



BOARD OFFICERS

President: S. Luke Largess
 Vice President: Roger Cook
 Secretary: Stella Boswell
 Treasurer: Lisa Grafstein

BOARD OF DIRECTORS:

John Ahlers	Pamela S. Glean
Tom Anderson	I. Beverly Lake, Jr.
J. Chad Bomar	Maria Mangano
Victor Boone	E. Spencer Parris
Nicole Vandiver Bryan	Denise Spriggs
Felice M. Corpening	Willis P. Whichard
Susan Doyle	James E. Williams, Jr.
Kim Fields	Alan Woodlief
Henry E. Frye	Laura Wrobel

STUDENT REPRESENTATIVES

Aindrea Alderman—WFU
 Cory Haller—UNC
 Chris Heagarty—NCCU
 Katelyn Love—Duke University
 Sarah Neely—Elon University
 Catherine Sims—Campbell University
 Tyler Wichmann—Charlotte School of Law

STAFF

Executive Director: Esther Hall
 ehall@ncleaf.org

Program Director: Arlene Summers
 asummers@ncleaf.org

Program Support: Patsy Fyfe
 pfyfe@ncleaf.org

NC LEAF
 gratefully acknowledges
 receipt of a
 \$5,000 grant from
 THE WACHOVIA
 FOUNDATION

NEWSLEAF

A PUBLICATION OF THE NORTH CAROLINA LEGAL EDUCATION ASSISTANCE FOUNDATION

NC LEAF Salutes Longevity in Public Interest Careers



James C. Yeatts



Victor J. Boone



Theodore Fillette

Jimmy Yeatts celebrates 40 years of service

By Abby Johnston, Assistant District Attorney, Surry and Stokes Counties

IN MARCH 2009, James C. Yeatts, III, known to all as “Jimmy,” will celebrate his 40th year as an Assistant District Attorney for the State of North Carolina. But, working as a career prosecutor was not at the top of Jimmy’s list of career plans when he graduated from Wake Forest University School of Law in 1968. He had visions of using his law degree as a business professional, working for a corporation. His life and his career path, however, changed drastically on the day he received his NC Bar passage letter. On that day, Jimmy also opened a letter from the United States Government—Jimmy had been drafted for the Vietnam War.

After serving six months active duty stationed in Forts Benning and Jackson in South Carolina, Jimmy returned to Forsyth County in 1969 and was contacted by the County Prosecutor’s office for an interview. The next day, Jimmy set foot in a courtroom for only the second time in his life! He quickly found his niche and prosecuted district court cases for about a year, until he was called by the Superior Court Solicitor to try a misdemeanor appeal case of reckless driving and speeding in front of a jury. He loved Superior Court and found it to be a “tremendous challenge.” However, after 12 years in Superior Court, trying at least one jury trial every week to two weeks, Jimmy was ready for a change of pace. In 1981, he joined the District Attorney’s Office for 17-B (Surry and Stokes Counties), where he worked district court for three years. He then moved to Superior Court and today presides as Chief Assistant District Attorney.

CONTINUED ON PAGES 6-7

insideLEAF

INTRODUCING THE NEW NC LEAF “FELLOWS”

(The attorneys featured here have been named since the publication of our last newsletter.)



OUR NEWEST NAMED SPONSORSHIPS (\$2,500 Level)

Morris McAdoo *Womble Carlyle Fellow*

Morris is a 2005 graduate of Widener University School of Law in Wilmington, Delaware and a

Staff Attorney with Disability Rights NC, where he represents persons with disabilities. While working as an Employee Benefits Specialist with PricewaterhouseCoopers, Morris developed an overwhelming desire to dedicate his profession to public service. He writes, “I remember leaving my office with a need to quantify my direct contribution to the lives of others. Although I appreciated the importance in assisting individuals in securing their retirement income, I believed my gifts and talents could have a more direct impact on others. I had a strong admiration of colleagues that held positions such as medical professionals, educators, and community organizers, and I could see the direct impact in their lives on many. My journey to pursue a career in public interest drove me to obtain a degree in law, and I'm currently representing persons with various disabilities. In my work with Disability Rights NC, I have the opportunity to improve the quality of life for people with disabilities. I have found an unequivocal reward in the service to others. ”



