

House Oversight & Reform Committee  
Chairman Harry Warren introductory comments  
October 22, 2025



NORTH CAROLINA  
IOLTA

# Purpose of NC IOLTA

The North Carolina State Bar and the North Carolina Supreme Court established NC IOLTA in 1983 to generate income from lawyers' general trust accounts in order to fund civil legal services and other programs for the public's benefit.

<https://nciolta.org/about-nc-iolta/>

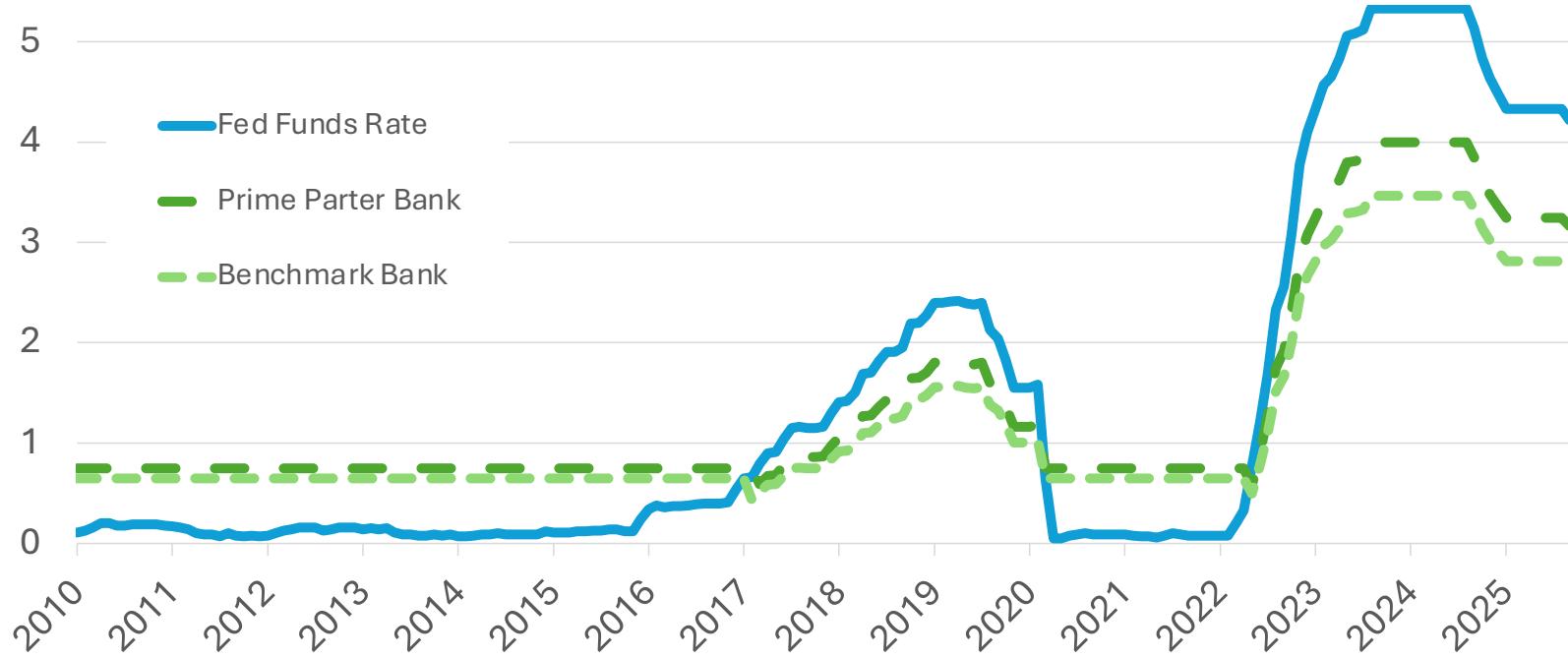
By rule (27 NCAC 1D.1301) IOLTA funds can be used for

- (1) providing civil legal services for indigents;
- (2) enhancement and improvement of grievance and disciplinary procedures to protect the public more fully from incompetent or unethical attorneys;
- (3) development and maintenance of a fund for student loans to enable meritorious persons to obtain a legal education who would not otherwise have adequate funds for this purpose;
- (4) such other programs designed to improve the administration of justice as may from time to time be proposed by the board and approved by the Supreme Court of North Carolina.

