

# Annual Report 2021-2022



# **Letter from the Program Director**

This year at UNC School of Law was slated to be the "return to normal." In many ways, "normal" did return: students attended classes in person, pizza was served at lunchtime events, and the Rotunda was again buzzing. However, after being away from the law school for over a year, returning to "normal" brought its own challenges.

For two days over the summer, the Pro Bono Board discussed what worked well in last year's remote setting, what parts of "normal" we wanted to bring back, and in what areas we still could improve. We continued to prioritize addressing unmet legal needs and developing a lifelong commitment to pro bono in all Carolina Law students, but also we knew "returning to normal" meant we again needed to adapt to reach our goals. Although these conversations were just the beginning, they set us up for a successful year.

Throughout this year we have asked how we can make pro bono accessible and inclusive of all in the Carolina community. We have balanced the ability to work together virtually with the desire to connect in person with others involved in pro bono. For example, both our Fall Break Trip and many of our Fall Pro Bono Week activities were held in a hybrid model.

We have also sought to build relationships with all students this year. Coming back to campus meant not only meeting first year students for the first time, but also meeting second year and transfer students. At the beginning of the year we hosted a Pro Bono Open House where board members were available to answer questions about pro bono and law school generally. In April, we held a Spring social event with the Pro Bono Alumni Board in which students could meet alumni and work on pro bono.

Finally, we have recognized the need for compassion and flexibility during these uncertain times. Class coordinators have used weekly newsletters to intentionally share messages of encouragement as well as the "normal" pro bono information. Likewise we have offered ongoing projects like the new Expunction Project which have allowed students flexibility as well as numerous opportunities to engage in pro bono.

It is my hope as Director that this year as the school and the Pro Bono Program returned to "normal" we did so in a way that continued the good work that the program is founded on while continuing to ensure that there were pro bono opportunities for everyone. I'm extremely proud of the work we as a board and as a school community have done this year and I am pleased to be able to share it with you here.



Julie Leopold '22 Student Director, Pro Bono Program

Pro Bono
At-a-Glance

**All Classes** 

**26,439** hours

1L Class

4,209 hours

74.04% participation

2L Class

10,757 hours

93% participation **3L Class** 

11,473 hours

100% participation

# **Keeping Our Commitment to Community**

### **Student Group Projects**

Student groups play a key role in creating and promoting opportunities for law students to serve their communities. This year, each of the following student organizations volunteered their time and energy on pro bono projects:

- · Carolina Law First-Generation Professionals (CL1GP)
- · Child Action
- · Death Penalty Project
- · Environmental Law Program
- · Innocence Project
- · Lambda Law Students Association
- Law Students Against Sexual and Domestic Violence (LSASDV)
- · National Lawyers Guild
- Veterans Advocacy Legal Organization (VALOR)
- · Volunteer Income Tax Association (VITA)
- Women in Law



VALOR students work together during their spring break pro bono trip to Asheville, NC. From left to right: Sara Cassidy '23, Kendall Williams '23, Will Meekins '23.

### **VALOR Helps Veterans Take First Step Toward Upgrade**

Over spring break, VALOR traveled to Asheville to volunteer with veterans at the Veterans Restoration Headquarters. Students conducted intake interviews and helped servicemembers fill out requests for military and healthcare records, which is the first step towards applying for a discharge upgrade and VA benefits. Supervising attorney Tod Leaven '10 will continue to evaluate these records and work on the cases.

"Most of the veterans VALOR served during this trip have struggled with drug and/or alcohol addiction, PTSD, and homelessness, as well as the stigma of having received a "bad paper" discharge. We are grateful that



they trusted us with their life stories and hope that our work will contribute to positive outcomes in their respective discharge upgrade process."

Sara Cassidy '23

### **Attorney Projects**

For multiple years, Tin, Fulton, Walker & Owen has provided several projects that have allowed students to learn about and assist in cases involving civil rights, criminal defense, juvenile justice, and constitutional law.



