The North Carolina Bar Association Foundation’s Lawyers Helping Lawyers Fund is intended to provide support for North Carolina lawyers who have fallen on hard times. These are generally one-time grants to help lawyers through unforeseen difficult circumstances.

Generally, the following criteria apply in order to qualify for support:

- Applicants must have or have had a meaningful law practice in North Carolina. A meaningful practice means the applicant:
  - Was licensed by the North Carolina State Bar during their years of practice AND
  - Represented North Carolina clients on a regular basis OR
  - Worked for the federal government and were not required to be licensed by the North Carolina State Bar and had a meaningful practice in North Carolina
- Applicants must hold a North Carolina State Bar license if they are practicing law in North Carolina
- There is a preference for applicants who live in North Carolina during the time they apply for and receive support

Applicant / Applicant Family Need

- Applicants must have sufficient need to justify support. Need may include:
  - Serious, diagnosed physical, mental or emotional health issues, whether temporary or permanent, which reduce or eliminate the ability of the applicant to support him/herself or to support his/her family
  - NOTE – It is not a requirement that applicants be destitute or near-destitute before they are eligible. However, in recognition of the charitable nature of our mission the lifestyle of the applicant will be considered during a determination of eligibility or level of support
  - Applicants may be eligible for support when providing for care to spouses, dependent children dependent parents with severe physical, mental or emotional health issues

Additional Considerations

Attorneys who have had their law license involuntarily suspended or revoked by the North Carolina State Bar will generally not be considered. Sometimes funding may be conditioned on participation by the applicant in the Lawyers Assistance Program or some other counseling or assistance program.