

NCBA Pro Bono Committee

To: NCBA Board of Governors

From: Mary Irvine, Pro Bono Committee Co-chair
Katherine Asaro, Pro Bono Committee Co-chair
Kim Bart Mullikin, NCBF Senior Director
Alex Rogers, NCBF Director of Programs

Date: January 19, 2023

Re: Pro Bono Committee Report

The Pro Bono Committee will hold its annual **Pro Bono Mega Meeting** on **February 10, 2023**, at 9:30 am. Pro bono committee members along with the section, division and committee chairs, vice chairs, and pro bono chairs are all invited to attend this meeting. The meeting will include abbreviated updates from each subcommittee along with a presentation from the DEI subcommittee and a panel on notable current pro bono projects.

Pro Bono Committee Subcommittee Updates

Pro Bono Awards (chair Jennifer Mencarini)

[Nominate an attorney, firm, or project for an NCBA Pro Bono Award](#). The deadline to submit a nomination for a 2023 Pro Bono Award is February 15, 2023. This awards cycle will recognize significant pro bono contributions and efforts undertaken in 2022.

Diversity, equity, and inclusion are core values of the North Carolina Bar Association and Foundation, and we are committed to addressing inequities in access to legal services and participation in the legal profession by historically excluded individuals and communities in our state. Our focus on equitable access and inclusion extends to recognizing the achievements of those legal professionals who identify as members of historically excluded groups. In seeking nominations for the Association's annual Pro Bono Awards, we strongly encourage consideration of legal professionals from historically underrepresented and other marginalized groups (race/ethnicity, LGBTQ+, faith, disability, neurodiversity, and military veterans).

CLE/Training (co-chairs Evan Lewis and Rachel Royal)

Save the Date! The CLE/Training subcommittee will hold its annual CLE on **Friday, March 17, 2023**. The program aims to teach attorneys and paralegals how to gather information for and

create I-589 Applications for Asylum.

Diversity, Equity & Inclusion (co-chairs Alison Ashe-Card and Lynna Moen)

The DEI subcommittee will present on Language Justice at the February 2023 Pro Bono Mega Meeting. The subcommittee is also exploring a potential partnership with Minorities in the Profession and Sexual Orientation and Gender Identity committee to present on trauma informed interviewing in Fall 2023. Along with presentations, the subcommittee plans to revive its DEI blog series this spring.

Pro Bono Recognition (co-chairs Allison Constance and Kaitlyn Fudge)

The Pro Bono Recognition subcommittee continues to highlight pro bono work of NCBA attorneys, paralegals, and pro bono projects, including:

- [Pro Bono Spotlight: Randolph County Domestic Violence Volunteers](#) by Ashley Skaff
- [Pro Bono Spotlight: Katie Jenifer](#) by Sarah Hill McIntyre

Outreach & Engagement (co-chairs Gabe Oros and Erin Haygood)

In December 2022, members of the NCBA Pro Bono Committee Outreach and Engagement subcommittee, along with NCBF programs staff, conducted meetings with each of the NCBA Sections and Divisions. Sections and Divisions were divided into nine groups based on practice area and potential synergies. The goal of each meeting was to provide resources and a space for section pro bono leaders to share project ideas and goals.

Section projects in process:

- Disaster Legal Services – Young Lawyers Division
- Pro Se Custody Clinics – Family Law Section and Paralegal Division
- Naturalization and Refugee Assistance Project – Paralegal Division and International Law Section
- Student Athlete Project – Sports & Entertainment Law Section
- Equity Preservation Project – Elder & Special Needs Law Section
- Veterans Life Center Project – Military & Veteran’s Law Section
- “The Lawyer is In” Brief Advice & Counsel Project – Labor & Employment Law Section
- NC Cancer Hospital Project – Estate Planning & Fiduciary Law Section

Potential section projects (in discussion/development):

- OAH Pro Bono Referral Project – Administrative Law Section
- Financial Literacy & Bankruptcy Advice Project – Bankruptcy Law Section
- NCDOR Tax Dispute Settlement Project – Tax Law Section
- “Wills for Teachers” – Education Law Section
- Legal Information for Teachers Project – Education Law Section

- Partnership on Duke Juvenile Clemency Review Project – Juvenile Justice & Children’s Rights Section
- LANC Heirs Property Project – Real Property Law Section
- Disaster Legal Services Environmental Resource Manual – Environment Energy & Natural Resources Law Section
- Name Change Clinics – Sexual Orientation and Gender Identity Committee
- “Wills for Lupus Survivors” Clinic – Health Law Section
- Health Resource Guide – Health Law Section
- Elder Fraud/Scam Program – Privacy & Data Security and Small Firm & Technology Sections