"One of our interns worked on a case involving a client who claimed he was wrongfully convicted in 1994. In that case, we were able to uncover 30-year-old fingerprints, taken from the scene of the crime, that were never turned over to the defense and did not match our client. They helped draft a Motion for Appropriate Relief in that case which is currently pending in Pitt County. We hope that that client will soon have his conviction overturned."

Abraham Rubert-Schewel
Attorney at Tin, Fulton, Walker & Owen



"One student has worked with me on a clemency petition to the Governor on behalf of an adult client. The process involves interviewing clients, communicating with family members, and drafting an advocacy letter. It is rewarding work no matter the outcome, and the clients are enormously appreciative. And of course, if we are successful, students have the rare opportunity to help secure someone's freedom while in law school."

Emily Gladden Attorney at Tin, Fulton, Walker & Owen

### Free Legal Answers Project

Carolina Law First-Generation Professionals members worked to answer legal questions submitted by members of the community. Thanks also to Nihad Mansour '16 and Sierra Lyda '19 who supervised remotely via Zoom!



Benjamin Axelman '24, Michael Hall '23



Kacie England '24, Gloria Kim '24, Brittany Akers '24, Meghan Fernandez '24, attorney supervisor Nicolas Eason '19.



"I'm committed to a career in public interest law and I'm especially interested in civil rights litigation aimed at challenging and dismantling systems of mass incarceration. Through Attorney Projects with the Center for Death Penalty Litigation, I got to support attorneys working on capital cases, even in my first semester of law school.

I went through the process of changing my own legal first name last year, and I know how confusing it can be. Volunteering with the name change clinic enabled me to gain training and experience with client counseling and draw on my own experiences to support queer and trans North Carolinians navigating a complex legal process."

Sunny Frothingham '24

# Winter and Spring Break Trips Stay Close to Home

### Winter Break

This Winter Break, we partnered with the NC Cancer Hospital's Patient and Family Resource Center to draft healthcare power of attorney documents for patients. Over three days, student volunteers drafted healthcare power of attorney documents and living wills. Students gained direct experience with client contact as well as formal legal drafting.

The highlight of this trip was having the opportunity to produce valuable legal documents for individuals in need.



Winter Break Pro Bono Trip participants Julie Leopold '22 and Amy Price '24 work on advanced directives for NC Cancer Hospital patients.

### **Spring Break**



Back row left to right: Sabrina Greer '22, Colin Shronts '24, Elvis Mugisha '24, Chris Little '24, Deonta Woods '24, Alex Goodin '24, Enzo Codella '23. Front row left to right: Julie Leopold '22, Kate Shurtleff '23, Cece Barreca '24.

During Spring Break, we partnered with the Marian Cheek Jackson Center and Legal Aid of North Carolina to assist residents of the historically Black Northside Neighborhood in Chapel Hill with wills. This community has been experiencing a loss of homeownership for several decades and an increasing pressure from the demand for student rentals.

Our trip sought to assist property owners to protect their interests upon their death by ensuring their property remains in the possession of their loved ones instead of external investors or other entities, acknowledging the historical difficulties of property owners of color in retaining and passing their wealth across generations. Student participants saw first-hand how legal services can help keep a house a home and preserve the Northside neighborhood.

# **Break Projects**

This year we continued to offer many pro bono opportunities fr students during our Winter and Spring Breaks. We had 164 students participate in Winter Break Pro Bono Projects and 24 students participate in Spring Break Pro Bono Projects. We continued to utilize an online Winter Break sign up process for both break projects.

While this process was created because of COVID, it also is more equitable than the previous process offering greater access for all UNC Law students. This year, we incorporated feedback forms for students to receive specific feedback from their supervising attorneys. We feel fortunate to have so many incredible attorney partners and students that participated in Break Projects!

