



NORTH CAROLINA  
BAR FOUNDATION

## PROGRAMS COMMITTEE REPORT

Prepared for the Board of Directors  
of the North Carolina Bar Foundation

Thursday, January 19, 2023

**To:** NCBF Board of Directors

**From:** Jared Smith, Programs Committee Chair  
Kim Bart Mullikin, NCBF Senior Director  
Alex Rogers, NCBF Director of Programs

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### **NCBF Staff Updates**

In January, Sara Dowd joined the NC Bar Foundation as the Program Coordinator for Civic Education and Community Engagement. Prior to joining the NCBF, Sara worked as a middle school social studies teacher and an elementary school teacher. Sara's experience also includes project management and work as a gallery educator with various galleries in Washington, D.C.

Sara's work will focus on the NCBF's Civic Education programming including Lawyers for Literacy, Middle School Mock Trial, Lawyers as Guest Speakers, and the McIntyre Youth Leadership Challenge. Sara will also be the primary liaison for the NCBF's Civic Education and Community Engagement committee.

### **NCBA Section, Division and Committee Pro Bono and Public Service Initiatives**

The NCBF programs staff support NCBA Sections, Divisions, and Committees to develop, launch, and sustain pro bono and public service initiatives developed to engage members in service. Foundation staff also support the work of the NCBA Pro Bono Committee and its subcommittees, which include Pro Bono Awards, Pro Bono Training/CLE, Diversity, Equity and Inclusion, Pro Bono Recognition, and Section Outreach and Engagement. The Pro Bono Committee implements the NCBA Pro Bono Guidelines to support NCBA Section, Division, and Committee pro bono project development.

In December 2022, Foundation staff, along with volunteers from the NCBA Pro Bono Committee Outreach and Engagement Committee, 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

**NCBF Program Updates 2022-23**

4ALL Statewide Day of Service

- [Registration is open](#) for the annual 4ALL Statewide Day of Service, scheduled on March 3, 2023. This year, we will offer both in-person and virtual opportunities for volunteers.
- Limited in-person opportunities are available in the following locations:
  - Asheville
  - Charlotte
  - Fayetteville
  - Greensboro
  - Greenville
  - Raleigh
  - Wilmington

- All attorney volunteers will take calls related to their designated areas of practice, which may be selected in the volunteer registration process. Volunteers are needed in 2-hour shifts from 11am to 7pm.

#### Career Fairs and Law School Information Sessions

- The Future Lawyers subcommittee is holding an information session to reach North Carolina college students to share more about the legal profession and law school. The panel will take place on March 30, 2023, at NC State University with a Zoom option to allow other schools to participate.
- The CECE committee volunteers will attend a Career Fair at Apex High School on Wednesday, March 1.

#### Lawyers for Literacy

- Two volunteer groups were deployed beginning in September 2022 in Wake and Guilford County.
- Two additional volunteer groups began work in Wake County schools in October and November.
- Planning is still underway for groups in Durham and Mecklenburg County with the goal to begin working with students in early 2023.

#### Middle School Mock Trial

- The NCBF supported a 3-team Middle School Mock Trial competition in Greensboro on December 14, 2022. The competition engaged 38 students and 6 volunteer attorneys.
- The NCBF will support a Middle School Mock Trial competition this spring in the Charlotte area. Six teams are scheduled to compete.

#### NC Free Legal Answers

- In December 2023, NCBF was notified that the NC Free Legal Answers program was approved for a 2023 NC IOLTA Grant. With the additional funding, the NCBF committed to deepen and expand outreach and impact through NC Free Legal Answers.
- NCBF began increased outreach across the state in January to State Bar Councilors as well as local libraries, courthouses, and social services offices.
- 2022-23 “Empower Hour” Clinics Scheduled to date:
  - October 12, 2022: Mega Empower & Social Hour with NCBA YLD
  - November 16, 2022: Empower Hour w/ WCBA YLD
  - January 10, 2023: Empower Hour w/ Durham County Bar
  - January 19, 2023: Empower Hour w/ NCBF Board
  - February 24, 2023: Empower Hour w/ NCBA Family Law Section

### NC LEAP

- After focusing on informational webinars during COVID-19, NC LEAP began referring clients for brief advice and counsel on an ad hoc basis this fall.
- NCBF staff met with community partners at the Fayetteville State University Innovation and Entrepreneurship HUB and the Small Business & Technology Development Center at East Carolina University to discuss the needs of their clients and how to best meet those needs through brief advice and counsel clinics with the goal to implement the first clinic this spring.

### Wills for Heroes (WFH)

- NCBF partnered with CommonWealth Charlotte for a Wills clinic on October 6-7, 2022. CommonWealth Charlotte is a nonprofit whose mission is to equip low-income wage earners with increased financial capability, so they can attain financial stability and decrease reliance on charitable assistance.
- NCBF partnered with the Military & Veterans Law Section and Elon University School of Law on November 12, 2022, to hold the first Veteran's Wills for Heroes clinic in honor of Veterans Day.
- NCBF in conjunction with the Wake Bar Association November 30, 2022, to December 1, 2022, served Apex Police Department, Raleigh Police Department, and Wake County first responders.
- Upcoming WFH clinics scheduled to date:
  - February 15-16, 2023 – Serving Mecklenburg County first responders
  - March 15-16, 2023 – Serving Davie and Forsyth County first responders
  - April 1, 2023 – Partnering with Campbell University School of Law, serving Wake County and surrounding areas first responders
  - April 12-13, 2023 – Serving Apex and surrounding areas first responders
  - May 3, 2023 – Partnering with NCBA Health Law Section to hold the first Wills for Heroes serving Lupus Survivors in honor of Lupus Awareness month
  - May 18-19, 2023 – Serving Asheville, NC first responders