

## LSSP's Mission

Legal Services of Southern Piedmont provides legal assistance in civil matters to low-income persons in the Charlotte area and in west-central North Carolina. Our mission is to provide a full measure of justice for those in need.

## LANC's Mission

Legal Aid of North Carolina provides free legal services in civil matters to low-income people in order to ensure equal access to justice and to remove legal barriers to economic opportunity.

## Programs of LSSP

- Consumer Protection
- Family Support and Health Care
- Immigrant Justice
- Low Income Taxpayer Clinic
- Employment Law Program
- Legal Services for the Elderly

## Programs of LANC--Charlotte

- Battered Immigrant Project
- Domestic Violence Prevention Initiative
- Consumer Services
- Housing Protection for Tenants

## Office Hours

Monday - Friday 8:30 a.m - 5:00 p.m.

1431 Elizabeth Avenue  
Charlotte, NC 28204

## Client help lines

Mecklenburg County 704.376.1600  
Outside Mecklenburg County  
800.438.1245

Spanish Language Line 800.247.1931

[www.lssp.org](http://www.lssp.org)

[www.legalaidnc.org](http://www.legalaidnc.org)



We have bilingual (English-Spanish) staff and interpreters available to facilitate access to our services.

Legal Services of Southern Piedmont and Legal Aid of North Carolina are equal opportunity agencies, providing services to clients without regard to race, sex, disability, age, national origin, sexual orientation, or religion.

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# Two Programs: Partners in Justice

## Legal Services of Southern Piedmont (LSSP)

## Legal Aid of North Carolina (LANC)



## Why Two Programs?

Legal Services of Southern Piedmont (LSSP) and Legal Aid of North Carolina (LANC) have always been Partners in Justice. From 1967 to 2002, LSSP and LANC were one organization working under the LSSP name.

In 1996, Congress imposed stringent restrictions on organizations that received federal legal services funds. Since 1975 LSSP had been receiving these funds but was concerned about how the restrictions would impact service to clients.

On July 1, 2002, LSSP reorganized into two agencies. One agency continued to work in the Charlotte area under the LSSP name and a new statewide organization (with 24 offices state-wide including a local Charlotte office), Legal Aid of North Carolina (LANC) was created. LSSP did not elect to receive the federal funds after the transition, which allowed LSSP to continue providing some of the restricted services to low-income people in Charlotte.

The reorganization enabled both agencies to serve more low-income people in a wider variety of cases than they otherwise would have been able to do. Now for more than 40 years legal help has been available for low-income people in Mecklenburg and surrounding counties who cannot afford to pay a private lawyer for civil cases.

## Better Service for Clients

The reorganization made it possible to assist all groups of clients in Charlotte, especially immigrants, and to address civil legal problems affecting large numbers of low-income clients.

## What happened during the transition?

Legal services programs throughout NC designed a comprehensive, integrated, statewide system of legal services for low-income people to provide a full range of services to a full range of clients. The plan created the new statewide federally funded program, LANC, and supported LSSP and other non-federally-funded programs in several locations. The programs continue to fully coordinate their activities with each other.

In the plan, LSSP divided its activities, staff, and other resources into two organizations, LSSP and LANC on July 1, 2002. LSSP and LANC fully share and coordinate activities relating to client outreach, intake and advocacy, the Pro Bono Program, the Access to Justice Campaign as well as other activities and community relationships.

### Access to Justice

In 1988, LSSP established a fundraising campaign to support legal services. After the 2002 reorganization, LANC joined the Campaign. The Access to Justice Campaign and Justice for All Luncheon seeks individual contributions from members of the Mecklenburg County Bar to support both organizations' programs.

### Access to Justice Council

In 2012 LSSP and LANC established the Access to Justice Council to better connect attorneys and firms to our work and opportunities for pro bono service.

### Pro Bono Program

The Pro Bono Program began in 1982 when LSSP and LANC were one organization. The joint program matches volunteer attorneys to individual case work and coordinates other volunteers who can support the work of both organizations.

## History

- 1966 Office of Economic Opportunity (OEO) begins grants for civil legal assistance to the poor as part of the War on Poverty.
- 1967 Mecklenburg County Bar and Charlotte Area Fund establish Mecklenburg Legal Aid Society with OEO and local matching funds.
- 1975 OEO Legal Services Program transferred to the new Legal Services Corporation (LSC)
- 1979 LSC asks Legal Aid Society to expand to Cabarrus, Gaston Stanly, Union and Counties. Legal Aid Society expands and changes name to Legal Services of Southern Piedmont (LSSP).
- 1982 LSC funding begins long decline to about 1/3 of the 1981 level in real dollars.
- 1988 LSSP begins to diversify programs and funding, increasingly relying on local revenue and private contributions. The Access to Justice Campaign is started.
- 1996 Congress imposed severe restrictions on LSC-funded organizations, prohibiting certain types of advocacy and excluding many clients, including many immigrants.
- 1999 NC legal services programs create Legal Services Planning Council to coordinate a comprehensive, integrated, statewide system of legal service for low income people.
- 2002 Planning council adopts plan to restructure NC legal services system. LSSP reorganizes creating LSSP and LANC.