,**  
Fox Rothschild, Greensboro



As both a candidate for statewide office and a former associate justice of the Supreme Court of North Carolina, Edmunds knows the importance of civic education programs supported by the NCBA and NCBF. He has led by example in volunteering his time through the NCBF Lawyers in Schools program and serving as a guest speaker for high school social studies classes to share about the role of the judiciary and the importance of the rule of law.

“This belief in the importance of public understanding of the role of lawyers and judges in our civic life has only grown over the years,” said Edmunds, who has served as a federal prosecutor and defense attorney. “And, as a judicial candidate, I was constantly reminded that relatively few average citizens really understand what judges and lawyers do.”

“Attaining the goal of having a citizenry that understands such basic civics principles as separation of powers requires different types of commitment. Time, energy and funds are all needed. That’s where the North Carolina Bar Foundation comes in. It’s a short step from supporting the NCBA to supporting the North Carolina Bar Foundation’s work on civic education. There’s room for everyone.”

**FOUNDATION PROGRAM PARTNER SPOTLIGHT**

**Lincoln Derr**

“Our commitment runs deep and exceeds simply the expectation of our profession to provide legal services to those that cannot pay. We share with the NCBF the belief that action speaks louder than our words and our partnership with the NCBF allows us to find various channels to show that action.”

**GWENDOLYN W. LEWIS**



## PROFESSIONALISM

**We take to heart our professional obligations as lawyers to make a difference. We actively cultivate a culture of service, invest in training lawyer leaders and use innovative approaches to bring North Carolina lawyers together to work alongside one another for the common good.**

LaToya Powell and Jonathan Bogues only needed one word to connect the work of the North Carolina Bar Foundation with its commitment to professionalism, and that word was “opportunities.”

“Through my volunteer service with NCBA and NCBF, I’ve been able to participate in meaningful activities, like pro bono work and racial equity training, that otherwise would not have been available to me,” said Powell, who serves as co-chair of the Minorities in the Profession Committee.

“Through section and committee membership, I’ve also made valuable connections with lawyers from all over the state who have a common goal of serving their communities and increasing access to justice. I appreciate the role that the NCBA and NCBF have played in providing these opportunities, which is why I financially support the work of the NCBF.”

It is important, Bogues adds, to advance professionalism by providing equal access to justice and service through the profession to all North Carolinians.

**“It’s important for lawyers to give both their time and financial support to promote the mission of the NCBF because our collective efforts have a significant impact on the community.”**

**LATOYA B. POWELL,**  
N.C. Department of Public Safety, Raleigh





## Hutchens Law Firm

“Whether advancing access to justice by hosting 4ALL Statewide Service Day and Wills for Heroes, serving the profession through LAPS, or maintaining a commitment to pro bono service through LANC, our lawyers are able to find their ‘best way’ to further our firm’s core values and those of the NCBF. It is a partnership we strongly recommend.”

**HILTON T. (HUTCH) HUTCHENS JR.**

“The NCBF provides plenty of opportunities for us to connect and engage with other members of the profession as well as the North Carolinians we serve,” said Bogues, who is heavily involved in the NCBA and NCBF as an active member of the Young Lawyers Division. “You can volunteer in the schools with Lawyers for Literacy or mock trials, or with NC Free Legal Answers to work at your own pace. The NCBF has something for every North Carolina attorney looking to get involved.”

Bogues became involved with the NCBF when he participated in the 4ALL Statewide Service Day as a member of the Leadership Academy’s Class of 2017 and shows no signs of slowing down.

“Since then, I have volunteered with Lawyers for Literacy and the McIntyre Youth Leadership Challenge as part of the Law Week and Liberty Bell festivities the Young Lawyers Division conducts every year,” Bogues said. “These experiences let me see firsthand how the NCBF and its programs positively affect North Carolinians. I have also financially contributed the last several years to ensure these programs can continue.”



**“It is important to give both volunteer time and financial support to these programs because they have a direct impact on the people of our state. When we come together to support and serve the people of North Carolina, everyone wins.”**

**JONATHAN M. BOGUES,**  
Forrest Firm, Raleigh

# HONOR ROLL OF DONORS



We are pleased to publish this 2021 NCBF Honor Roll of Donors to recognize and thank those whose support helps our Foundation carry out its mission to unite the talent and generosity of our profession to be a power of greater good for the people of North Carolina.

The steadfast and generous philanthropic support of these donors makes the pro bono and public service programs of the North Carolina Bar Foundation possible. During the 2020-2021 bar year, our state faced unprecedented challenges. The NCBF responded by providing opportunities for NCBA members to be responsive and serve those in need. This work will continue into the 2021-2022 bar year, and we are grateful for all our donors whose generosity makes these programs possible.

On behalf of the North Carolina Bar Foundation and those we serve across our state, thank you! With your support, we will continue to advance access to justice, service through the profession, civic education and professionalism.

**JONATHAN P. HEYL,**  
President, North Carolina Bar Foundation

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