

RESOLUTION TO SUPPORT LEGAL AID FUNDING

WHEREAS, Legal Aid of North Carolina provides free, civil legal representation to eligible poor people in all 100 counties of North Carolina, both ensuring access to justice and contributing to the stability of society; and

WHEREAS, client eligibility guidelines are based on maximum family incomes of 125% of the Federal Poverty Guidelines and include approximately 1.7 million people in North Carolina; and

WHEREAS, Legal Aid allows clients to be represented by skilled civil services attorneys, rather than the clients attempting to represent themselves, which usually takes up more court time; and

WHEREAS, during the 2001 Session the General Assembly passed legislation that dedicates a portion of court costs to provide access to civil justice through Legal Aid; and

WHEREAS, as a result of that legislation, upon the filing of certain cases in the General Court of Justice, the State Treasurer is required to remit to the North Carolina State Bar \$1.05 of each fee collected for the provision of legal services; and

WHEREAS, the North Carolina State Bar is authorized to allocate these funds directly to each of the five geographically-based field programs based upon the eligible client population in each area program; and

WHEREAS, the North Carolina Bar Association believes that this dedicated source of revenue from existing court costs is the best answer for ensuring stability for legal services funding.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the North Carolina Bar Association will support legislation that will increase the dollar amount of each court filing that is dedicated to funding to Legal Aid.

Adopted this 22nd day of January, 2009
by the Board of Governors of the North Carolina Bar Association



Charles L. Becton
President, North Carolina Bar Association