## The 2020–2022 NC real estate boom led to higher balances in trust accounts

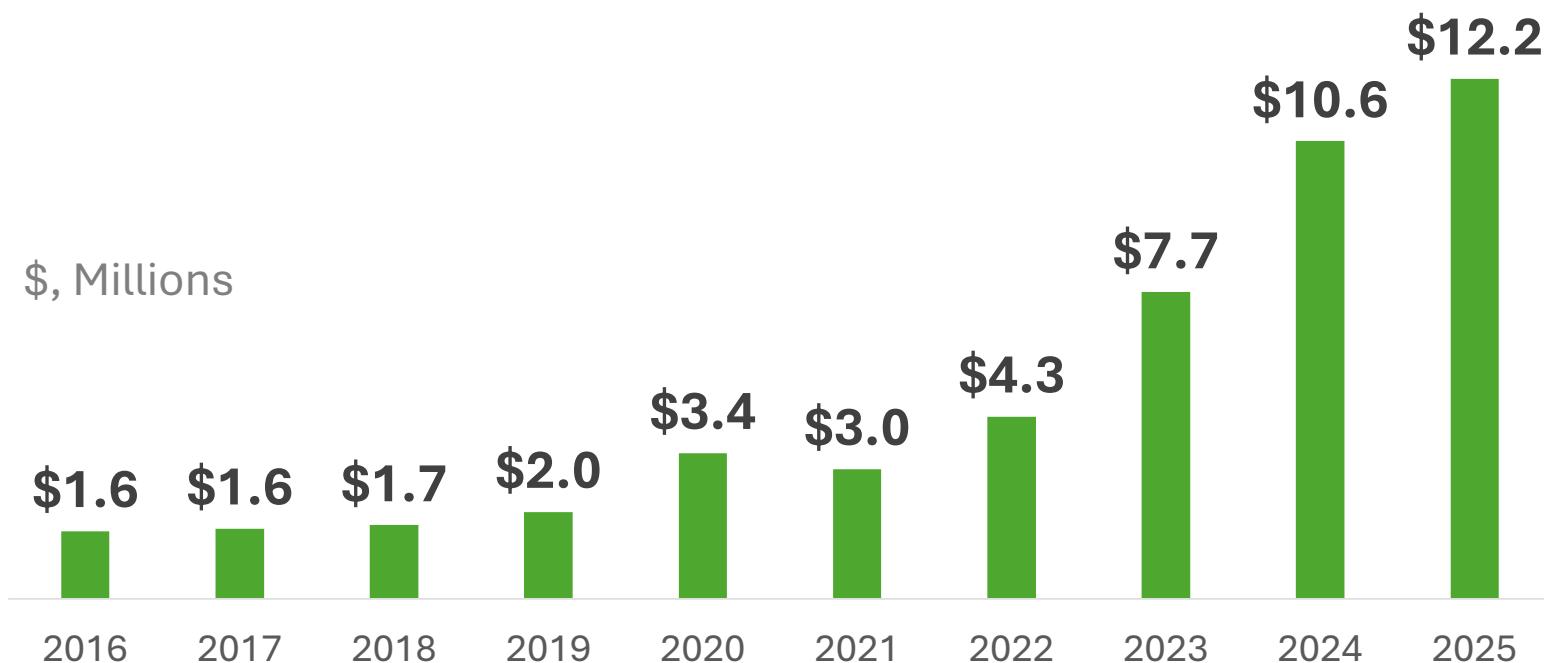


# Interest rates since 2023 have been 4x