Winter Break
BY THE NUMBERS

**82 Projects** 

164 Student Participants

169 Slots Filled

Spring Break
BY THE NUMBERS

25 Projects

24 Student Participants

26 Slots Filled

## **Pro Bono Program Returns to Cherokee**

For nearly a decade, the Pro Bono Program traveled to Western NC for a winter break trip. This year's trip was rescheduled to May, allowing us to enjoy some beautiful mountain weather. Our 7-person volunteer team included 3 2022 graduates, and we served over 20 clients in 2 days, completing wills, power of attorney documents, and expungement petitions. We held clinics in Cherokee and Murphy--the farthest west our program has ever gone. We appreciate partnering with Legal Aid of North Carolina-Smoky Mountain and the Eastern Band of Cherokee Indians Legal Assistance Office.



Jennifer Kuipers '24, Julius Brittman '23, Julie Leopold '22, Erica Day '22, Allison Constance '09, and Brooks Peterson '24 enjoy the views on the drive to Murphy.

"Working with Appalachian State's General Counsel over Winter Break was an incredible experience. It was rewarding giving back to my alma mater through a project that I was intimately involved with as a student. Being a part of UNC's pro bono project with we the opoprtunity to learn through practice and leave a legacy for the next generation of scholars."





### **Cancer Pro Bono Legal Project**

The Cancer Pro Bono Legal Project is a hallmark program that consists of a partnership between Legal Aid of North Carolina, the NC Cancer Hospital, and UNC School of Law's Pro Bono Program. Traditionally, the project is held at the NC Cancer Hospital monthly, allowing students the opportunity to work with attorneys to provide financial power of attorney, health care power of attorney, and advanced directive documents to cancer patients, survivors, and caregivers. Last year, due to the pandemic, the Pro Bono Board developed a fully remote version of this project that focused exclusively on financial power of attorney documents. The virtual format allowed students, attorneys, and patient clients to connect remotely. The flexibility of the virtual format allowed the project to reach more patients and provided opportunities for volunteer attorneys and students who otherwise would not be able to participate.



Students and attorneys work together during the spring Cancer Clinic. Taylor Culver '24, Allison Cronin '24, Erin Bennett '20 LANC Attorney, Mary Irvine '11 Volunteer Attorney.

This spring, we held the first inperson Cancer Clinic event since 2020. Attorneys from Legal Aid of North Carolina, supervising attorneys from the community (including several alumni), and students were able to provide financial power of attorney, health care power of attorney, and advanced directive documents for almost ten patients. We value the accessibility and flexibility virtual appointments provided to clients, students, and attorneys, but we were excited to work with clients in person again as well. We are excited to continue with both in-person and virtual opportunities to make even more of an impact for the cancer patients we assist.

1 In-Person S Clinic Vo

14 Student Volunteers 18 Clients Assisted

### **Expunction Project**

The Expunction Project is a partnership with Legal Aid of North Carolina (LANC). LANC assists clients across North Carolina by filing petitions to expunge certain eligible charges from clients' criminal records. When an expunction is successfully filed, the charges or convictions are removed from the criminal record and the state's records related to the charge are sealed or destroyed. When someone is charged with a crime, whether the charge gets dismissed or results in a conviction, there are collateral consequences for the person charged. Having this charge on their criminal record can impact a person's ability to engage in employment, housing, education, public benefits, and other key aspects of modern life. These expunctions help lighten the burden that having a criminal record puts on millions of people impacted by the criminal legal system.

In 2020, student volunteers assisted LANC in getting feedback from the expunction clients and informing clients on changes in expunction law in North Carolina. This year, students transitioned into assisting LANC clients by drafting the petitions for expunctions. Students assessed the criminal records of clients, decided which charges and convictions were eligible for expunctions, and prepared the relevant petitions. These petitions were reviewed by LANC staff, then clients filed their petitions and sought relief from the courts. This project had an incredible impact on North Carolinians seeking expungement relief.



Students and Alumni work together on expungement petitions at a special alumni board event on April 1st.

