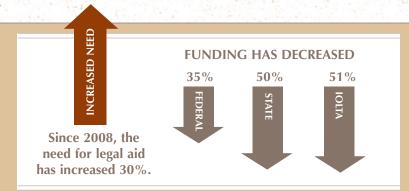
# **Equal Access to Justice**

COMMISSION

# 2014 IMPACT REPORT

EXPANDING ACCESS TO THE CIVIL JUSTICE SYSTEM







2.2 million North Carolinians, over 23% of the population, qualify for legal aid.

The average annual household income for legal aid clients.



# 80% OF NEEDS UNMET

80% of the civil legal needs of poor people are unmet.

NC ATTORNEY TO CLIENT RATIOS

1 PRIVATE ATTORNEY

**562 PEOPLE** 

**1 LEGAL AID ATTORNEY** 

13,170 PEOPLE

108%

RETURN ON THE STATE'S INVESTMENT IN LEGAL AID SERVICES

**\$1 = \$10** 

\$48 MILLION

For every \$1 the state spends to provide legal services, nearly \$10 flows into our economy.

Total positive economic impact of legal aid provided in 2012.

18K HOURS

In 2014, volunteer legal aid attorneys provided 18K HOURS of pro bono legal services WORTH > \$3.6M.



LEGAL AID helped North Carolinians access \$8.8M in child support and housing awards in 2012.

\$1M

THE ANNUAL SAVINGS in North Carolina from preventing domestic violence through legal aid in avoided medical costs alone.

\$200K

THE COMMISSION RAISED this amount for legal aid through our 2014 law firm campaign.



Legal aid providers helped North Carolinians access \$9.2M IN NEW FEDERAL BENEFITS, including food stamps, SSI, disability, and federal tax refunds in 2012.



NCVETSLEGAL.ORG • 2014 > 1,200 users > 5K page views



# **OUR MISSION**

## The NC Equal Access to Justice Commission

(NCEATIC) was established in November 2005 by order of the North Carolina Supreme Court. The mission of the Commission is to expand access to civil legal representation for people of low income and modest means across North Carolina.

www.ncequalaccesstojustice.org

#### **2014 HIGHLIGHTS**

NCEATJC released its economic benefits report, finding that the work of legal aid providers across the state generated \$48,775,276 in economic impact in 2012. The report details the direct and indirect economic benefits, as well as the cost savings attributed to the work of three North Carolina legal aid providers: Legal Aid of North Carolina, Legal Services of Southern Piedmont, and Pisgah Legal Services. The study finds that legal representation helped North Carolinians gain access to \$9.2 million in new federal benefits, as well as \$8.8 million in child support and housing awards. Indirect impact, including increases in employment, wages, and business outputs due to the new spending, totals nearly \$13.9 million. Domestic violence, eviction, and foreclosure prevention generate cost savings for the state of \$17.1 million.

NCEATJC coordinated the work of the NC Pro Bono Veterans Network, as well as launching NCVetsLegal.org. The NC Pro Bono Veterans Network provides a collaborative structure and regular sharing of information for those interested in expanding pro bono representation to veterans. NCEATJC developed NCVetsLegal. org as an online clearinghouse of veterans-related information. The site features legal information and resources specific to North Carolina for both veterans and practitioners, and it also serves as a portal for the recruitment and placement of pro bono attorneys. The website was made possible by a grant from the ABA.

NCEATJC coordinated the NC Access to Justice Campaign, Law Firm Division, which raised almost \$200,000 for legal aid providers.

NCEATJC conducted a survey of all North Carolina attorneys to better understand the current status of pro bono and how to support greater participation. Seventy-two percent of respondents indicated they complete pro bono, and the median number of hours was 32 per year.

NCEATIC serves as the communications hub for North Carolina's access to justice community, while coordinating ongoing legislative advocacy efforts.

# **COMMISSION PRIORITIES:**

- Establish the right to counsel in civil matters affecting basic human needs.
- Increase legislative funding of civil legal services at the state and federal levels.
- Encourage/support pro bono attorney participation.
- Help pro se litigants navigate the court system successfully.
- Educate the public.
- Increase the role of the business community.
- Include people with limited English proficiency in the justice system.
- Increase loan repayment assistance.

#### **FINANCIAL INFORMATION**

#### 2014 Support and Revenue

CLE Fee-NC State Bar 170,653 **ABA Innovation Grant** 20,000 **Total Revenue** \$190,653

## 2014 Expenses

Administrative 135,050 Programming 41,612 25,000 Grants Veterans Website 20,000 **Total Expenses** \$221,662

#### **2014 COMMISSION MEMBERS**

The Honorable Sarah Parker, Chair Reid Calwell Adams Representative Justin Burr Marion A. Cowell, Jr. Joseph D. Crocker Kearns Davis Anita S. Earls George V. Hanna III George R. Hausen, Jr. Rebecca Henderson Thomas A. Kelley III Melinda Lawrence The Honorable Linda M. McGee

John B. McMillan The Honorable Michael R. Morgan Nancy Black Norelli E. Fitzgerald Parnell The Honorable Jan H. Samet Kenneth Schorr Richard M. Taylor, Jr. Kirk G. Warner Carol Allen White Willis Williams Jennifer M. Lechner, **Executive Director** 

particularly like to dedicated service from January 2006 to August 2014.



# **North Carolina Equal Access to Justice Commission**

Mary L. Irvine, Access

to Justice Coordinator

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