higher than prior years

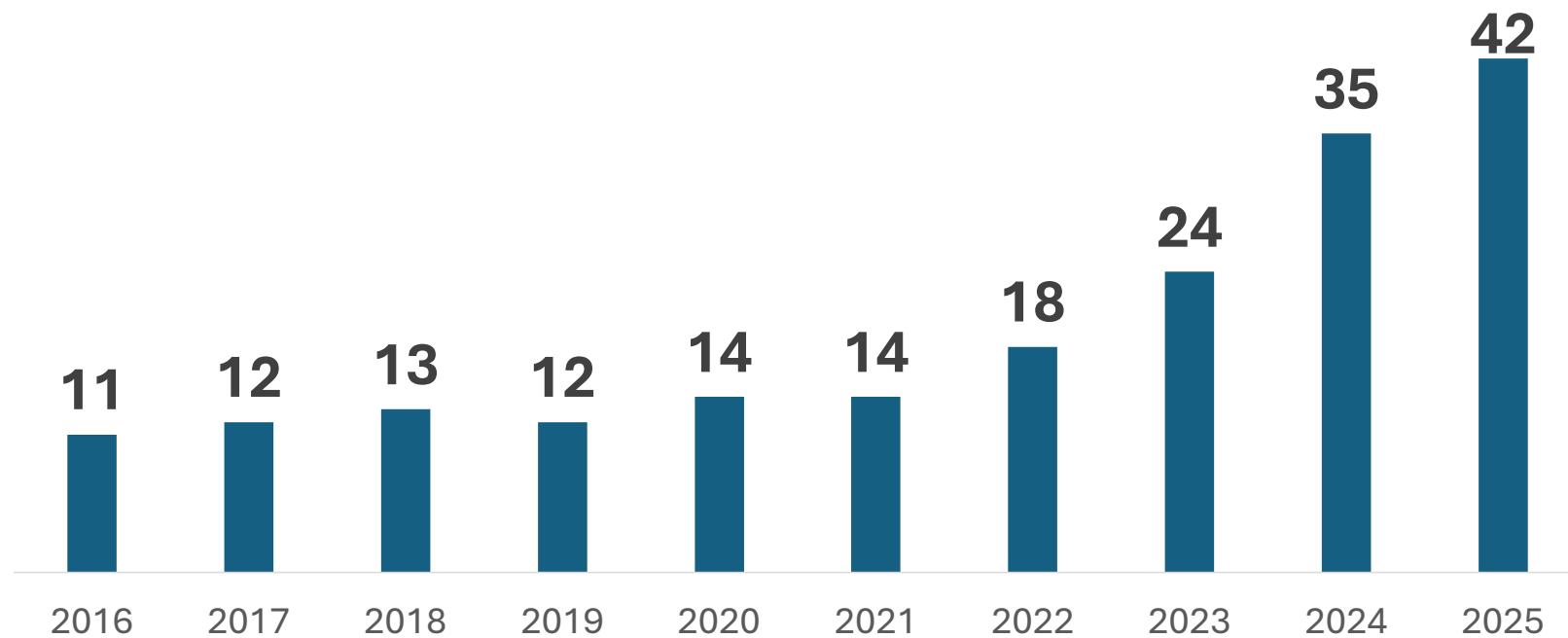


Source: Fed Funds Effective Rate, Board of Governors of the Federal Reserve System (US) via FRED®

