

# **NORTH CAROLINA BAR FOUNDATION**MISSION, VISION AND VALUES

#### **OUR MISSION**

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

### **OUR VISION**

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.

#### **OUR VALUES**

Access to Justice. We believe access is an intrinsic part of justice and 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.

**Service**. 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.

**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.

**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.









# 2019 IMPACT REPORT | POWER OF GREATER GOOD

Letter from Our Executive Director	3
4ALL Statewide Service Day	4
Wills for Heroes	6
NC LEAP (Lawyers for Entrepreneurs Assistance Program)	8
NC Free Legal Answers	10
Lawyers for Literacy	12
McIntyre Youth Leadership Challenge	14
Honor Roll of Donors	16
Platt D. Walker Legacy Society	23
Endowment Grantees	24



## **FOUNDATION PROGRAM PARTNERS**

Generous support from our Foundation Program Partners, which include law firms and organizations from across North Carolina, helps to expand and deepen the impact of our Foundation's statewide pro bono and public service programs. Learn more about what motivates these organizations to partner with the Foundation on pages 9, 11, 13 and 15.

## **HIGHLIGHTS**



PAGE 6
WILLS FOR HEROES



PAGE 8 NC LEAP



PAGE 12 LAWYERS FOR LITERACY

# **IMPACT at a GLANCE**



**11,362** North Carolinians served (across all programs)



**208** Volunteer service leadership opportunities provided to lawyer leaders across the state



Including **406** students served (through civic education programs)



Including **289** first responders served (through Wills for Heroes)

1,297 Attorney, paralegal and law student volunteers engaged (across all programs)





**100** (i.e. all!) N.C. counties served by Foundation programs



**29** Grantees of the Endowment

\$111,341
Total grants made to NC legal services organizations

2018-19 Endowment Funding Distributed:

\$338,486

## Welcome to the 2019 North Carolina Bar Foundation Impact Report.

As you read through the pages that follow, you will see the mission of the North Carolina Bar Foundation at work: **uniting the talent and generosity of our profession to be a power of greater good for the people of North Carolina**. Our mission reminds us that, as members of this noble profession, we are

Our mission reminds us that, as members of this noble profession, we are uniquely situated to serve others and increase access to justice.

We extend our thanks to the thousands of attorneys, paralegals, law students and other legal professionals who made a gift of time or money last year, and made it possible for the North Carolina Bar Foundation to serve over 10,000 North Carolinians through our signature pro bono and public service programs.

Our service to others is further amplified through the North Carolina Bar Foundation Endowment, which provides grants to qualifying organizations whose projects advance our values of access to justice, service through the profession, civic education and professionalism. In addition, the Endowment's Legal Aid of North Carolina Fund provides secure and sustainable annual funding to LANC, our state's largest provider of indigent civil legal services.

I am grateful for our generous community of donors and I thank you for your commitment to our Foundation. Together, we provide service and leadership that profoundly impacts the public and demonstrates the value of our profession to society.

I invite you to renew your support to the Foundation this year through a gift to our Annual Fund, the creation of a Justice or Lawyer Impact Fund, or a planned gift to our Endowment. With your generous support, the North Carolina Bar Foundation continues to expand programs that improve lives through increased access to justice and showcase the best of the profession through service.

Thank you for your commitment to the North Carolina Bar Foundation. We look forward to the year ahead.

Sincerely,

Jason M. Hensley

M Herby

Executive Director, North Carolina Bar Association and Foundation



Our mission reminds us that, as members of this noble profession, we are uniquely situated to serve others and increase access to justice.



# **4ALL STATEWIDE SERVICE DAY**

On one day every year in March, any North Carolina resident can speak with an attorney for free through the 4ALL Statewide Service Day program. Attorneys volunteer their time at call sites across the state to help ensure access to justice "for all" by providing legal information, resources and education. In 2019 over 400 attorneys answered nearly 10,000 caller questions on issues ranging from alimony to zoning.

Local television stations host the 4ALL call sites, providing coverage that invites callers from every part of the state. The first program of its kind, 4ALL has served North Carolinians for over a decade.