Dietrich McMillan *Kilpatrick Stockton Fellow*

Hope and empowerment. These are two powerful words that provide a person the possibility of having life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness. When people lose hope and the ability to empower themselves at the abuse

of another, then the abused person cannot enjoy their basic rights. Assisting victims of domestic violence—and helping them become self-empowered survivors with the hope that they too can live a happy life and enjoy basic rights—is one of the many reasons I wanted to work as a public interest attorney. Working with Legal Aid of North Carolina, Inc. allows me to facilitate persons who are in search of gaining or regaining their sense of hope and empowerment. I have worked over 10 years for and with Legal Aid of North Carolina as not only an attorney, but also sometimes more importantly as an advocate and counselor. I have always believed that nothing is more worthwhile than knowing you have helped people to understand they have the right to live and be free.



Sandy Lee *Kirby and Holt Fellow*

How fortunate I am! For over 10 years, I have worked in public interest law and have known the satisfaction of feeling that I make a difference with the work that I do. Throughout my legal services career, some of the substantive areas in which

I have practiced include domestic, housing, consumer, and public benefits law, as well as low-income taxpayer advocacy. I have represented victims of domestic violence, families being evicted from their homes, families facing foreclosure, and consumers in danger of losing their property. These can be terrifying times for anyone, but even more so for individuals who have very limited resources and nowhere to turn for help. For me, there is nothing more humbling than to see the defeated expressions of these individuals when they walk into my office for help and nothing more rewarding than to obtain a successful result and affect a positive change in their lives.



The Mecklenburg County District Attorney's Office employs the largest group of NC LEAF participants in the state.

Pictured: First Step, far left, Tim Sielaff; far right, Donna Price; Middle Step, left to right, Spencer Merriweather, Ben Royster, Heather Taraska, Anna Greene, Katherine Johnson; Back Row, left to right, Gabrielle Macon, Peter Gilchrist (District Attorney), Max Diaz, Sean Smith; Not Pictured: Ellie Coludro and Natalie Sielaff



WHO WILL BE YOUR FELLOW?

NC LEAF has a long waiting list of eligible public interest attorneys needing assistance with law school loans. Won't you help us help more of them? Please consider a named sponsorship and contact us today!

WITH APPRECIATION TO THE SPONSORS OF OUR FELLOWS AND TO OUR DONORS

In 2005, NC LEAF debuted a new campaign to involve more private firms in supporting the work of public interest attorneys around our state. Special thanks to these firms who made the initial three-year pledges to help underwrite the annual cost of loan repayment assistance to participating NC LEAF public interest attorneys.

IN 2005, THE FOLLOWING FIRMS PLEGGED THEIR SUPPORT:

NAMED SPONSORSHIPS (\$2,500 LEVEL)

Alston and Bird

Brooks, Pierce, McLendon, Humphrey &
Leonard
Fellow: Elizabeth Holgate, Public Defender's
Office, Greensboro

Hunton & Williams
Fellow: Faith Fickling, Legal Aid of North
Carolina, Pittsboro

Patterson, Dilthey, Clay, Bryson & Anderson
Fellow: Jennifer Stuart, Legal Aid of North
Carolina, Raleigh

Van Winkle, Buck, Wall, Starnes & Davis
Fellow: Robin Merrell, Pisgah Legal Services,
Asheville

NAMED SPONSORSHIPS (\$750 LEVEL)

Kuniholm Law Firm
Fellow: Shazia Anwar, Legal Aid of North
Carolina, Charlotte

Law Offices of Janet Ward Black
Fellow: William Corbett, Legal Aid of Northwest
North Carolina, Winston-Salem

Maxwell, Freeman & Bowman
Fellow: Keith Howard, Advocates for Children's
Services, Durham

McMillan, Smith & Plyler
Fellow: Matthew Wunsche, Office of the Appellate
Defender, Raleigh

Patterson Harkavy
Fellow: Denise Lockett, Legal Aid of North
Carolina, Boone

IN 2006, THE FOLLOWING FIRMS PLEGGED THEIR SUPPORT OF THE THREE-YEAR SPONSORSHIPS:

NAMED SPONSORSHIPS (\$2,500 LEVEL)

