



NORTH CAROLINA
IOLTA



OPENING DOORS

SUPPORTING ACCESS TO JUSTICE FOR ALL

2018 Annual Report

LETTER FROM IOLTA LEADERSHIP



Elizabeth L. Quick



Mary L. Irvine

With your support,
we can continue
to open doors and
close the justice
gap, so that more
North Carolinians
have access to
legal assistance.

Dear Friends of IOLTA,

According to the 2017 Justice Gap report released by the Legal Services Corporation, nationally, 71% of low-income families experience at least one civil legal problem each year. 86% of these civil legal problems received inadequate or no legal assistance. When individuals cannot address their problems by asserting their legal rights, a door is closed — to opportunity and to justice.

Since the first grants were made in 1984, NC IOLTA has opened doors by providing more than \$93 million to nonprofit providers of civil legal aid and programs that further the administration of justice. Grantees of NC IOLTA find safety for families experiencing domestic violence, stabilize homeowners faced with the threat of foreclosure, give a voice to children caught up in contentious custody disputes, and address the needs of disaster victims working to rebuild their lives. Significant additional resources are essential to ensure the availability of civil legal aid to all low-income individuals and communities in need.

In the past, funds in lawyers' trust accounts — either nominal or held for just a short time — earned no interest. Since the establishment of NC IOLTA by the State Bar and Supreme Court in 1983, interest income from lawyers' general, pooled trust accounts has been sent to IOLTA by the banks that hold the accounts to fund programs for the public's benefit. Currently, more than 9,200 IOLTA accounts are open at 79 financial institutions in North Carolina.

With your support, NC IOLTA can continue to open doors and close the justice gap, so that more North Carolinians have access to the legal assistance they need. As we look to 2019, we remain focused on increasing and faithfully stewarding available resources to provide critical civil legal aid to low-income North Carolinians and address other needs related to the fair and effective administration of justice in our state.

Thank you for your partnership as we do this work together.

Elizabeth L. Quick
Chair, Board of Trustees

Mary L. Irvine
Executive Director

GIVING OVERVIEW

In 2018, NC IOLTA distributed \$1,669,990 in grants through the regular IOLTA grant cycle.

\$1,292,875 to fund civil legal aid for low-income individuals

\$279,930 to volunteer lawyer programs that engage private attorneys to provide pro bono legal services

\$97,185 to advance administration of justice efforts in North Carolina



Other Funding Cycles

In October, NC IOLTA awarded two off-cycle grants to support legal assistance for hurricane victims totaling \$226,500. NC IOLTA also continued to distribute funds this year which were received in 2015 and 2016 as part of a settlement between Bank of America and the Department of Justice. In 2018, \$1,676,256 was distributed for community economic redevelopment and \$1,251,500 for foreclosure prevention.

Administration of State Funding

In addition to grants awarded in 2018, NC IOLTA continues to administer state funding for legal services on behalf of the State Bar as authorized by the NC General Assembly. In 2018, IOLTA administered \$1,054,953 for domestic violence legal services and \$100,000 for legal services for veterans.

2018 FAST FACTS

Grantee Impact

50,930 Clients served

101,414 Household members impacted

9,211 Seniors served

2,285 Children served

2,346 Veterans served



Pro Bono Engagement

2,439 Pro bono attorneys volunteered with grantee organizations

20,788 Total pro bono attorney hours recorded by grantee volunteers

Bank Highlights

79 Eligible banks

9,251 IOLTA accounts

721 Bank remittance reports processed

16 Bank compliance reviews conducted

2018 GRANTEES

Charlotte Center for Legal Advocacy

- **\$68,290** to support civil legal aid in Mecklenburg and surrounding counties
- **\$25,460** to support pro bono legal services in Mecklenburg County
- **\$108,000** to provide foreclosure prevention legal assistance
- **\$184,143** for community redevelopment legal assistance

Children's Law Center of Central North Carolina

- **\$17,850** to support child advocacy in high-conflict custody disputes in Guilford and Forsyth Counties

Council for Children's Rights

- **\$29,700** to support child advocacy in high-conflict custody disputes in Mecklenburg County

Disability Rights North Carolina

- **\$37,130** to support the Special Education Juvenile Justice Project to address educational issues for at-risk juveniles with disabilities in North Carolina schools

Financial Protection Law Center

- **\$126,000** to provide foreclosure prevention legal assistance
- **\$200,000** for community redevelopment legal assistance