4ALL is an event like no other! It highlights the best of what we do and who we are. Hundreds of lawyers coming together across the state to help their communities in a spirit of service is inspiring. Thank you 4ALL and NCBF!

Nicolette Fulton, Senior Associate City Attorney (Raleigh)
 and 2019 Raleigh 4ALL Site Chair



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# **WILLS FOR HEROES**

Attorneys, paralegals and law student volunteers with the Wills for Heroes pro bono program provide essential legal documents — including wills, health care powers of attorney and powers of attorney — free to North Carolina first responders.

Since the NCBA Young Lawyers Division launched the program in 2007, Wills for Heroes volunteers have given their time and expertise to generate thousands of end-of-life planning documents, serving those who serve us all. North Carolina is one of 10 states providing Wills for Heroes, a national initiative to serve first responders started shortly after the Sep. 11, 2001 terrorist attacks.

The North Carolina Bar Foundation hosted seven Wills for Heroes clinics in 2018-19, engaging 310 volunteers who served first responders from all parts of the state. The 857 estate planning documents they produced help provide a sense of security and protection for first responders and their families.











The Wills for Heroes program engages law students to serve alongside lawyers to provide pro bono legal services to first responders. In 2018-19, every law school in North Carolina hosted a Wills for Heroes clinic with the help of 156 law student volunteers.

I value the first responders who serve our nation and local communities with such selflessness. It was an honor to be able to serve them in a much smaller way by offering my skill set for their legal benefit.

Carolyn Miller,
 Duke University Office of Development



# **IMPACT BY THE NUMBERS**

7 Clinics hosted

**310** Volunteers engaged

**289** First responders served

857 Estate planning documents



# **NC LEAP**

(NC LAWYERS FOR ENTREPRENEURS ASSISTANCE PROGRAM)

Business and intellectual property law attorneys provide pro bono legal services to low-wealth entrepreneurs through the North Carolina Bar Foundation's Lawyers for Entrepreneurs Assistance Program (NC LEAP). Founded in 2007 as a project of the NCBA's Business Law Section, NC LEAP is the only statewide program of its kind. The NC LEAP program provides a unique opportunity for transactional attorneys to contribute their skills and expertise through pro bono client service.

NC LEAP has assisted more than 3,000 small business owners with matters such as corporate formation, contract and policy review, and patent applications.

I have a lot of gratitude for the NC LEAP program and the help I received. I hope NC LEAP continues to flourish so that other people like me will have the chance to realize their business dreams.

— Steven Lambeth, NC LEAP client



## **IMPACT BY THE NUMBERS**

- 90 Volunteers engaged
- **28** Business law cases
  Business entity formation matters (12)

Contract review/drafting matters (8)

General business advice matters (8)

**21** Intellectual property cases

Patent cases (17)
Non-patent
IP cases (4)



To learn more about how NC LEAP assisted Michael Lloyd to secure a patent on his Num Num Sauce, visit https://tinyurl.com/NCLEAP-video

# Barbara R. Christy

SCHELL BRAY, GREENSBORO

The North Carolina
Bar Foundation has
signature programs
that it implements each
year - Wills for Heroes
Clinics, 4ALL Statewide
Service Day, NC LEAP
(North Carolina Lawyers
Entrepreneur Assistance
Program), NC Free Legal
Answers, Lawyers for
Literacy and the McIntyre
Leadership Youth
Challenge.



How do these programs align with your firm's values and how does being a Foundation Program Partner help further your firm's values in NC?

Our firm does no litigation, we're strictly business, so it's harder sometimes to find pro bono projects that our attorneys feel like they can participate in. The fact that the NC Bar Foundation brings pro bono opportunities to firms and makes it convenient is wonderful. We know there will be more participation when we have a program that we can do right here at our desks.

Schell Bray is based in North Carolina and has a national reach. Why is it important for Schell Bray to maintain a strong commitment to North Carolina, especially as it relates to serving the people and communities of North Carolina?

