

NCBA ANNUAL MEETING

FUTURE OF LAW



**PRESIDENT'S
LUNCHEON**

**JUNE 22, 2018
WILMINGTON**



NORTH CAROLINA
BAR ASSOCIATION
seeking liberty + justice

President's Luncheon

Friday, June 22, 2018
12:30–2:00 p.m.

Welcome Remarks

Caryn Coppedge McNeill, NCBA/F President

Invocation

Jacqueline D. Grant, NCBA/F President-Elect

Lunch Served

Recognition of Outgoing Officers, Board Members,
and Section/Division/Committee Chairs

Keynote Address

Iris Sunshine, Executive Director, Children's Law Center

Introduction of the 2018 Pro Bono Awards

Caryn Coppedge McNeill, NCBA/F President

Deborah Greenblatt Outstanding Legal Services Attorney Award

Susan "Susy" Pollitt

Chief Justice Award

Randolph County Bar Association

Accepting the award: Brooke Schmidly

Law Student Group Pro Bono Service Award

Wake Forest Law School, LGBTQ+ Project

Accepting the award: Corrie Hopkins and Brad Fleming

Luncheon Adjourns

Retiring Officers, Board Members and Chairs

Immediate Past President

Kearns Davis

Vice Presidents

Judge Richard A. Elmore

Judge Richard L. Doughton

Judge Robert B. Rader

Richard E. Myers II

Erna A.P. Womble

Board Members

Peter S. Brunstetter

Heather W. Culp

Michael D. Hearn

Catherine E. Lee

Kimberly N. Overton

Jan E. Pritchett

David N. Woods

Division Chairs

Paralegal Division | Deborah Jean Rieser Harris

Senior Lawyers Division | E. D. Gaskins Jr.

Young Lawyers Division | Jason L. Walters

Section Chairs

Administrative Law | Janet B. Thoren

Antitrust & Complex Business Disputes Law | Charles Bailey King

Appellate Practice | Matthew Nis Leerberg

Bankruptcy | Kristin Decker Ogburn

Business Law | Stephen Fredericks Later

Constitutional Rights & Responsibilities | Michele Luecking-Sunman

Construction Law | B. David Carson

Corporate Counsel | Bradley Allen Roehrenbeck

Criminal Justice | Bernard Michael Desrosiers

Dispute Resolution | LeAnn Nease Brown

Education Law | John David Leidy

Elder & Special Needs Law | Casey Nichole Ferri

Environmental, Energy & Natural Resources Law | Stanford Davis Baird

Estate Planning & Fiduciary Law | Linda Funke Johnson

Family Law | David Eric Holm

Government & Public Sector | Nicolette Fulton

Section Chairs, continued

Health Law | Jennifer C. Hutchens

Insurance Law | James West Bryan

Intellectual Property Law | David Miller Sigmon

International Law & Practice | Eric Harbrook Cottrell

Juvenile Justice & Children's Rights | LaToya Blackmon Powell

Labor & Employment Law | M. Ann Anderson

Law Practice Management & Technology | Pegeen Turner

Litigation | C. Amanda Martin

Military & Veterans Law | Matthew Ian Wilcut

Real Property | Frankie Taylor Jones

Solo, Small Firm & General Practice | R. Matthew Van Sickle

Sports & Entertainment Law | Cary Baxter Davis

Tax | Keith A. Wood

Workers' Compensation | Julia Sullivan Hooten

Zoning, Planning & Land Use | Thomas C. Morphis

Committee Chairs

4ALL Service Day | Angie Dorsey

Administration of Justice | Christopher Lam

Awards and Recognitions | Jacqueline D. (Jackie) Grant

Bench Bar Liaison | Rachel Decker

CLE | Roberta King Latham

Development | Stokely Gray (Stoke) Caldwell Jr.

Free Legal Answers Task Force | S. Wilson (Wil) Quick

Free Legal Answers Task Force | Katherine Wilkerson

Future of Law | Kevin P. Lee

Haiti | David Garrett

Judicial Independence | Jonathan P. Heyl

Law School Liaison | J. Rich Leonard

Lawyer Effectiveness & Quality of Life | Travis Martin

Local Bar Outreach | Pamela Suzanne Duffy

Local Bar Outreach | William A. Oden III

Membership Value Task Force | Patti W. Ramseur

Middle School Mock Trial | Douglas McClanahan

NC LEAP | Laura Davenport

Past Presidents' Council | Kearns Davis

Planned Giving | Robin Barefoot

Privacy & Data Security | Elizabeth Spainhour

Pro Bono Activities | Alexander Elkan

Transitioning Lawyers Commission | Julie Beavers

Women in the Profession | Jacquelyn Terry (Jackie) Hughes

About Keynote Speaker Iris Sunshine



Iris Sunshine is the Executive Director of the Children's Law Center of Central North Carolina, which provides children with quality legal advocacy focused on domestic violence issues, high-conflict custody cases and the rights of children in public education. The Children's Law Center's experienced staff and pro bono attorneys speak up for children in order to enable judges to structure decisions that are in the children's best interests and will help families heal.