15 Clinics 28 Student Volunteers 122 Clients Assisted

456 Petitions



Over fall break, we hosted our expungement project in person at the law school. Top row from left: Alex Slawson '24, Anna Fraser '24, Enzo Codella '23, Daniel Stainkamp '24, Julie Leopold '22, Daniel Kale '19 (Legal Aid NC), Megan Laney '23, Allison Constance '09. Bottom row from left: Josh Cox (Legal Aid NC), Emily Zoffer '24, Jennifer Kuipers '24, Gabrielle James '22, Brianne Megahan '23, Maggie Callahan '23, Daniel Linares (Legal Aid NC).

"Volunteering with the Expunction Project was an incredibly rewarding experience. Helping clients expunge their criminal records in order to better their lives was an amazing experience. I was able to help clients in need while also improving my drafting skills. My participation this project has made me want to continue to do this type of probono work once I graduate."



Michah Rubin '22

## **Pro Publico Awards**

Each April, the Pro Bono Program celebrates the outstanding pro bono service of students, student groups, faculty, alumni, and community partners at the Pro Bono Publico Awards Reception. Below are this year's winners.

## 3L Student of the Year J Hallen '22



For their dedication to legal observing and supporting the right to protest. J has consistently worked and advocated for people in our community while sharing their passion with others.

## 2L Student of the Year Kate Giduz '23



For her continuing work on the Juvenile Parole Project, Teen Court, and Child Action. Kate also supports other students doing pro bono

## 1L Student of the Year Deonta Woods '24



For his consistent time and effort throughout his 1L year on a variety of projects but especially the Innocence Project. Deonta's classmates say he got right to work on pro bono and

inspires them to do the same.

## Sylvia K. Novinsky Award Jaazaniah Catterall '22



For his commitment to pro bono throughout his three years at UNC. Jaaz has been a tireless advocate not only of the clients for whom he works, but also of the program. He spreads his passion

for pro bono and welcomes all to serve as he does

## **Student Group Project of the Year Death Penalty Project**



For their work with the Center for Death Penalty Litigation (CDPL) on postconviction death penalty cases. The Death Penalty Project has completed over 300 hours of pro bono this year

helping attorneys evaluate cases and synthesizing all of the information required to litigate a death penalty case.

## **Faculty Member of the Year Holning Lau**



For his tireless work providing meaningful pro bono opportunities to students which better the lives of LGBTQIA+ people around the world. Projects included

medically-unnecessary surgeries for intersex youth and reviewing personnel policies for compliance and best practices.



researching

### Alumnus of the Year Stephen Robin '18. **Sherman & Howard**



For his work with the Young Lawvers Division Board at Colorado Lawyers Committee organizing Denver Legal Night , a free legal clinic that served clients who cannot afford legal

services. His dedication to Denver Legal Night helped serve over 1200 clients in the past year.

# **Partner Organization of the Year**





Led by Josh Cox, for providing an amazing year long project. The LANC Expunction Team have gone above and beyond in their project and provided excellent mentorship to student volunteers.

## 2021-2022 College Cup



College A students celebrate winning the college cup. Left to right: Halie Mariano, Sophie Vouvalis, Ashley Boutte, Weston Barker, Alex Slawson, Josh Almond.

### College A Wins College Cup

The 1L class competed in the College Cup to determine which College had the highest involvement in pro bono—measured by total hours and participation in pro bono. This year, College A completed 1,138 pro bono hours with 76.92 percent participation within the College. That totals an average of 21.88 hours of pro bono per student! Congratulations to College A, and thank you for your commitment to pro bono service throughout the year!