Mary Norris Preyer Fund (2-year grant)
Fellow: Cyrus Brown

Nelson Mullins Riley & Scarborough
Fellow: Ashleigh Silber, Assistant Public Defender,
Public Defender's Office, Wake County

North Carolina Academy of Trial Lawyers
Fellow: Natasha Adams, Public Defender's Office,
Carrboro

NAMED SPONSORSHIPS (\$750 LEVEL)

Ferguson, Stein, Chambers, Gresham & Sumter
Fellow: Tracy Hewett, Public Defender's Office,
Charlotte

Pulley, Watson, Kin & Lisher
Fellow in honor of Adam Lischer: Starr Ward,
Public Defender's Office, Durham

IN 2007, NC LEAF WELCOMED THE FOLLOWING NEW THREE-YEAR SPONSORS:

NAMED SPONSORSHIPS (\$1,500 LEVEL)

Horack Talley
Fellow: Stephanie Ceccato, Legal Services of the
Souther Piedmont, Charlotte

NAMED SPONSORSHIPS (\$750 LEVEL)

Comerford & Britt
Fellow: Lisa Brace, Legal Aid of Northwest North
Carolina, Winston-Salem

Kirby & Holt
Fellow: Henry Jay, Legal Aid of North Carolina

THANK YOU TO OUR 2008 DONORS

BENEFACTORS (\$1,000 AND UP)

Mr. and Mrs. Peter S. Gilchrist, III

PATRONS (\$500-\$999)

Esther S. Hall in honor of Denise Long, Patsy
Fyfe, and Arlene Summers
Forsyth County Young Lawyers

SPONSORS (\$250-\$499)

Tom Anderson
Josh and Anna Stein

CONTRIBUTORS (\$100-\$249)

Ran Coble
I. Beverly Lake
Marian P. Lowry
Judy Newbold
Robert C. Vaughn, Jr.
Willis P. Whichard
Colon Willoughby

DONORS (\$50-\$99)

Roger Cook
Susan Doyle
Erwin Fuller
John Keller

FRIENDS

Julie Beavers
Chris Heagarty
Ralph Jacobson
Katelyn Love
Maria Mangano
Sarah Neely

Thank you to the law firm of Lloyd & Parris
(Diana Houpe, paralegal; Sean Lloyd and John
Parris, attorneys) for their donation of in-kind
services.

CONTRIBUTING LAW SCHOOLS

Campbell University Norman Adrian Wiggins School of Law, North Carolina Central University School of Law,
University of North Carolina School of Law, Wake Forest University School of Law

NC LEAF is also supported by the State of North Carolina and a grant from IOLTA. Financial information about this
organization and a copy of its license are available from the State Solicitation Licensing Section at 1-888-830-4989.

The license is not an endorsement by the state.

LOAN FORGIVENESS FOR PUBLIC SERVICE EMPLOYMENT CHECKLIST

Many people working in public service can benefit from a new federal student loan forgiveness program, especially if they have high federal student loan debt.¹



1. Find out what kind of student loans you have:²

Request a Personal Identification Number (PIN) from the Department of Education:
<http://www.pin.ed.gov/PINWebApp/pinindex.jsp>

Use the PIN to look up your loans in the National Student Loan Data System: http://www.nslds.ed.gov/nslds_SA/

Use <https://www.annualcreditreport.com/cra/index.jsp> to check for commercial student loans, which will not appear in the National Student Loan Data System. Commercial loans are not eligible for forgiveness.

2. Get your eligible loans into the Federal Direct loan program by consolidating:³

You must consolidate all your FFEL loans (and reconsolidate your FFEL Consolidation Loans) into Federal Direct if you want those loans to be eligible for forgiveness:
<http://loanconsolidation.ed.gov/>

3. Choose an eligible repayment plan:⁴

Consider choosing Income-Contingent Repayment (ICR) now, and switching to Income-Based Repayment (IBR) in July 2009. Use an online repayment calculator to estimate what your payments would be under these repayment options:
<http://www.finaid.org/calculators>

Beware—payments made on an extended repayment plan do not qualify towards forgiveness!

4. Make qualifying payments each month for 10 years while working in public service full-time:⁵

Check that your job qualifies. Your job qualifies if you work full-time for the government or a 501(c)(3) non-profit.

Work in public service for 10-years (the 10 years don't need to be consecutive, but you have to be working in eligible employment when forgiveness is granted).