## IOLTA grant funding is more than 6x higher



The number of grant recipients is 3x higher



**Recipients  
12 in 2016  
\$1.6 million**

# 2016

**Legal Aid of North Carolina**

**North Carolina Justice Center**

**Pisgah Legal Services**

**Charlotte Center for Legal Advocacy**

**Disability Rights North Carolina**

**Council for Children's Rights**

**NC Legal Education Assistance Foundation**

**North Carolina Prisoner Legal Services**

**Children's Law Center of Central North Carolina**

**Mediation Network of North Carolina**

**NC Center on Actual Innocence**

**Recipients  
14 in 2020  
\$3 million**

# 2020

**Legal Aid of North Carolina**

**North Carolina Justice Center**

**Pisgah Legal Services**

**Charlotte Center for Legal Advocacy**

**Disability Rights North Carolina**

**Council for Children's Rights**

**NC Legal Education Assistance Foundation**

**North Carolina Prisoner Legal Services**

**Children's Law Center of Central North Carolina**

**Mediation Network of North Carolina**

**NC Center on Actual Innocence**

**Land Loss Prevention Project**

**NC Equal Access to Justice Foundation**

**Financial Protection Law Center**

Recipients  
42 in 2025  
\$12 million

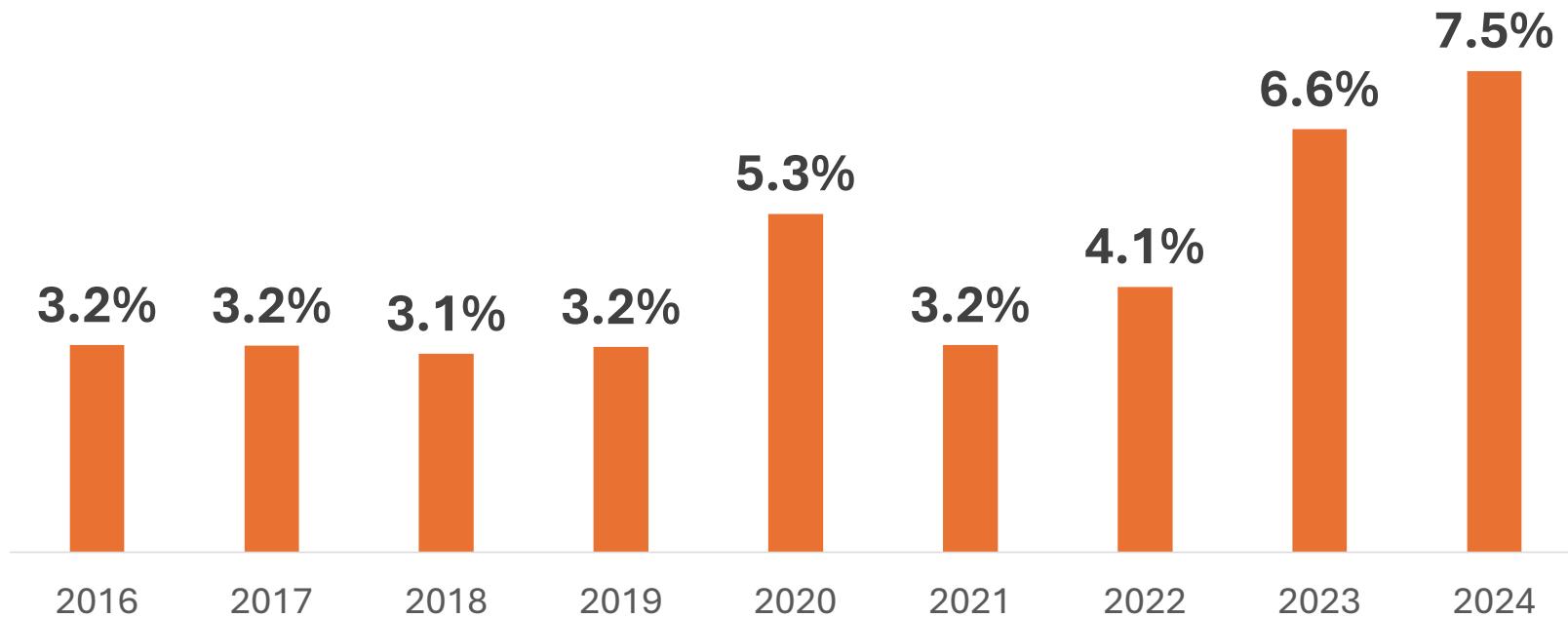
## 2025

Legal Aid of North Carolina  
North Carolina Justice Center  
Pisgah Legal Services  
Charlotte Center for Legal Advocacy  
Disability Rights North Carolina  
Council for Children's Rights  
NC Legal Education Assistance Foundation  
North Carolina Prisoner Legal Services  
Children's Law Center of Central North Carolina  