We believe this is the place to start, the place where we live, where we earn our livelihood, and there's certainly plenty of need all around us.

# How has your participation as a Foundation Program Partner affected your firm?

It has been a very positive experience for our firm because it helped raise the awareness of the work of the Foundation. We don't generally make firm contributions (believing that charitable giving is an individual decision), but we looked at this program and felt like it was something we needed to do as a firm. It was that important.

## What does it mean to be a force for greater good?

Part of the reason that pro bono is a force for greater good on the highest level is because it's good not only for those being served but also for those providing the services. We're all benefitting.



# **NC FREE LEGAL ANSWERS**

NC Free Legal Answers is an online pro bono legal services platform that targets the state's access to justice gap. Through the NC Free Legal Answers program, volunteer attorneys respond to civil legal questions posted by income-qualifying members of the public through confidential exchanges. NC Free Legal Answers is the North Carolina Bar Foundation's fastest growing pro bono program with more than 275 attorneys registered through the program's website (nc.freelegalanswers.org) to provide free, limited-representation legal services.

Groups of attorneys at North Carolina law firms, law schools and other organizations have hosted NC Free Legal Answers "Empower Hours," working together over lunch hours to review and respond to posted questions. Collectively, NC Free Legal Answers volunteer attorneys have answered 1,399 civil legal questions since the program's launch in January 2018.

County libraries and clerks of county courthouses across the state serve as points of outreach for the NC Free Legal Answers program, helping spread the word about this valuable legal resource.

## **IMPACT BY THE NUMBERS**

**815** Questions answered

**97** NC counties served



Many of our attorneys practice in niche areas and pro bono opportunities are not always easy to find within these practice areas. I frequently hear from attorneys that they want to do pro bono work but are worried about the time commitment or the subject matter. This program solves both of those concerns.

— Jon Mize, Partner, Womble Bond Dickinson, (US) LLP

# Walter Fisher

TROUTMAN SANDERS, CHARLOTTE

Why is a commitment to pro bono important to you, your colleagues and your clients?

First and foremost, it's important to us because it's part of our professional obligation. With the privilege of practicing law comes an obligation to serve society and the



communities in which we live and work, and certainly providing legal services to those who cannot afford them is an important component of that obligation.

There are not any clients that give me more satisfaction on a personal and professional level than those that I serve on a pro bono basis.

I believe our firm's pro bono work is part of the entire picture that clients consider. In fact, we have partnered with clients from time to time to provide pro bono services, and from their perspective pro bono collaboration is a critical facet of the relationship.

The Mission of the NC Bar Foundation is to unite the talent and generosity of the legal profession to be a power of greater good for the people of North Carolina. What does the "greater good" mean to you?

From my perspective, the rule of law is a fundamental bedrock of our society. It is crucial for citizens, regardless of their ability to pay, to be afforded reasonable access to qualified, competent legal advice and assistance. The fabric of our country's social order suffers when citizens feel they do not have the ability to participate and to avail themselves of legal rights and remedies. When these foundational principles are preserved, promoted and protected, the greater good is served and advanced.



# LAWYERS FOR LITERACY

Lawyers for Literacy matches legal professionals with at-risk elementary school children to improve students' reading skills and spark their interest in books, civics and history. In 2018-19, Lawyers for Literacy was active in 10 North Carolina counties and served over 300 students, with significant expansion anticipated in the coming year.

Lawyers for Literacy volunteers meet weekly with students in classrooms, recording the students' reading progress and rewarding students with their own books to take home. Lawyers for Literacy complements classroom instruction for students who are on the border of becoming proficient in literacy or who may not have people at home to read to or with them.

Lawyers for Literacy is wonderful! For volunteers, the rewards are even greater — big smiles and light-bulb moments — when students learn about political parties, famous presidents and qualifications to run for office.

Lisa Carter Noecker,
 Lawyers for Literacy volunteer at Snipes Elementary (Wilmington)



# 117 Volunteers



13
Elementary
schools served

**10**Counties reached

# Katherine Ross

PARKER POE, RALEIGH

How do the North Carolina Bar Foundation's values of access to justice, service through the profession, civic education and professionalism align with your firm's values?