# **Student Recognition**

## Class of 2022

### 1000+

Megan Kahane

### 500+

Jaaz Catterall

I Hallen Julie Leopold Nicole Litvan Alec Suttle

### 200+

Sabrina Greer Courtney Goldston Elise Jamison

### 100+

Shauna Baker-Karl Bruce Ballard Sarah Benecky Iacob Brooks Hannah Caison Rowan Conybeare Meredith Doswell Veronica Edmonds Trev Ellis Jacob Farrell Gabrielle James Laura Johnson Avery Locklear Hanna Long Mitchell Lucas Adhitya Mahesh William Metcalf Erica Miller Olivia Perez LaBore Caroline Randive Carson Sanders Allison Shaughnessy Gabby Supak Sasha Telyukov

Hahn "Jake" Choi Marissa Flack Lucy Green Madeline Guise Le Ho Dakota Lipscombe Hannah Simmons Anna Turner Montana Vaughn

### 50+

Tracy Ayotte Bonnie Ballard George "Dylan" Boan Lauren Boone Elizabeth Bryan Nicholas Carter Carolina Christman Courtney Cohen Madeline Colvin Anna Comer Keenan Conder Jericho Cook Andrew Coyle Erica Day Brian Fleming Imani Johnson Samantha LeJune Stephanie Long Aaron "Roger" Love Matthew Marlowe Dreshawn McFadden Krista Peace Kevin Poursaied Rebecka Reibe William "Bill" Rubin Colin Russell Adreanna Sellers Christie Shaw Adam Skrzecz Haley Tanner Parker Williams

### Class of 2023

### 400+

Hannah Marion

### 200+

Sara Cassidy Enzo Codella Sawyer Davis Kate Giduz Sarah Henning Brianne Megahan Richard-Vinh Nguyen-Le Wynter Wolff

Carly Amatuzzo Marcus Brown Margaret Callahan Olivia Clark Courtney Coppage Fiona Craig Hannah Daigle Katherine DeAngelis Gabriele Delgado Alexa Frades Nina Ganti Margaret Hay Ashley Haynes Jared Mark Elijah Moffe Taylor Osborne Sara Ramseur Isabel Rose Jacob Schindler Tyler Ventura Meagan Watson

Michael Wilson

Avery Aulds Fatmeh Basma Anna-Jamieson Beck Julius Brittman Sarah Cheeley Sierra Deol Chyanne Flores Adam Gillette Madison Gladwell Audra Goldstein John Gray . James Húey Sara Margolis Mercedes Miles Morgan Mumford Juan Carlos Pacheco Kate Shurtleff Svdnev Welch Samantha White Meredith Yates

Rachel Allore Leslie Baledge Ellenor Brown Mason Butner Dorothy Chen Pearson Cost Jason Davidson Alessandra Deiorio Dylan Jones David Katahira Michael Kenney Alexandra Lawson Will Meekins Iacob Perrone Elizabeth Poole Allison Claire Staley Quigley Huimeng Ren Grayon Sotir Kendall Williams Mary Wilson Reaghan Wooster

# "Pro bono has been my favorite part of law school. I've worked on over 20 projects in various practice areas. I've been able to remember where I started out while assisting student advocates at Orange County Teen Court. I volunteered with a similar program in high school and am grateful that I have been able to once again volunteer with such an important program.

I've become a Guardian ad Litem, which I had considered doing for years. As a court-appointed advocate for a child in the care of DSS, I've gained



the unique perspective of advocating for a child as a witness. That experience allows me to understand and relate to clients and witnesses in a way I never

January passionate doubt domestic and sexual violence work. Infought several pro bono projects, including the Juvenile Parole Project and the Jail Calls Project, I've begun to understand the aftermath of those cases on multiple parties. Through pro bono work, I have discovered how to utilize my passion and skills to help those who need it most."

