



2004/2005 Access to Justice Campaign

Partners in Justice



In 1996, Congress imposed severe restrictions on federally-funded organizations, prohibiting certain types of advocacy and excluding many clients, including many immigrants. In response to these restrictions, legal services programs throughout North Carolina designed a comprehensive, integrated, statewide system of legal services in order to provide access to a full range of services to a full range of clients, regardless of their ability to pay. In 2002, this statewide system created Legal Aid of North Carolina (LANC), a federally-funded program, and programs such as Legal Services of Southern Piedmont (LSSP), a non-federally-funded program. Working together, LSSP and LANC efficiently provide access to the justice system for those in need.

Legal Services of Southern Piedmont (LSSP)

LSSP is a non-federally program organized into specialized project teams of advocates that use tools and remedies unavailable to federally-funded advocates. LSSP is supported by state and local government, the United Way, the Access to Justice Campaign, and private grants.

LSSP handles the following types of cases in it's four specialized project teams:

In Mecklenburg County

FAMILY SUPPORT AND HEALTH CARE PROGRAM

- ◆ Social Security
- ◆ Food Stamps
- ◆ Medicaid and Medicare
- ◆ Access to Health Care
- ◆ Work First Family Assistance
- ◆ Childcare
- ◆ Nursing/Rest Home Problems
- ◆ Supplemental Security Income

CONSUMER LAW PROJECT

- ◆ Predatory Lending
- ◆ Bankruptcy
- ◆ Debt Collection
- ◆ Foreclosures
- ◆ Used Car Problems
- ◆ Unfair Trade Practices and Warranties

In Cabarrus, Mecklenburg, and Union Counties

IMMIGRANT JUSTICE PROJECT

Provides assistance to non-english speaking hispanics and other immigrants for cases that include:

- ◆ Domestic Violence
- ◆ Habitability and Evictions

In Counties throughout West-Central North Carolina

IMMIGRANT JUSTICE PROJECT

- ◆ Immigration assistance for victims of domestic violence
- ◆ Family-based petitions necessary to reunite a family
- ◆ Assistance with other petitions and applications

LOW INCOME TAXPAYER CLINIC

- ◆ Earned Income Tax Credit
- ◆ Tax Disputes with the IRS
- ◆ ESL Outreach

Legal Aid of North Carolina (LANC)

LANC is a statewide, federally funded program with its Western Region office housed in Charlotte. LANC handles cases that do not require services prohibited by federal restrictions. All other cases and public benefits cases in Mecklenburg County are referred to LSSP. In Mecklenburg County, LANC is funded by Legal Services Corporation, Victims Crime Act, the United Way, and other private funding. Their cases include:

In Cabarrus, Gaston, Stanly, and Union Counties

PUBLIC BENEFITS AND HEALTH

- ◆ Social Security
- ◆ Food Stamps
- ◆ Medicaid and Medicare
- ◆ Access to Health Care
- ◆ Work First Family Assistance
- ◆ Childcare
- ◆ Nursing/Rest Home Problems
- ◆ Supplemental Security Income

CONSUMER LAW

- ◆ Predatory Lending
- ◆ Bankruptcy
- ◆ Debt Collection
- ◆ Foreclosures
- ◆ Used Car Problems
- ◆ Unfair Trade Practices and Warranties

In all Counties

FAMILY LAW

- ◆ Domestic Violence
- ◆ Limited child custody and support

HOUSING LAW

- ◆ Evictions
- ◆ Tenant's rights
- ◆ Subsidized housing
- ◆ Utilities

OTHER

- ◆ Unemployment Insurance
- ◆ Healthcare Powers of Attorney
- ◆ Simple Wills

LSSP handles certain public benefits, health, housing, and consumer cases outside of Mecklenburg County by referral.