Make 120 qualifying payments (once a month for 10 years) on your Federal Direct loans. Consider switching from Income-Contingent to Income-Based Repayment (IBR) when IBR becomes available July 2009.

5. Apply for loan forgiveness!⁶

For more information:
<http://www.equaljusticeworks.org/resource/ccraa>

Decisions about student debt are highly individual. Each borrower must make his or her own decisions. Equal Justice Works does not offer legal advice. Equal Justice Works makes every effort to ensure the accuracy and completeness of the information we provide, however no guarantee can be made. Equal Justice Works bears no liability for any errors or omissions, for how content is interpreted or used, or for the content of any third-party links. The United States Department of Education has not reviewed our site or its contents nor approved our interpretations. 06/08

¹ College Cost Reduction and Access Act of 2007 (P.L. #110-84). President Bush signed CCRAA into law on September 27, 2007. Negotiated rulemakers reached consensus on draft regulations on April 14, 2008. Final regulations will be issued by the Department of Education in November, 2008.

² Most students borrow federal student loans (like Stafford loans and GradPlus loans). Students borrow these federal student loans from one of two major federal student loan programs: the Federal Family Education Loan (FFEL) program or the Federal Direct loan program. Federal student loans from the FFEL program are issued by private banks and lending institutions like Sallie Mae, but are still federal student loans (i.e. Stafford and GradPlus loans). Federal Direct loans are federal student loans issued directly by the United States Department of Education. Students do not choose whether they get their federal student loans from a FFEL lender or from Federal Direct; schools participate in one program or the other. When students graduate, many consolidate their federal student loans into a Federal Consolidation Loan. Federal Consolidation Loans are available from FFEL lenders and from Federal Direct. Students may choose whether to consolidate with a FFEL lender or with

Federal Direct. ONLY Federal Direct Loans (including Stafford loans, GradPlus loans, and consolidation loans) are eligible for Loan Forgiveness for Public Service Employment. Borrowers with FFEL loans must consolidate their FFEL loans into Federal Direct Consolidation loans in order to be eligible for Loan Forgiveness.

Some students also borrow commercial loans from state or private lenders. Public service employees should consider paying commercial loans off more quickly than federal student loans if they can, because commercial loans are not eligible for forgiveness. Students that went to school before 2006 are more likely to have substantial amounts of commercial student loan debt because an important federal student loan, the GradPlus loan, only became available to in 2006.

3 Borrowers that have already consolidated eligible federal student loans into a FFEL Federal Consolidation Loan have the right to reconsolidate into a Federal Direct Consolidation Loan beginning July 1, 2008.

4 Eligible repayment plans are: Income Contingent Repayment (ICR) (available now), Income-Based Repayment (IBR) (available beginning July 2009), Standard Repayment plan based on a 10-year repayment schedule, or Repayment plan where the monthly amount paid is not less than the monthly amount required under Standard Repayment over a 10-year repayment period. To maximize forgiveness benefits, borrowers should consider choosing ICR, switching to IBR when it becomes available in July 2009, and remaining in IBR as long as their income qualifies for IBR repayment.

5 CCRAA defines public service as: “A full-time job in emergency management, government, military service, public safety, law enforcement, public health, public education (including early childhood education), social work in a public child or family service agency, public interest law services (including prosecution or public defense or legal advocacy in low-income communities at a nonprofit organization), public child care, public service for individuals with disabilities, public service for the elderly, public library sciences, school-based library sciences and other school-based services, or at an organization that is described in section 501(c)(3) of the IRS Code and exempt from taxation, or teaching as a full-time faculty member at a Tribal College or University and other faculty teaching in high-needs areas, as determined by the Secretary” (P.L. #110-84).

The current draft of the regulations defines full-time as: employment in one or more jobs for an annual average of at least 30 hours per week, not including vacation or leave time provided by the employer, or the number of hours the employer considers full-time, whichever is greater.

The current draft of the regulations defines qualifying employment as: employment in 501(c)(3) organization; or employment in government (local, state, federal, and tribal including military employment and employment in public schools and universities); or service in a full-time AmeriCorps position; plus employment in a “public service organization.”