Mediation Network of North Carolina  
NC Center on Actual Innocence  
Land Loss Prevention Project  
NC Equal Access to Justice Foundation  
Financial Protection Law Center  
Capital Area Immigrants' Rights Coalition  
International House of Metrolina  
JusticeMatters  
Inner Banks Legal Services  
World Relief Corporation of National Association of Evangelicals  
Indigent Defense Services  
NC Equal Justice Alliance  
Bolch Judicial Institute at Duke Law  
NC Bar Foundation  
North Carolina Dispute Resolution Commission  
Safe Alliance  
Religious Coalition for a Nonviolent Durham  
Carolina Migrant Network  
NCCU Law School/Internship Program  
Emancipate NC  
UNC-CH Law School/Internship Program  
Wake Forest Law School/Internship Program  
Campbell Law School/Internship Program  
US Committee for Immigrants and Refugees  
National Health Law Program  
Dispute Settlement Center of Durham  
Church World Services, Greensboro  
Elon School of Law/Internship Program  
NC Mock Trial Program  
Duke Law School/Internship Program  
Incubator for Legal Practice and Innovation  
UNC School of Government - Criminal Justice Innovation Lab

**Six organizations have received more than  
\$1,000,000 in the past ten years (2016-2025)**

<b>Legal Aid of North Carolina</b>	<b>\$22,066,243</b>
<b>North Carolina Justice Center</b>	<b>\$6,870,411</b>
<b>Pisgah Legal Services</b>	<b>\$4,517,810</b>
<b>Charlotte Center for Legal Advocacy</b>	<b>\$3,182,310</b>
<b>Disability Rights North Carolina</b>	<b>\$1,927,230</b>
<b>NC Equal Access to Justice Commission</b>	<b>\$1,003,000</b>