Ms. Sunshine received her B.S. from Cornell University and earned her J.D. from Wake Forest University School of Law. She began her legal career as an Assistant District Attorney for the 21st Prosecutorial District where she tried numerous felony cases and focused on the protection of children. Ms. Sunshine also is the Director of the Wake Forest University School of Law Child Advocacy Clinic.

About the Pro Bono Service Awards

[The Deborah Greenblatt Outstanding Legal Services Attorney Award](#), originally established in 1991 as the Outstanding Legal Services Attorney Award, is presented to an attorney who provides exemplary legal service through an agency or other nonprofit entity that serves low-income citizens. This award was renamed in 2005 in memory of Deborah Greenblatt, an outstanding lifelong legal services attorney.

[The Chief Justice Award](#) recognizes bar associations whose members make extraordinary contributions in support of pro bono legal services. This award was established in 1989.

[The Law Student Group Pro Bono Project Award](#) is presented to a law student group that provides legal service beneficial to low-income citizens. This award was established in 2002.

Deborah Greenblatt Outstanding Legal Services Attorney Award



SUSAN "SUSY" POLLITT

Susan "Susy" Pollitt has devoted her entire legal career to working on behalf of marginalized populations. Her legal and advocacy work over the past 30+ years has benefited thousands of prisoners, people with disabilities, and people living in poverty.

She began her career in 1984 at the Mecklenburg County Public Defender's Office representing clients in criminal court, involuntary commitment proceedings, and appeals. From there, she advocated for workers' rights at the North Carolina Occupational Safety and Health Project. In 1989, she joined NC Prisoner Legal Services (NCPLS) and remained there for 16 years. At NCPLS, she developed the expertise that makes her one of our state's leading advocates for breaking down the connections between poverty, disabilities, and incarceration.

In 2005, she focused her legal work on the rights of people with mental illness when she joined Carolina Legal Assistance (CLA), whose founder and executive director was revered disability rights advocate Deborah Greenblatt, for whom this award is named. Two years later, CLA became the protection and advocacy agency for North Carolina and was renamed Disability Rights North Carolina.

At Disability Rights NC, she has specialized in defending the rights of people with disabilities who are incarcerated. Her tireless advocacy has resulted in increased public awareness of the devastating psychological effects of long-term solitary confinement, the treatment of juvenile offenders with mental health disorders and intellectual disabilities, and incidents of suicide in prisons and jails. She currently devotes the majority of her practice to addressing the needs of prisoners with all types of disabilities and is well known both within the state and around the country as an expert and a mentor in this area of law and practice.

Chief Justice Award



RANDOLPH COUNTY BAR ASSOCIATION

In 2015, Legal Aid of North Carolina (LANC) faced substantial funding cuts that resulted in reduction in staff and threatened its ability to maintain services to clients. When Tom Robins heard about the budget cuts, he realized that LANC would no longer be able to send an attorney to Randolph County to represent victims of domestic violence. Tom, a partner at Bunch, Robins & Stubblefield in Asheboro, immediately assembled a team of attorneys — Sarah Lanier, Jennifer Bennett, Margaret Megerian and Brooke Schmidly — to not only temporarily fill this gap, but to ensure a long-term commitment to addressing the unmet legal need of domestic violence victims in Randolph County. The group developed a weekly on-call rotation system to represent victims of domestic violence in Randolph County in domestic violence hearings.

Janet McAuley Blue, managing attorney of the LANC Greensboro office, said she has “never seen a group of people just decide to get together, agree to cooperate and do this kind of representation.” Over the years, she has seen many individuals do great pro bono work, but “not anything like this, where there is a group that has basically agreed to cover an entire area of law in a county.”

Over the past two years, these attorneys have accepted over 120 referrals of domestic violence clients, whose cases typically turn on very tight deadlines. Despite the challenges of timing, not to mention the emotional investment necessary to represent clients in domestic violence hearings, this group of attorneys remains steadfast in their commitment to serve.

Law Student Group Pro Bono Service Award



WAKE FOREST LAW SCHOOL LGBTQ+ PROJECT

During a 2017 LGBTQ+ Legal Clinic, dozens of Wake Forest Law School students, under the supervision of seven volunteer attorneys, offered pro bono legal services to members of the LGBTQ+ community. Services offered included gender marker and name changes and drafting of living wills, testamentary wills, and health care powers of attorney. The students who participated in this clinic not only grappled with complex legal concepts, but they did so while displaying empathy and compassion towards clients who face a unique intersection of obstacles as members of the LGBTQ+ community. As Rayce J. Lamb (Board Member, North Star LGBTQ Community Center) explained, “what made this event so powerful was the professionalism and the awareness each student brought to the client they assisted during the event.”