The vast majority of public service lawyers work in 501(c)(3) organizations or government positions. Some that do not may still be in qualifying employment if they work for a “public service organization.” A “public service organization”: provides specific listed services including “public interest law services.” (“Public interest law” is defined as “legal services provided by a public service organization that are funded in whole or in part by a local, state, federal, or tribal government”); and is not “a business organized for profit, a labor union, a partisan political organization, or an organization engaged in religious activities, unless the qualifying activities are unrelated to religious instruction, worship services, or any form of proselytizing.”

6 The Department of Education will require documentation, forms and verifications. For more information: <http://www.equaljusticeworks.org/resource/ccraa>

Public Service Loan Forgiveness not Taxable

The United States Department of Treasury has confirmed that Public Service Loan Forgiveness under the College Cost Reduction and Access Act meets the requirements of Tax Code Sec. 108(f) and is not taxable!

Although all income from any source is generally taxable, including income from a cancellation of debt, Section 108(f) allows forgiveness of student loans to be excluded from taxable income if the student loans were forgiven as a result of the borrower working for a certain period of time “in certain professions for any of a broad class of employers.” Section 108(f) defines “student loan” as a loan to assist an individual in attending an educational organization.

By letter to Congressman Levin, Treasury has confirmed that all student loans eligible for CCRAA Public Service Loan Forgiveness, including Federal Direct Consolidation Loans, will be considered student loans. For this reason, the loan forgiveness meets the requirements of 108(f) and will not be taxed. In Revenue Ruling 2008-34, Treasury had previously confirmed that most law school based loan forgiveness programs also meet the requirements of 108(f) and will not be taxed.

For more information, contact Equal Justice Works at EqualJusticeWorks.com, Debtrelief@equaljusticeworks.org, or 202.466.3686.

2120 L Street, NW, Ste. 450, Washington, DC, 20037-1541

NC LEAF Salutes Longevity in Public Interest Careers (Continued from cover)

When asked what has kept him excited about his job for four decades, Jimmy enthusiastically replies, “There’s a high that comes from knowing we are getting something done!” He enjoys every aspect of a trial—from interviewing victims and witnesses to the “huge rush” when he hears the knock on the door that the jury is back. “These people have amazing stories to tell; they’ve lived through all kinds of difficulties and witnessed some horrifying events. It’s my job to help them relay their accounts to the jury,” he says.

Over the course of his career, Jimmy has become well respected as a prosecutor and renowned as someone very knowledgeable in the law. He has been involved in numerous important state cases, including *State v. Christopher Wilson*, a case which has been an important guide on the law of constructive breaking and entering. Ricky Bowman, the elected District Attorney of District 17-B says of Jimmy, “He is someone whom you can bounce ideas off; he’ll give you the correct answer and then back it up with case-law.” Because of his considerable command of the law, Jimmy is jokingly referred to as the “Bob Farb of the West,” says Ricky.

Despite being occupied by upcoming trial preparations, Jimmy never turns away from an opportunity to assist a young ADA. Instead, he invites him or her into his office to discuss any issue or to provide assistance with cases. He offers this advice to young ADAs: “organize.” “Young ADAs should organize themselves and have lobbyists. They need to fight for their retirement benefits and actively promote themselves; no one else will do it for them,” he cautions. He says, “This is a job that you need to love.” And, ultimately, that is what has kept Jimmy in this career for 40 years.

Victor Boone epitomizes Atticus Finch ideals

By Celia Pistolis, Assistant Director of Advocacy and Compliance for Legal Aid of North Carolina

VICTOR J. BOONE has spent over 30 years as a legal services attorney, and his work epitomizes the Atticus Finch ideals to which lawyers aspire. His aggressive advocacy, inclusive leadership, and effective collaborations are his hallmarks.

In 1968, Victor left the small town of Garysburg, North Carolina to attend UNC, where he majored in political science. He graduated from NC Central School of Law in 1975 and began his career of social justice as a legal services attorney. Hired as one of the first staff attorneys in the office that was known as East Central Community Legal Services, Victor moved up the ranks and became a managing attorney who trained many of those attorneys who are now in leadership roles around the state, including this author. In 1991, he became the Executive Director of East Central Community Legal

Services. At that time, he oversaw three offices, (Raleigh, Smithfield, and Sanford) and 13 attorneys providing services to clients in a five-county area.

