

NORTH CAROLINA FAITH AND JUSTICE ALLIANCE

A PROGRAM OF THE NORTH CAROLINA EQUAL ACCESS TO JUSTICE COMMISSION
CHIEF JUSTICE CHERI BEASLEY, CHAIR



ISSUE

More than 1.5 million people live in poverty in North Carolina and millions more live paycheck to paycheck. In the past year, 71% of low-income households experienced at least one civil legal problem like custody disputes, denial of government benefits, driver's license revocation, landlord and tenant disputes, and drafting wills, among others.

MISSION

The North Carolina Faith and Justice Alliance seeks to build a coalition of faith-based groups and legal practitioners to help meet the growing need for legal assistance for North Carolinians who lack the resources to access our courts and protect their legal rights.

GOALS

1. Create partnerships among faith leaders and the legal community to improve access to the judicial system
2. Reduce the financial burden on counties by restoring driver's licenses that have been revoked due to the inability to pay court imposed fines and fees
3. Improve access to expunction relief

NEXT STEPS

1. Meet with faith leaders and establish Faith and Justice Alliance chapters (March – December 2020)
2. Provide training to FJA-involved faith communities (June 2020 – June 2021)
3. Hold individual FJA legal clinics in the Triangle, Triad, and Wilmington (June 2020)

FJA FAITH-BASED REFERRAL MODEL

1. A community member brings a concern to the attention of a religious leader
2. The religious leader recognizes the legal issue implicated by community member's concerns and refers the community member to the Faith and Justice Alliance
3. The Alliance refers the community member to Legal Aid of North Carolina, the North Carolina Pro Bono Resource Center, or another local provider of pro bono services



PRO BONO CLINIC MODEL

Faith-based groups can host driver's license restoration clinics or expunction clinics in their facilities. The Alliance will provide legal training and other resources necessary to host a clinic. The faith-based group will recruit local attorneys to volunteer their time, publicize the event, and provide the facility on the day of the event.