## Grants are a growing share of recipients' revenue

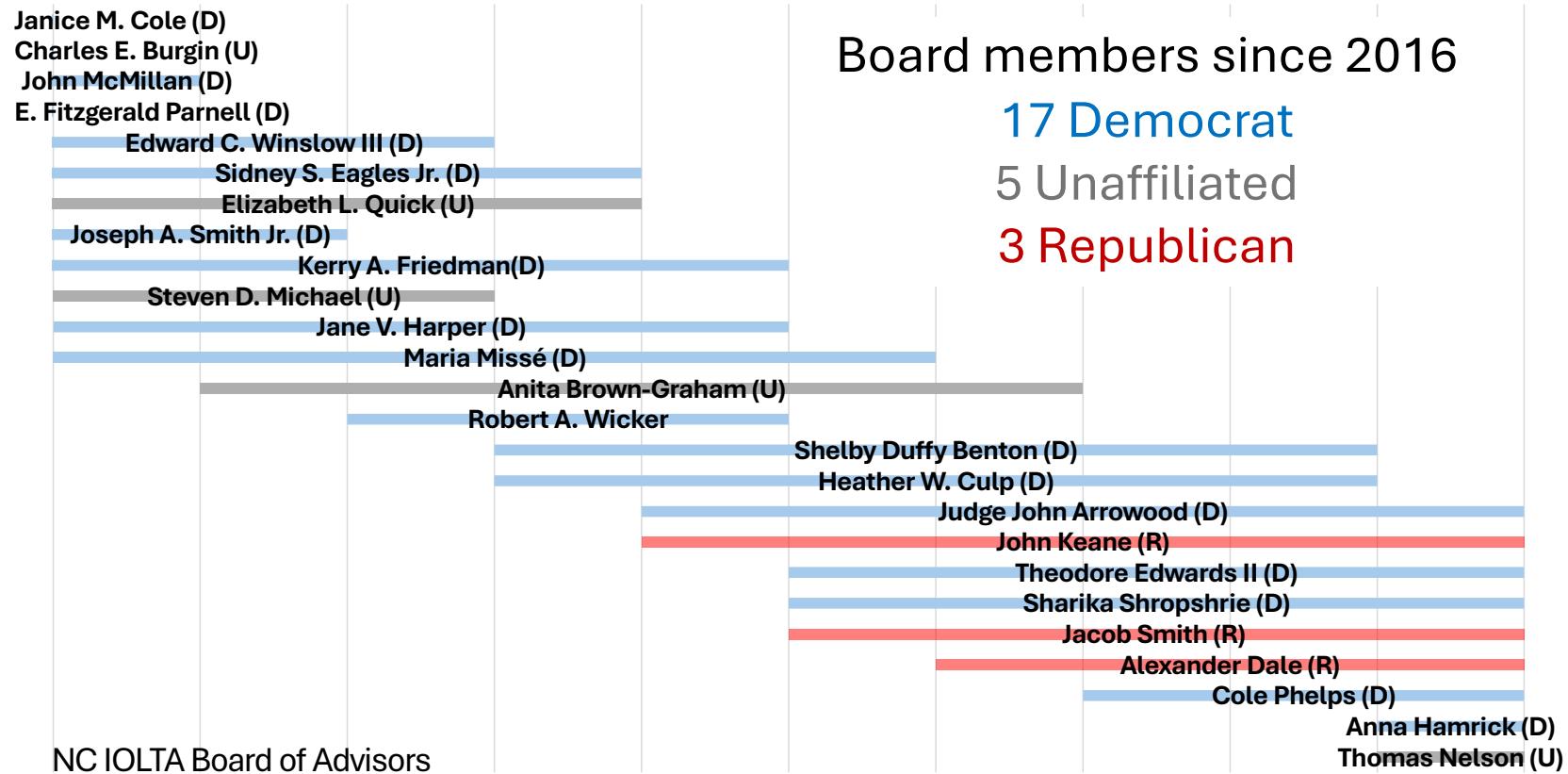


## Some grants have been more than 25% of the recipient's total revenue

	Year	Total Revenue	Grant	% of Total
NC Legal Education Assistance Fdn	2021	\$141,967	\$51,000	36%
Court Watch of North Carolina	2022	\$56,473	\$15,000	27%
Financial Protection Law Center	2022	\$233,442	\$86,400	37%
Financial Protection Law Center	2023	\$370,385	\$106,700	29%
Inner Banks Legal Services	2023	\$358,623	\$250,000	70%

15 other grants were 10% or more of the recipient's total revenue

2016 2017 2018 2019 2020 2021 2022 2023 2024 2025 2026



# Examples

# Amica

Center for Immigrant Rights

# Becoming an anti-racist organization

**The United States' wealth and power is built on stolen land, from enslaved labor, and under the racist lie that White people were superior to Black people, indigenous people, and people of color.**

This systemic racism from our country's origins continues to perpetuate inequity throughout all facets of life in this country today. Being an anti-racist organization means actively working to dismantle inequitable institutions and systems, including the immigration detention and deportation system.

## How we started

We started as a project of the Washington Lawyers Committee for Civil Rights and Urban Affairs and became an independent non-profit in 1999 known as the Capital Area Immigrants' Rights (CAIR) Coalition. To this day, we're the only non-profit organization in the Capital region focused on providing free legal and social services to immigrant children and adults who are detained and at risk of deportation.

## How we've grown

Since 2010, we have more than doubled in size and added two programs to complement our original work serving immigrant adults who are detained: the Children's Program, which assists unaccompanied immigrant children in detention, and the Immigration Impact Lab, which uses impact litigation to seek to usher in systematic change.

## Where we are now

With support from donors, partner organizations, and our growing and passionate team of attorneys and advocates, we have expanded our reach beyond the Capital region. Now known as the Amica Center for Immigrant Rights, we're honored to help immigrants across multiple states successfully navigate the immigration system.