Our law firm's pro bono mission is to deliver the highest quality legal representation to the



underserved in our communities by fostering an environment that encourages service. All members of Parker Poe are part of our mission, collaborating internally as colleagues and externally with clients to help meet legal needs of the communities where we live and work. The North Carolina Bar Foundation programs help us fulfill our pro bono mission by providing organized, meaningful opportunities to serve individuals across North Carolina.

# How do North Carolina Bar Foundation programs enhance the culture of pro bono within your firm?

The North Carolina Bar Foundation pro bono programs, especially NC Free Legal Answers, provide an opportunity for meaningful service that is easily accessible and consistently available. We encourage pro bono service not only because it is our ethical duty, but because of the enormous positive impact it can have on an individual's life and on a community as a whole.

In what ways does being a Foundation Program Partner help support your firm's commitment to pro bono and public service work that benefits North Carolina communities?

Parker Poe is proud of our rich tradition of pro bono service, but we are not content. Our firm is constantly looking at new opportunities to expand and grow the impact of our pro bono work. Being a Foundation Program Partner provides a platform for that growth.



# McINTYRE YOUTH LEADERSHIP CHALLENGE

The McIntyre Youth Leadership Challenge is a public speaking competition that inspires and encourages high school youth from across North Carolina to demonstrate the qualities of good citizenship by developing the skills required to advocate for solutions to problems within their local communities through research, public speaking and community action.

Finalists for the Challenge are invited to deliver their advocacy speech in person in Raleigh as part of the annual Law Day celebrations in early May. The program makes a donation on behalf of the winner to an organization of the student's choosing that is working to address the problems identified in the student's speech.

**\$1,000 grant** made on behalf of Challenge winner Chantel Gillus to A Better Chance A Better Community (Roanoke Rapids)











The McIntyre Youth Leadership
Challenge enabled me to address
issues in my community, express
my plans to tackle those issues,
and spark innovation within
others to do the same.

— Chantel Gillus Winner of the 2019 McIntyre Youth Leadership Challenge Rising Senior at Roanoke Valley Early College

• \$500 grant made on behalf of Challenge runner-up AprieLa Warren to Project LIFT (Weldon)

# Angie Zimmern

MCGUIREWOODS, CHARLOTTE

"We are committed to helping the cities where we practice law thrive. Pro bono service is all about relationships, and having positive relationships with your clients and your community enhances your ability to provide pro bono services.



Our clients look to us not only because we care about and are involved in the community, but also

because we help them strengthen their pro bono efforts. Our clients see us doing work that supports the community, and we see them doing the same, and there is a sort of positive peer pressure and synergy to keep up those commitments."

# How do the North Carolina Bar Foundation's signature programs align with your firm's values?

McGuireWoods finds these programs attractive because we let our lawyers follow their own pro bono passions. The fact that the North Carolina Bar Foundation offers so many pro bono options really supports that. If we had only a single program, we would lose that voluntary piece — that passion piece.

# As an international law firm why it is important to maintain a strong commitment to North Carolina?

North Carolina has a lot of need and we can help. There's a shortage of pro bono services across the country, especially right here at home. It makes a difference when you know you're helping people in your community.

# How does having pro bono opportunities brought to your offices help your firm culture?

By doing pro bono work, you get an opportunity to give back to the community while developing professionally. Nothing can replace working alongside a colleague for a client who you are helping navigate a life-changing event. It's great team building, and it's hard to replicate in day-to-day practice.

### What does it mean to be a power of greater good?

It means being a change agent that helps level the playing field for North Carolinians and ensures that they all have an opportunity to have a productive life. That means being able to access legal services at critical times. Preventing a crisis that can come out of a legal problem is a much better use of our resources than trying to deal with the crisis later.

## North Carolina Bar Foundation

# HONOR ROLL OF DONORS July 1, 2018 - June 30, 2019

The North Carolina Bar Foundation is pleased to publish an Honor Roll of Donors to recognize and thank those who support the Foundation.



