

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



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

**\$48 MILLION**  
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** (NCEATJC) 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](http://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.

**NCEATJC 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

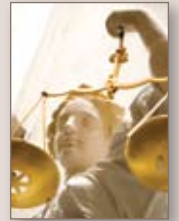
CLE Fee-NC State Bar	170,653
ABA Innovation Grant	20,000
<b>Total Revenue</b>	<b>\$190,653</b>

### 2014 Expenses

Administrative	135,050
Programming	41,612
Grants	25,000
Veterans Website	20,000
<b>Total Expenses</b>	<b>\$221,662</b>

## 2014 COMMISSION MEMBERS

The Honorable Sarah Parker, Chair	John B. McMillan
Reid Calwell Adams	The Honorable Michael R. Morgan
Representative Justin Burr	Nancy Black Norelli
Marion A. Cowell, Jr.	E. Fitzgerald Parnell
Joseph D. Crocker	The Honorable Jan H. Samet
Kearns Davis	Kenneth Schorr
Anita S. Earls	Richard M. Taylor, Jr.
George V. Hanna III	Kirk G. Warner
George R. Hausen, Jr.	Carol Allen White
Rebecca Henderson	Willis Williams
Thomas A. Kelley III	Jennifer M. Lechner, Executive Director
Melinda Lawrence	Mary L. Irvine, Access to Justice Coordinator
The Honorable Linda M. McGee	



*Thank you to all of the Commission members who served in 2014. We would particularly like to thank Chief Justice Sarah Parker for her dedicated service from January 2006 to August 2014.*

## North Carolina Equal Access to Justice Commission

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