## OUR ORIGIN STORY

CMN was co-founded by Stefanía Arteaga and Becca O'Neill in 2019. Stefanía and Becca met in 2017 doing legal advocacy work in the non-profit sector in Charlotte, NC. Together they worked to create and implement a policy limiting Immigration Customs Enforcement (ICE) access to the Mecklenburg County Jail, which had one of the oldest 287(g) agreements in the country. Born out of their collective understanding of the urgent unmet legal and organizing needs of community members in removal proceedings, the Carolina Migrant Network fuses legal services and community advocacy to provide holistic support for our clients and their families.

The Carolinas have an established (and growing) migrant and immigrant population with an ever-increasing need for representation for individuals in removal proceedings. CMN is the only organization across the Carolinas that is bridging the gap between immigration legal services and pro-immigrant community organizing.



***BRIDGING  
THE GAP  
BETWEEN  
LEGAL  
SERVICES  
&  
ADVOCACY.***

CMN bridges the gap between legal services and advocacy efforts. North Carolina ranks 47 in the country for access to legal representation for immigrants facing detention and removal, despite its significant and growing immigrant population. CMN utilizes a dual-pronged approach, providing access to free legal representation and implementing organizing tactics to create community-based social safety nets.



## OUR MISSION

Carolina Migrant Network's (CMN) core mission is to provide legal services for individuals in removal proceedings. We provide legal education on the US immigration System and empower immigrant communities to participate in everyday and civic life. We envision a world of empowered, self-determined, organized communities free from fear of family separation.



# children's LAW CENTER

OF CENTRAL NORTH CAROLINA

Children's Law Center is committed to being consciously intentional in addressing the impact of institutional racism on our clients and their families, our staff and volunteers, our partners, and our community; actively listening and using our collective voice to engage in breaking down systems of oppression and that don't support equitable outcomes.



## Dismantling Structural Racism and Mass Incarceration Across North Carolina

Through community education, narrative shift, and litigation, Emancipate NC supports North Carolina's people as they free themselves from mass incarceration and structural racism.

### About

Emancipate NC was founded on the knowledge that mass incarceration and structural racism harm all of us. Prison is state-sponsored violence. We are all complicit in its harms. As an organization, we are dedicated to shifting the narrative on racialized mass incarceration through community education and mobilization. The mainstream narrative that criminalizes Black and Brown people must be transformed—so that we can all get free. Emancipate NC is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization and was previously known as the [Carolina Justice Policy Center](#).



## Authentic Community Safety

In our community education work, we collaborate with Black communities that are suffering from criminalization, incarceration, and structural racism. Their neighborhoods are over-policed and their members are over-arrested. Magistrates set high cash bail for the simplest crimes. Then they are coerced into pleading guilty so they can secure freedom from jail. They are also disproportionately punished to harsh sentences, and they are displaced from their friends, families, children, jobs, and homes. They are traumatized in body and in mind. Prison is state violence and it magnifies pain for all parties. Through restorative justice education, we are committed to replacing criminalization and incarceration with alternative approaches that address violence and repair harm.



## National Health Law Program's Equity Stance

### **Vision:**

The National Health Law Program (NHeLP) believes that health equity is achieved when a person's characteristics and circumstances — including race and ethnicity, sex, gender identity, sexual orientation, age, income, class, disability, health, immigration status, nationality, religious beliefs, language proficiency, or geographic location — do not predict their health outcomes. We also believe that these characteristics and circumstances should not limit people's experience in the world or in our organization. Our equity vision is one of collective liberation, where individuals of all identities and backgrounds are valued and where we can all achieve our full potential as individuals and as a society, as well as live with dignity. NHeLP works towards a society where everyone can achieve an optimal state of well-being and where everyone has a fundamental right to their highest attainable standard of health.

Our equity vision is one of collective liberation...