Land Loss Prevention Project

- **\$15,300** to preserve land rights for minority and indigent individuals and address issues of environmental concern in North Carolina
- **\$111,000** to provide foreclosure prevention legal assistance
- **\$200,000** for community redevelopment legal assistance

Legal Aid of North Carolina

- **\$712,110** to support statewide civil legal aid
- **\$211,630** to support pro bono legal services across the state

- **\$664,000** to provide foreclosure prevention legal assistance
- **\$235,000** for community redevelopment legal assistance

Mediation Network of North Carolina

- **\$34,475** to support mediation centers and coordination of efforts across the state

North Carolina Center on Actual Innocence

- **\$10,200** to support advocacy of credible innocence claims across the state

North Carolina Equal Access to Justice Foundation

- **\$161,100** to provide disaster legal services to victims of Hurricanes Florence and Michael in partnership with Legal Aid of North Carolina

North Carolina Legal Education Assistance Foundation

- **\$52,510** to assist public interest attorneys across the state with law school loan repayment

North Carolina Justice Center

- **\$341,700** to support statewide impact litigation efforts and legal services to immigrants
- **\$65,500** to provide disaster legal services to victims of Hurricanes Florence and Michael in partnership with Financial Protection Law Center
- **\$142,550** to provide foreclosure prevention legal assistance
- **\$500,000** for community redevelopment legal assistance

North Carolina Prisoner Legal Services

- **\$29,170** to protect the rights of jail inmates to safe and humane conditions

Pisgah Legal Services

- **\$41,625** to support civil legal aid in Western NC
- **\$42,840** to support pro bono legal services in Western NC
- **\$100,000** to provide foreclosure prevention legal assistance
- **\$357,113** for community redevelopment legal assistance

GRANTEE SPOTLIGHT

Disability Rights North Carolina: Special Education Juvenile Justice Project

Under federal law, children with disabilities are guaranteed the right to an education. Yet sometimes these children are excluded from their classrooms, maybe because they have displayed challenging behaviors or are unable to effectively participate in the classroom without tailored services and supports.

One of NC IOLTA's grantees, Disability Rights North Carolina, advocates for children with disabilities, including those who are excluded from school. Their advocacy efforts include attending school meetings, educating parents and teachers, and addressing individual and systemic concerns with school leadership, school systems, and the N.C. Department of Public Instruction.

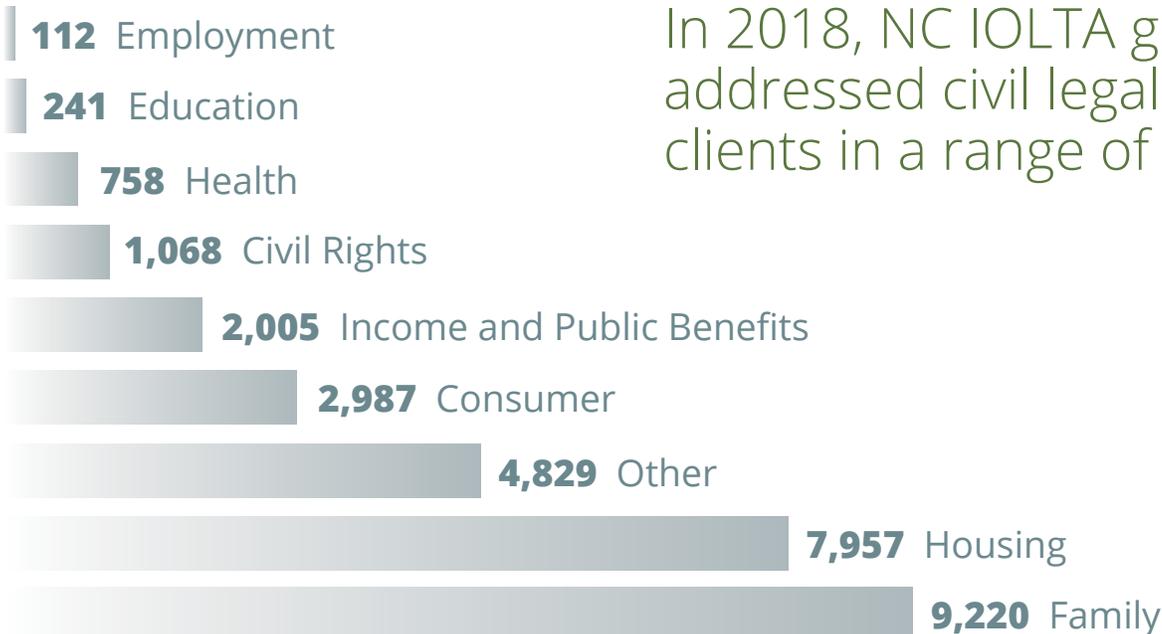
Last year, the Education Team provided direct legal representation to 40 children and their families and individualized self-advocacy assistance to an additional 16 families. Legal information and referrals were provided to another 125 families. Ultimately, the goal of Disability Rights' Special Education Juvenile Justice Project is to reduce suspensions, court referrals, and other exclusions from school, keeping kids in the classroom where they have the opportunity to learn and grow alongside their peers.