### Megan Kahane '22

First Ever Recipient of the 1000 Hour Award

## Class of 2024

### 150+

Deonta Woods

Allison Cronin Sunny Frothingham Alex Goodin

**75+** Katherine Bock Taylor Culver Kate Kozain Allison Kraynek Halie Mariano Dvimidha Muniappan Morgan Schriner Emily Zoffer

Hayfa Ayoubi Cecilia Barreca Kayley Carpenter Jess Errico Jodie Jackson Melanie Kennedy Amy Price Katherine Robinson McGee Roman Alexandra Spratley Elisa Sturkie

# Agency,Firm & **Organizational Partners**

ACLU Capital Punishment Project Advancement Project Alleman Law Firm American Civil Liberties Union of Mississippi Appalachian State University

Atlanta Legal Aid Society Bessemer City

Brooks Pierce

Carolina Student Legal Services, Inc.

Cary Town Attorney's Office

Case Law Ltd.

Center for Death Penalty Litigation Center for Responsible Lending

Charlotte Center for Legal Advocacy

Charns Law Office

Children's Advocacy Centers of NC Children's Law Center of Central NC

City of Durham

Compass Center for Women and Families

Council for Children's Rights

Cranfill Sumner LLP

Dare County Public Defenders Office

Dean Jack Boger

Death Penalty Information Center

DeKalb County District Attorney's Office

Delaware-New Jersey National Lawyers Guild

Deputy Staff Judge Advocate

Disability Rights NC

Eastern Band of Cherokee Indians Legal

Assistance Office

Elliot Morgan Parsonage, PLLC

Emancipate NC

Environmental Justice Initiative

Federal District Court, Middle District of NC

Federal Public Defender, Eastern District of NC Forrest Firm

Forward Justice

Foundation for Individual Rights in Education

Future of Privacy Forum

Gaston County Public Defender

Georgia Capital Defender's Office

Grimes Teich Anderson LLP

Guardian Ad Litem

Guardian Ad Litem District 15B

Guilford County Public Defender's Office

Health in Justice Action Lab at Northeastern

University School of Law

Hometown Strong - NC Hotline for Refugees and Migrants

Judge Joe L. Webster

Judge Louis Trosch

Judicial District 22A

Juvenile Parole Project

Kilpatrick Townsend

King Law Offices

Land Loss Prevention Project

Law Office of Christopher J. Heaney

Law Office of Javá O. Warren

Law Office of Jeffrey L. Austin

Law Office of Lisa Bakale-Wise

Lawyer's Committee for Civil Rights Under Law Legal Aid of NC- Battered Immigrant Project Legal Aid of NC- Central Intake Unit Legal Aid of NC- Disaster Relief Legal Aid of NC- Durham

Legal Aid of NC- Durham
Legal Aid of NC- Fair Housing Project
Legal Aid of NC- Medical Legal Partnership
Legal Aid of NC- Pittsboro
Legal Aid of NC- Raleigh
Legal Aid of NC- Senior Law Project
Legal Aid of NC- Smoky Mountain
Legal Aid of NC- Wilson
Legal Aid Society of Cleveland
Legal Aid Society of the District of Columbia
Lively Law Firm
Mark Montromery, Attorney

Mark Montgomery, Attorney McGuireWoods

Mecklenburg County District Attorney's Office Mecklenburg County Public Defender's Office Mecklenburg County Superior Court Moore & Van Allen, PLLC

Movement Law Lab
National Association of Consumer Bankruptcy

Attorneys National Health Law Program

National Police Accountability Project
National Veterans Legal Services Program
NC Bar Association - Young Lawyers Division

NC Bar Foundation

NC Cancer Hospital
NC Center on Actual Innocence
NC Coalition Against Domestic Violence
NC Department of Justice

NC Department of Justice - Environmental Division NC Department of Public Safety, Office of General

Counsel

NC Department of the Secretary of State NC Division of Aging and Adult Services NC Domestic Violence Commission

NC Equal Access to Justice Commission

NC Governor's Office, General Counsel

NC Innocence Inquiry Commission

NC Justice Center NC Museum of Art

NC National Guard Legal Assistance NC Office of Indigent Defense Services - Forensic Resource Counsel

NC Office of the Capital Defender NC Prisoner Legal Services, Inc. NC Pro Bono Resource Center NC State Bureau of Investigation