## Work Here

Join the fight to represent those who cannot afford high-priced lawyers and lobbyists to protect their health and civil rights. There is nothing more rewarding than collective action to right the wrongs of the past and create a better tomorrow.

There is nothing more rewarding than  
**collective action**  
**to right the wrongs of the past**  
and create a better tomorrow.



## We value diversity, equity, and inclusion.!

### Open Door Fund and Fellowship

The NCBF Open Door Fund and Fellowship signals our collective commitment to diversity, equity and inclusion and our desire to welcome all who want to serve the people of North Carolina through the legal profession.

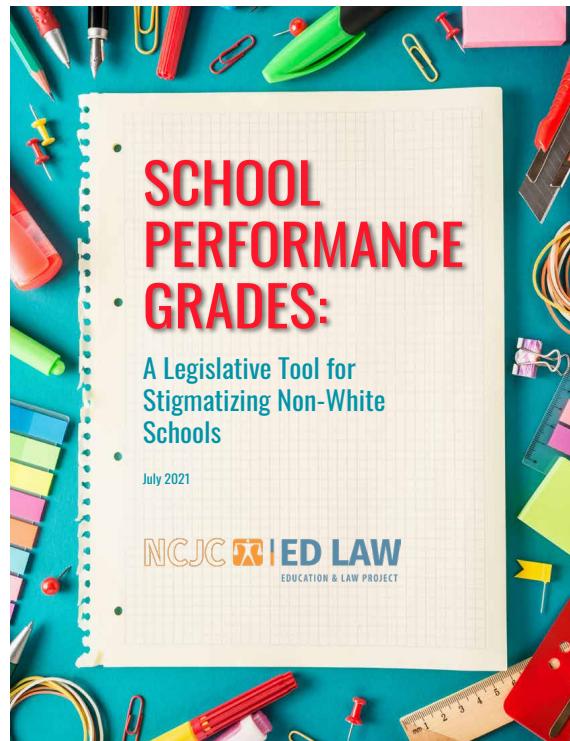
[LEARN MORE](#)

...signals our collective commitment to diversity, equity, and inclusion...

### Lending a Hand Where It's Needed Most

The North Carolina Bar Foundation's public service and pro bono programs advance the Foundation's mission and further its values of access to justice, service through the profession, civic education, professionalism and diversity, equity and inclusion. NCBF programs educate, aid and inform North Carolinians in every part of the state, from the mountains to the sea.

[OUR PROGRAMS](#)





UNC School of Law

# Externships

## Legal Services/Client Based

- ACLU NYC
- ACLU of NC
- Charlotte Legal Advocacy
- Emancipate NC
- GLOW (Grassroots Law & Organizing for Workers)
- JusticeMatters
- Land Loss Prevention Project
- Legal Aid - Medicaid Appeals
- Legal Aid of NC - DEAR Project
- Legal Aid of NC - Durham
- Legal Aid of North Carolina – Innovation Lab
- Medical Legal Partnership of Legal Aid of North Carolina - Durham
- NAACP Legal Defense Fund (LDF)
- NC Center on Actual Innocence
- SUR Legal Collaborative

## Non-Profit/Issue Based

- ACLU - Immigrants' Rights Project (National Office)
- Center for Civil Rights
- Civil Rights Corps
- Disability Rights NC
- EarthJustice - Clean Energy
- Environmental Defense Fund (EDF) - Healthy Communities
- Future of Privacy Forum
- GCAR - Global Coalition for Adaptive Research
- Lawyers' Committee for Civil Rights Under Law - North Carolina
- NC Coalition Against Domestic Violence
- NC Conservation Network
- Southern Coalition for Social Justice
- Southern Environmental Law Center - Chapel Hill
- Southern Environmental Law Center, Atlanta Office

## Organizations that did not receive funding

- Family Justice Centers in nine counties
- Institute for Justice—representing NC Justice for All Project, which could reduce cost of legal services for all
- Pacific Legal Foundation—pro bono legal services