The Education Team

(left to right) Back row: Debbie Thome, Advocate; Virginia Fogg, Supervising Attorney; Lucy Hatchell, Attorney; Nicholas Lett, Paralegal

Front Row: Reighlah Collins, Attorney; Carolina Farmer, Intake Specialist



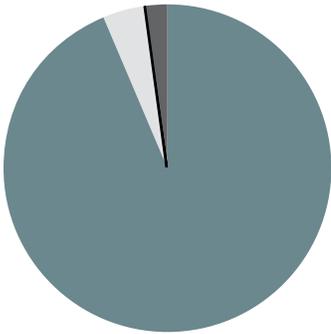
In 2018, NC IOLTA grantees addressed civil legal issues for clients in a range of areas.

Total cases closed: 29,177

2018 FINANCIAL INFORMATION

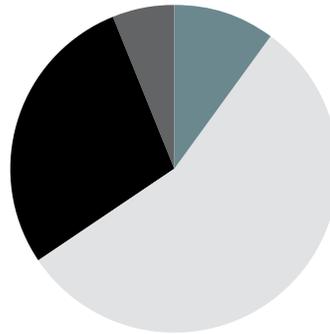
The financial information provided is a condensed version of NC IOLTA's audited financials for the year ending December 31, 2018. Contact the IOLTA office for additional financial information.

Income



IOLTA Accounts	\$3,081,668
Investment Income	\$141,015
Cy Pres	\$2,400
Other	\$65,173
Total Income:	\$3,290,256

Expenses



2018 Administrative Expenses	\$356,118
2019 IOLTA Grants	\$1,934,500
2019 Foreclosure Prevention Grants	\$998,000
2018-19 Disaster Relief Grants	\$226,600
Total Expenses:	\$3,515,218

PRIME PARTNER BANKS

NC IOLTA recognizes those financial institutions that go above and beyond the IOLTA eligibility requirements in their commitment to improving access to justice in their communities. Prime Partners are banks that exceed minimal compliance with the eligibility requirements of Rule .1317 to support the NC IOLTA program in its mission to ensure that low-income North Carolinians have access to critically needed civil legal aid.

Thank you to our Prime Partner Banks for your continued support:

- Albemarle Bank & Trust
- Aquesta Bank
- Bank of Oak Ridge
- Carolina State Bank
- Coastal Bank & Trust
- Pinnacle Financial Partners
- Premier Federal Credit Union
- Providence Bank
- Roxboro Savings Bank
- Union Bank
- Congressional Bank (settlement agent accounts only)



OUR IMPACT

2018 IOLTA income totaling _____
\$3.2 million

Funded _____
15 grants

To provide legal services to more than
50,000 people

Throughout all _____
100 NC counties



YOUR SUPPORT OPENS DOORS to access to justice for vulnerable people across the state.

NC IOLTA BOARD OF TRUSTEES

- Elizabeth L. Quick, Chair
- Kerry A. Friedman, Vice-Chair
- Anita R. Brown-Graham
- Sidney S. Eagles Jr.
- Jane V. Harper
- Steven D. Michael
- Maria Missé
- Joseph A. Smith Jr.*
- Robert A. Wicker
- Edward C. Winslow III

*Term ended August 2018.



NC IOLTA STAFF

- Mary L. Irvine, Executive Director
- Shannon E. C. Azzi, Account Data Assistant
- Bethany G. Farrelly, Program Assistant
- Claire U. Mills, Finance Director & Operations Manager





NORTH CAROLINA
IOLTA

CONTACT US

North Carolina Interest on Lawyers' Trust Accounts (NC IOLTA)
A program of the North Carolina State Bar

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Grantees of NC IOLTA provided the photos used throughout this annual report.
Images feature grantee staff and the clients they serve.