NC Supreme Court
NCCU School of Law Name Change Clinic
New York Legal Assistance Group
Northeastern University School of Law Health in

Justice Action Lab
Notre Dame - Athletics Department
Office of Defense Services - Delaware
Office of the Solicitor, US Department of Labor
Orange County Clerk of Superior Court
Orange County Criminal Justice Resource Office
Orange County Public Defender's Office
Orange County Sheriff's Office

Orange County Sheriff's Office Pisgah Legal Services

Pitt County District Attorney's Office Professor Andy Hessick Professor Deborah Gerhardt Professor Donald Hornstein

Professor Holning Lau Professor Kaci Bishop

Professor Maria Savasta-Kennedy Professor Ruth Ann McKinney Promise of Justice Initiative Scharff Law Firm

Senter Stephenson Johnson

Sidley Austin LLP
Smith Anderson Blount Dorsett Mitchell &
Jernigan LLP

Southern Environmental Law Center Student Press Law Center

Student Press Law Center
Sustainable Economies Law Center
The Brewington Law Firm, PLLC
The Community Legal Project
The Law Office of Derrick J. Hensley, PLLC
The Law Office of Sarah Holladay
The Marian Cheek Jackson Center for Saving and

Making History
Thurgood Marshall State Law Library
Tin Fulton Walker & Owen, PLLC
Triage Cancer

Triage Cancer
Truth or Err Education Blockchain Protocol
U.S. Attorney's Office - Maryland
U.S. Attorney's Office- Baltimore
U.S. Attorney's Office- Eastern District NC
U.S. Attorney's Office- N.D. Illinois
U.S. Committee for Refugees and Immigrants
U.S. Department of Justice - Civil Rights Division
U.S. Department of Treasury
U.S. District Court- Western District NC
U.S. Navy JAG Corps
UNC Athletics Department
UNC Child Action
UNC Domestic & Sexual Violence Clinic

UNC Domestic & Sexual Violence Clinic

UNC Greensboro

UNC Law Clinical Programs - Community Development

UNC Law Clinical Programs - Domestic Violence

UNC Law Clinical Programs - Immigration Clinic UNC Law Clinical Programs - Intellectual Property

Clinic

Clinic
UNC Law Clinical Programs - Startup NC
UNC Law Clinical Programs - Youth Justice
UNC Law Clinical Programs- Critical Race
Lawyering Civil Rights Clinic
UNC Law Institute for Innovation
UNC National Lawyers Guild
UNC School of Government

UNC SOGIESC Human Rights Initiative UNC Teen Court Assistance Program

UNC Volunteer Income Tax Assistance

UNC-Charlotte

United States Coast Guard United States Coast Guard
United States Court of Appeals for the 4th Circuit
Wake County District Court

Wake County Public Defender's Office William Massengale Williams Mullen

Wilson Center for Science and Justice at Duke Law Winston & Strawn LLP Zola, Wegman, and Associates

# **Note from Director**



The 2021–22 school year was a time of growth and resetting for the Pro Bono of growth and resetting for the Pro Bono
Program. New projects and partnerships like
the Eviction project with Disability Rights
NC and the Expungement project created
opportunities for students to help individuals
live sustainable, independent lives.
For the second year in a row, our break
trips program did not leave Orange County,
yet students found meaningful opportunities

yet students found meaningful opportunities to serve clients as we traveled across campus to UNC Hospitals and across town to the Marion Cheek Jackson Center.

At the same time, our long-time partnerships remain continuous and steady, and for that, we are truly grateful. One of those continuous partnerships is with

our friends in Cherokee and Western North Carolina, and although it took until after

returned for two pro bono clinics in May.

The outstanding dedication of Carolina
Law students to do pro bono work and to meet unmet legal needs withstands the tests of time, and each year, our students show passion, commitment, and a deep understanding of their obligation to use their skills to help others.

