



June 2017 Newsletter

Champions for those in need

A note from our executive director



Last week, we and the entire civil legal aid community were shocked and appalled as the North Carolina General Assembly approved a budget that eliminated all \$1.7 million in state funding to provide legal assistance to people who can't afford representation in civil legal matters.

The Access to Civil Justice Act is one of the public and private funding sources LSSP relies on to ensure that we can help people in crisis, who have no other source of legal assistance. Our annual budget is a patchwork of diverse support but each source is vitally important to our stability and impact.

One third of Mecklenburg County residents are financially eligible to receive our services. Without our help, thousands of families may lose financial security, health care, housing and the stability that supports upward mobility. In the wake of the [Charlotte-Mecklenburg Opportunity Task Force](#) report citing the critical necessity of expanding upward mobility and opportunity to build a stronger city, now is not the time for NC to cut funds that directly support that end.

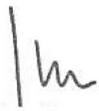
The elimination of the Access to Civil Justice Act will have devastating effects on civil legal assistance across the entire state. Legal Aid of North Carolina, our partner in justice, will lose \$1.5 million in state funding, while the proposed budget from the White House seeks to eliminate federal Legal Services Corporation funding, which greatly supports Legal Aid's operations.

LSSP and LANC offer critical support to people in crisis, help them address their basic needs, and strengthens our community. This funding cut comes as a huge blow even as we enjoy the success of our annual [Access to Justice](#) fundraising campaign, which has raised \$525,000 to date - a historic amount under the leadership of campaign chair Cory Hohnbaum. But we must maintain **ALL** of our support to meet the growing needs of clients.

For 50 years, LSSP has provided legal representation and advocacy to ensure the safety, security and stability of our clients, promote fairness and empower people to increase their economic mobility and opportunity. We now face a loss of funding that will limit our ability to serve the community and hurt those most in need.

We appreciate the ongoing support we receive from local sources - individual contributions and institutional support - that lets us deliver justice to people in need.

Thank you,



[Read LSSP's statement on the funding elimination in the NCGA budget](#)

Access to Justice Tops Historic \$525,000

We did it! Not only did we reach our goal of **\$450,000** for the **Access to Justice** campaign, thanks to **YOU**, we blew past it to raise **\$525,000** this fiscal year. Your ardent support allows Legal Services of Southern Piedmont and Legal Aid of North Carolina-Charlotte to continue pursuing justice for those in need even when traditional funding sources, like this year's state budget cut, go away.

The **Access to Justice** campaign is the most reliable tool we have to ensure that we continue to serve those facing crisis of safety, shelter, health or income. We also appreciate the leadership of campaign chair **Cory Hohnbaum**, of King & Spalding, who helped make this year the most successful in the history of the **Access to Justice** campaign. [See your impact in action](#)

YOU GAVE \$525,000
WE SAY THANK YOU



Pro Bono Spotlight: Joe Trunzo, Dechert, LLP

Joe Trunzo is an associate attorney at Dechert, LLP specializing in securitization transactions. He moved to Charlotte from New York to join the firm in 2014. Soon after, he began volunteering his pro bono services with Legal Services of Southern Piedmont's Legal Services for the Elderly program, helping seniors draft and execute estate planning documents, including wills, powers of attorney and healthcare powers of attorney documents. [Read the interview](#)



[Join the Access to Justice Pro Bono Partners Program](#)

LSSP in the Community

We're Turning 50, Save the Date(s)!

Legal Services of Southern Piedmont is turning 50 on September 1. Join us as we celebrate 50 years of serving the community as a champion for those in need with a series of events beginning this fall and lasting through spring 2018. [Learn more about our anniversary celebration](#)

- **September 1**
Make sure you look up at the Wells Fargo Duke Energy Center building to see our colors in the Uptown skyline, marking the start of our anniversary celebration.
- **September 14**
Legal Advocacy Day: a day of service for the community provided by LSSP staff and volunteers at the Mecklenburg County Courthouse.

50th Anniversary Kick-off Celebration: an evening reception featuring keynote speaker Morris Dees, founder of the Southern Poverty Law Center, speaking on access to civil legal aid and LSSP's impact over the last 50 years.



[View the full calendar of anniversary events](#)

SummerSHARE is coming

Summer
share
CLT

Presented by:
Bank of America



Help give need a vacation this summer by supporting LSSP as we join SHARE Charlotte's annual giving campaign July 10 - 21. The campaign provides the opportunity to Want to get a head start? Check out our [Summer SHARE wishlist](#)



MECKLENBURG **ACCESS TO JUSTICE** CAMPAIGN

Your gift helps us pursue justice for those in need
and directly impacts our work to ensure
safety, security and stability.

[DONATE](#)



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