

Our mission is to overcome barriers to justice and empower North Carolinians to meet legal needs through our leadership, collaboration and problem-solving.

In 2022, the Equal Access to Justice Commission continued to assess civil legal needs and explore projects and policies to address the justice gap. Our dedicated and talented staff pursued access to justice for all North Carolinians by engaging new and existing partners in our pro bono legal service projects, self-represented litigant resources, and advocacy for civil legal aid.

The Commission continues to serve as a convener for collaboration and assessment to further its mission to empower North Carolinians to meet their legal needs. This impact report shares the specifics of our innovative and effective work and opportunities for you to connect with it.

*The Commission's Pro Bono Resource Center tracked over 60,000 pro bono hours reported by North Carolina attorneys in 2022. Join us in the pursuit of equal access to justice.*

2022 Equal Access to Justice Commission members, special advisors, and staff



**VOLUNTEER  
YOUR TIME**

*If you are an attorney or paralegal and would like to volunteer, please visit [ncprobono.org](http://ncprobono.org) to view pro bono opportunities.*

## HIGHLIGHTS

### NC Legal Services Conference

The Commission partnered with the NC Equal Justice Alliance to support the legal aid community's biennial NC Legal Services Conference. Held virtually over four days, the Conference provided its 400 registrants up to 12 hours of CLE credit in 39 different programs presented by 74 different speakers from within and outside the North Carolina legal aid community.

### Improved NC Guide and File System

In early 2022, the Commission partnered with a national user-testing firm to conduct a groundbreaking eye-tracking study on the North Carolina Guide and File system. The valuable findings of this innovative study have been implemented to make this document generation system even more user-friendly for NC court users.

### NC Pro Bono Coordinators' Network

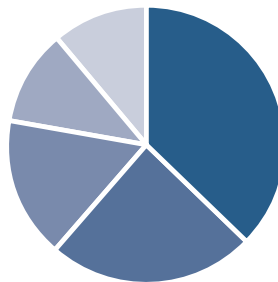
In December of 2022, the Pro Bono Resource Center launched the NC Pro Bono Coordinators' Network, a collaborative of legal services providers, private law firms, corporations, and nonprofit organizations who address unmet legal needs in North Carolina by engaging legal professionals to provide pro bono legal services. The goals of the Network include enhancing communication and collaboration between Network participants and increasing access to justice for all North Carolinians.

## FINANCIALS

### 2021 Support and Revenue

|                      |           |
|----------------------|-----------|
| CLE Fee—NC State Bar | \$354,283 |
| Grantmaking Support  | \$229,142 |
| NC AOC Support       | \$157,057 |
| Private Support      | \$105,128 |
| Contract Services    | \$103,779 |

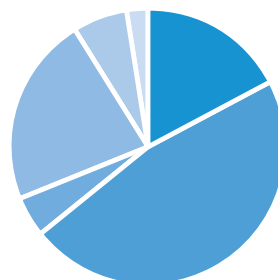
**TOTAL INCOME** \$949,389



### 2021 Expenses

|                                   |           |
|-----------------------------------|-----------|
| General Operations—Administrative | \$189,329 |
| General Operations—Programming    | \$515,773 |
| PBRC—Administrative               | \$50,485  |
| PBRC—Programming                  |           |
| General                           | \$244,398 |
| Driver's License Restoration      | \$71,543  |
| Housing Stability                 | \$25,000  |

**TOTAL EXPENSES** \$1,096,528



## NORTH CAROLINA PRO BONO RESOURCE CENTER

The Pro Bono Resource Center coordinated voluntary pro bono reporting in 2022. Reporting included pro bono information for attorneys and, for the first time, paralegals were invited to submit their pro bono hours as well.

### TOTAL ATTORNEY RESPONDENTS

1,433

### TOTAL RESPONDENTS ELIGIBLE FOR RECOGNITION IN THE 2022 PRO BONO HONOR SOCIETY

503

### PRO BONO HOURS REPORTED BY ATTORNEYS

65,372

### TOTAL RESPONDENT PERCENTAGE OF ACTIVE NC ATTORNEYS

5.03%

PBRC continues to run a statewide monthly working group for providers working on expunction and license restoration. Members represent all the major providers and participate from as far west as Cherokee County and as far east as New Hanover County.

PBRC continues to convene monthly meetings with pro bono coordinators at all six North Carolina law schools.

## MAJOR PROJECTS

### Federal Public Defender Expunction Project PBRC



**22 CLIENTS**

served, granting them mandatory relief in state court that resulted in a lesser sentence in federal court

**12 ATTORNEYS**

volunteered their time on this project

### Driver's License Restoration Project PBRC / NCJC



**390 ATTORNEYS**

trained and managed by staff

**804 PRO BONO HOURS**

donated by our volunteer attorneys

**1,897 CLIENTS**

received advice letters from the PRBC

### The Housing Stability Project PBRC / NCBF / HOPE



**777 MATTERS**

reviewed and closed

**135 RESOLVED**

with landlords who previously had refused to participate in the program

**115 VOLUNTEERS**

trained and deployed

**404 PRO BONO HOURS**

donated by lawyers, paralegals, and law students

### Charlotte Expunction Project PBRC

**116 EXPUNCTION  
PETITIONS**

prepared for clients

**20 PUBLIC DEFENDERS**

volunteered

**38 PARALEGALS**

volunteered

### DLRP Debt Remittance Project PBRC

**6 CLIENTS**

served

**18 ATTORNEYS**

trained or volunteered

**\$5,716.75**

remitted

## SUPPORT OUR WORK



*Please consider making a financial contribution to the Pro Bono Resource Center.*

[ncprobono.org/support](https://ncprobono.org/support)

## VOLUNTEER YOUR TIME

*The North Carolina Rules of Professional Conduct Rule 6.1 encourages attorneys to provide at least 50 hours of pro bono legal services each year, without fee or expectation of fee. As more than half of those who ask for civil legal assistance are turned away each year because of lack of capacity, attorney volunteers are crucial to ensure access to justice for all in our state, regardless of ability to pay.*

If you are an attorney or paralegal and would like to volunteer, please visit [ncprobono.org](https://ncprobono.org) to view pro bono opportunities.

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Ray Starling  
Linda Stephens  
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Julian Wright

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George Hausen  
Justice Michael Morgan  
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