While the need for legal services is

overwhelming in our community and our world, our hearts are a little lighter knowing that Carolina Law students will be there to help in the present and as they incorporate pro bono work in their practice for years to come.

of Pro Bono Initiatives



**Allison Constance '09** 



## 2021-2022 Student Pro Bono Board

Top row from left: Allison Constance '09, Hannah Marion '23, Enzo Codella '22, Sawyer Davis '23, Sabrina Greer '22, Brianne Megahan '23, Jaaz Catterall '22. Bottom row from left: Sarah Henning '23, Julie Leopold '22, Courtney Goldston '22, Maggie Callahan '23, Halie Mariano '24, Taylor Osborne '23.

## A Note from the Pro Bono Alumni Board

It has been an honor to serve as Chair of the Pro Bono Alumni Board over the past year. Even in the midst of the various challenges created by the pandemic, the Pro Bono Alumni Board's commitment to providing legal services for the most vulnerable communities has never wavered.

The Pro Bono Alumni Board has worked diligently this year to support the next generation of lawyers by mentoring student pro bono board members, facilitating pro bono experiences for students, and supervising pro bono projects like the spring break trip to Asheville to assist veterans with VA benefits.

The Alumni Board has continued to foster and promote a culture of diversity, equity, and inclusion by educating its members on ways to create an affirming environment for historically marginalized groups. Additionally, the Alumni Board has launched efforts to raise money for the Pro Bono Endowment Fund and to recognize UNC Law alumni for their pro bono work.

As we return to a new normal, the Pro Bono Alumni Board will adapt as necessary to continue supporting law students' development while also supporting projects and organizations that bridge the gap and provide needed legal services to vulnerable and marginalized communities.



Erika Jones '12 Chair, Pro Bono Alumni Board



Van Hecke-Wettach Hall | 160 Ridge Rd | CB 3380 | Chapel Hill, NC 27599 law.unc.edu/probono | facebook.com/UNCProBono

### **Student Board**

Student Director: Julie Leopold '22

**3L Class Coordinator:** Courtney Goldston '22

2L Class Coordinator: Taylor Osborne '23

1L Class Coordinator: Halie Mariano '24

**Alumni Outreach Coordinator:** Sabrina Greer '22 **Attorney Projects Coordinator:** Sawyer Davis '23

Public Relations Coordinator: Sarah Henning '23

**Special Projects Coordinators:** Brianne Megahan '23 & Maggie Callahan '23

**Special Trips Coordinators:**Gabrielle James '22 & Enzo Codella '23

Student Groups Coordinator: Jaaz Catterall '22

Winter & Spring Break Projects Coodinator:

### Staff

**Director of Pro Bono Initiatives:** Allison Constance '09

Assistant Dean for Student Development John Kasprzak '05

### **Alumni Board**

Chair: Erika Jones '12, NC Department of Justice

Vice Chair: Ashley McAlarney '14, UNC Charlotte Student Legal Services

Katherine Asaro '12, North Carolina Legal Education Assistance Foundation (NC LEAF)

Megan Bishop '18, National Association of Pro Bono Professionals

Rachel Blunk '11, Forrest Firm, PC

David Boaz '12, General Counsel at Replacements, Ltd.

Amanda Colley '15, McGuireWoods LLP

Yolanda Fair '13, Office of the Juvenile Defender

Beth Froehling '92, UNC Chapel Hill

Lashieka Hardin '19, Charlotte Center for Legal Advocacy

S.J. Hightower '14, Legal Aid of North Carolina

Joseph Kim '16, Stern, Kessler, Goldstein & Fox P.L.L.C.

Nihad Mansour '16, Pro Bono Institute

Ramona McGee '14, Southern Environmental Law Center

Jamie Rudd '16, Lewis Brisbois Bisgaard & Smith LLP

Alex Rutgers '20, Legal Aid of North Carolina, Disaster Relief

Jared Smith '16, NC Equal Access to Justice Commission