Victor has been an aggressive and creative advocate for clients. He has handled almost every kind of case that has come through the door of a legal services office, including social security disability denials, food stamp terminations, custody, visitation, domestic violence, child support, unemployment cases, subsidized housing, consumer cases, private landlord tenant cases, wills, and powers of attorneys.

Victor has also been involved in several successful appeals of employment cases. One involved an unemployment case in which the client quit her job several days before being fired. The client was denied unemployment benefits, and Victor’s dynamic and creative arguments convinced the court of appeals to award this

These qualities of determination, compassion, commitment, and dedication to clients—as well as a passion for equal justice for all—are embodied in the best of legal services attorneys, and Victor Boone is one of the best.

client unemployment benefits. These appellate decisions resulted in the ESC going to the legislature and removing the “voluntary” from the quit definition.

In the early days of his legal services career, Victor successfully won case after case against a notorious slumlord, who decided to take revenge by vandalizing Victor’s car. Day after day he returned to his car to find flat tires. The landlord did not know who he was up against, as Victor stayed up night after night until he caught the slumlord red handed at 2:00 a.m. Victor confronted him and brought criminal charges. The landlord was convicted and ultimately went out of business—another victory for Victor and the community.

Victor has been a tireless fundraiser and was instrumental in convincing the United Way to provide significant levels of funding to his office. He has successfully attracted volunteers (attorneys and others) to work in the Raleigh office. In addition, he has helped with recruiting private attorneys to work on behalf of our clients. This has been in part because Victor has earned high regard from members of the private bar statewide because of his long-standing and dedicated involvement with the Wake County Bar, North Carolina Association of Black Lawyers, and the NC Bar Association. He is a past member of the Board of Governors for the

NC Bar Association; he has been second vice president for the Association of Black Lawyers and held leadership positions in the Wake County Bar as well. Currently, he is serving his second term as a NC State Bar Councilor for the 10th Judicial District. He is the first and only legal services attorney to hold such a position with the NC State Bar.

In addition to his service to the legal profession, Victor has been active with the ACLU, the Food Bank, and other community organizations.

Victor has taught hundreds of NC Central law students about ethics and professional responsibility, instilling in them a passion for the law and justice as well as influencing their career choices. These qualities of determination, compassion, commitment, and dedication to clients—as well as a passion for equal justice for all—are embodied in the best of legal services attorneys, and Victor Boone is one of the best.

Ted Fillette is a career advocate of social change

DURING HIS 35 YEARS of service to the Charlotte community, Ted Fillette has systematically helped change laws for the benefit of those in need. He has advocated for legislation, increased community knowledge and awareness, and enlisted the support of others who may be in a position to help.

A native of Mobile, Alabama, Ted wanted to work in the South. After obtaining his undergraduate degree from Duke University in 1968, he studied at Boston University School of Law, where he became involved with a Boston University civil rights group that connected the ACLU and the NAACP with interested law students. This civil rights group found Ted a position in Charlotte as a Vista Volunteer for the summer of 1971. He joined the Charlotte legal services office as a staff attorney in 1973.

Although involved with many different types of cases, Ted quickly found his niche in landlord/tenant cases. Throughout the 70s, he fought to change the laws affecting low-income tenants.

In 1977, Fillette served as a co-counsel on a case that challenged the practice of self-help eviction. Because of the perseverance of Ted and others, the North Carolina Court of Appeals ruled in 1977 that self-help eviction is an unfair trade practice.

Also in 1977, Ted worked diligently to create a warranty of habitability for tenants. His efforts paid off when the General Assembly enacted the Residential Rental Agreements, which was drafted by Ted and sponsored by Representative (later Chief Justice) Henry Frye. This important act created an implied warranty of habitability for all residential tenants.

While these important changes in tenant procedural protections were being instituted by the legislature, Ted also advocated in

the courts on behalf of residents who were displaced by urban renewal projects. His role in the urban relocation cases was to utilize his knowledge, abilities, and skills in order to assist these tenants in solving their problems.

After much success assisting low-income tenants, Ted became the litigation director for Legal Services of Southern Piedmont in 1983. This new position gave him the chance to roam over different areas of practice. One of the areas that saw the most success during this time was public benefits.

After working diligently to protect the rights of innocent tenants, Ted once again shifted his focus to enforcing the housing code. The code was adopted in November of 1998.