This past fiscal year, July 1, 2018 -June 30, 2019, the Foundation raised \$820,423.94 in cash and commitments for the Endowment and the Annual **Fund. The Annual Fund contributions** totaled \$365,606.74.

The North Carolina Bar Foundation is committed to uniting the talent and generosity of the legal profession to be a power of greater good for the people of North Carolina. This work is possible thanks to the generous support of the donors listed.

If you have questions about the Honor Roll of Donors or need assistance making your gift this bar year, please contact Louise Harris, director of the North Carolina Bar Foundation (919.677.0992 or lharris@ncbar.org).

On behalf of the North Carolina Bar Foundation, and the North Carolinians who will benefit from your support, thank you.

 LeAnn Nease Brown, president of the North Carolina Bar Association and Foundation

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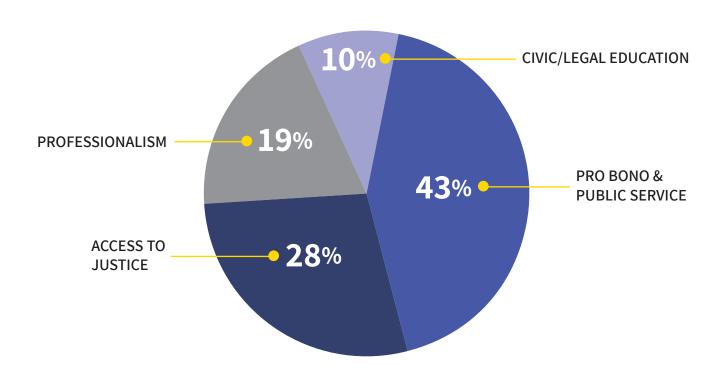
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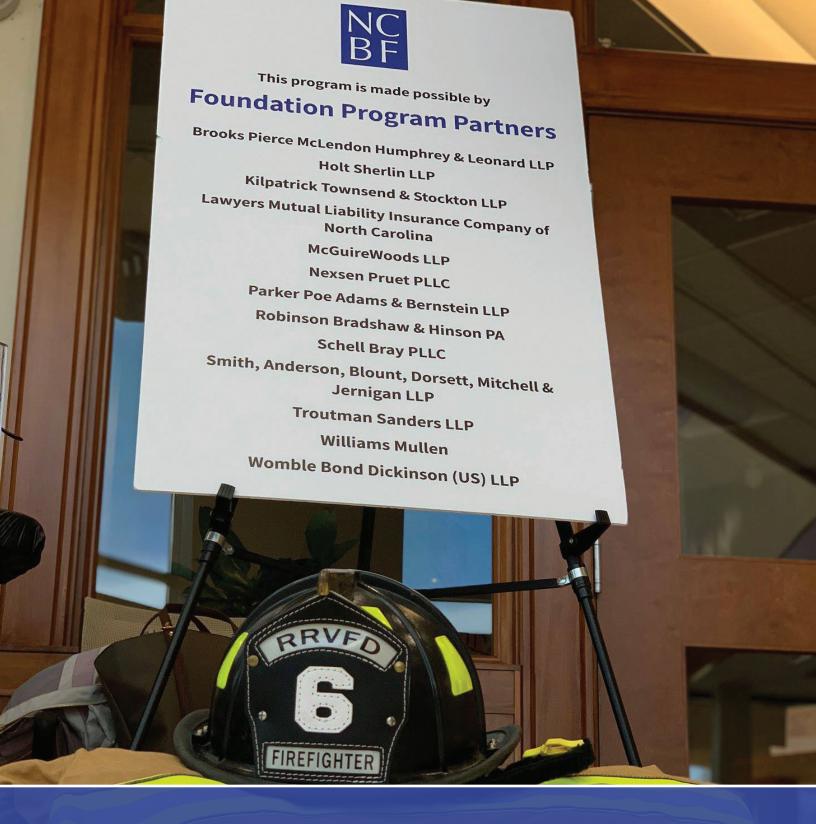
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