“Ted really believes in the work. He gets satisfaction from each client who gets help, from work he personally does, or from the work of a young staff attorney he has helped to recruit, train, inspire, and supervise. We salute Ted Fillette for his stellar 35-year career in public service and know our profession is richer for his dedication and abiding commitment.”

Kenneth L. Schorr, Executive Director
Legal Service of Southern Piedmont

In the late 1990s and the early part of this decade, Ted was a central figure in the restructuring of legal services, including the formation of Legal Aid of North Carolina and the NC Legal Services Planning Council, the division of Legal Services of Southern Piedmont into a non-LSC-funded organization and a branch of Legal Aid of NC, and the extensive reorganizations that followed.

Ted has also continued to be directly involved in client work, serving as the senior managing attorney and volunteer coordinator for the Charlotte office of Legal Aid of NC, and as a teacher, mentor, and co-counsel to many Legal Aid of NC attorneys in the Charlotte office and others. The legal services community is a much richer and more effective family for Ted Fillette’s presence.

Ted Fillette is the Senior Managing Attorney in the Legal Aid of North Carolina— Charlotte Office and also serves as Assistant Director of Legal Aid of North Carolina.



North Carolina Legal Education
Assistance Foundation
3948 Browning Pl., Ste. 334
Raleigh, NC 27609-6512
info@ncleaf.org • www.ncleaf.org

Non-Profit Org.
U.S. Postage
PAID
Raleigh, NC
Permit No. 36

NC LEAF is a collaborative effort of
law schools and bar organizations in
North Carolina including:

CAMPBELL UNIVERSITY
NORMAN ADRIAN WIGGINS SCHOOL OF LAW
CHARLOTTE SCHOOL OF LAW
DUKE UNIVERSITY SCHOOL OF LAW
ELON UNIVERSITY SCHOOL OF LAW
LEGAL AID OF NORTH CAROLINA
N.C. ACADEMY OF TRIAL LAWYERS
N.C. ASSOCIATION OF BLACK LAWYERS
N.C. ASSOCIATION OF DEFENSE ATTORNEYS
N.C. ASSOCIATION OF PUBLIC DEFENDERS
N.C. ASSOCIATION OF WOMEN ATTORNEYS
N.C. BAR ASSOCIATION
N.C. CENTRAL UNIVERSITY SCHOOL OF LAW
N.C. CONFERENCE OF DISTRICT ATTORNEYS
N.C. GAY AND LESBIAN ATTORNEYS
N.C. STATE BAR
UNIVERSITY OF NORTH CAROLINA SCHOOL OF LAW
WAKE FOREST UNIVERSITY SCHOOL OF LAW

THREE PROGRAM PARTICIPANTS SUCCESSFULLY PAY OFF LAW SCHOOL DEBT IN 2008!

Ann Bamburger

When I first began working at Pisgah Legal Services, the starting salary for a new attorney was \$26,000. My student loans were over \$55,000. I almost turned down the job of representing clients fleeing domestic violence, because I was concerned about whether I could afford to work as a legal services attorney. When I learned about NC LEAF, I decided to take the job. Unfortunately, during my first year of employment, the NC LEAF program was full. I had to put my loans in an economic hardship forbearance to survive and was thinking about going into private practice. Luckily, during my second year I was able to enroll in the NC LEAF program—making it possible for me to continue in the challenging and rewarding work of legal services.

Denise Lockett

NC LEAF's assistance has meant the world to my family. Without it, my debt from graduate and law school would have made it much, much harder to move to and stay with my dream job at Legal Aid of North Carolina. I'm doing the work that I love and that our community needs, thanks to NC LEAF!

Pamela Thombs

After NC LEAF approved me for the program and I had made payments for about a year, NC LEAF staff member Arlene Summers helped me restructure my law school debt to get the maximum benefit from the program. I began to pay a little more, and NC LEAF assisted me with a larger amount. About three months before I was finished with my payments, Legal Aid of North Carolina, my employer, began assisting employees through the NC LEAF program. These factors combined allowed me to pay my off my debt much earlier. I am extremely grateful to NC LEAF for allowing those of us who are committed to giving back to do so without becoming indigent.

**Congratulations on
this important
accomplishment!**