To raise awareness about the service in the community, students promoted the clinic at the Winston-Salem PRIDE festival the weekend before the clinic, which resulted in significantly more community members seeking the services of the clinic than in previous years.

Prior Pro Bono Service Award Recipients

William L. Thorp Pro Bono Award

2017	William L. Esser IV
2016	Auley M. "Lee" Crouch
2015	Bryant Webster
2014	Kimberly Zirkle
2013	Charles Holton
2012	Thomas P. Holderness
2011	Robert J. Hahn
2010	Cynthia Alleman
2009	Thomas S. Berkau
2008	Christopher Graebe
2007	Reid Calwell Adams
2006	Theodore Edwards II
2005	Christine Mumma
2004	James P. Cooney III
2003	Glenn Barfield
2002	Pender R. McElroy
2001	Nancy E. Foltz
2000	Stephen D. Coggins
1999	John J. Butler
1999	Peter J.M. Romary
1998	Honorable William B. Reingold
1997	James Battle Morgan
1996	H. Randolph "Dolph" Sumner
1995	Craig B. Brown
1994	Hollis B. May Jr.
1993	A. Frank Johns
1993	Office of Graham & James
1992	Linda Mace McGee
1991	Robert M. "Hoppy" Elliot
1990	Manlin M. Chee
1989	Law Firm of Poyner & Spruill
1988	Marjorie A. Putnam
1987	Geoffrey H. Simmons
1986	Philip A. Diehl & Millicent G. Diehl
1985	Joe L. Webster
1984	Robinson, Bradshaw & Hinson PA

Deborah Greenblatt Outstanding Legal Services Attorney Award

2017	Jim Holloway
2016	Kelly Clarke
2015	Richard M. Klein
2014	Bill Whalen
2013	Larry Nestler
2012	Dale Deese
2011	Lewis Pitts

2010	Linda S. Johnson
2009	Christine Trottier
2008	Evan G. Lewis
2007	Susan W. Gottsegen
2006	Attracta Kelly
2005	Hazel Mack-Hilliard
2004	Gina Reyman & Reynauld Williams
2003	Andrew Cogdell & Linda Weisel
2002	Theodore "Ted" Fillette III
2001	Celia Pistolis
2000	John R. Keller
1999	Samuel F. Furguele Jr.
1998	Vilma Suarez
1997	Stanley B. Sprague
1996	Jack S. Hansel
1995	Barbara J. Degen
1994	Carlene M. McNulty
1993	Charlotte G. Blake
1992	Leonard G. Green
1991	Ellen W. Gerber

Outstanding Pro Bono Service Award for Large Law Firms

2017	Nelson Mullins
2016	McGuireWoods
2014	Parker Poe Adams & Bernstein LLP
2013	Kilpatrick Townsend & Stockton
2012	Moore & Van Allen
2011	Hunton & Williams
2010	Robinson Bradshaw & Hinson PA
2009	Hunton & Williams
2008	Brooks, Pierce, McLendon, Humphrey & Leonard, LLP
2007	Womble Carlyle Sandridge & Rice PLLC
2006	Alston & Bird LLP
2005	Kennedy Covington
2004	Robinson Bradshaw & Hinson PA
2003	Kilpatrick Stockton
2002	Hunton & Williams
2001	Moore & Van Allen PLLC
2000	Smith Helms Mulliss & Moore LLP
1999	Hunton & Williams
1998	Parker Poe Adams & Bernstein LLP
1997	Smith Helms Mulliss & Moore LLP

Outstanding Pro Bono Service Award for Small and Medium Law Firms*

2017	Garrity & Gossage
2015	Everett Gaskins Hancock
2014	Wood Jackson, PLLC
2013	Chitwood & Fairbairn, P.A.
2012	St. John-Ritzen & Russo-Klein, PLLC
2011	Broker & Hamrick, PA
2010	Hatcher Law Group
2006	Stone & Christy PA
2005	Block Crouch & Keeter LLP
2004	Adams Hendon Carson Crow and Saenger PA
2003	Sullivan & Grace
2002	Cunningham Dedmond Petersen & Smith
2001	Cunningham Dedmond Petersen & Smith
2000	Lesesne & Connette
1999	Dameron Burgin & Parker
*“Smaller Law Firm” Award, 1999-2015	

Chief Justice Award

2017	Wake County Bar Association
2016	The Marican Immigration Lawyers Association
2015	NCBA Estate Planning & Fiduciary Law Section
2012	Greensboro Bar Association
2011	Johnston County Bar Association
2010	28th Judicial District Bar
2008	NCBA Young Lawyers Division
2007	Mountain Area Volunteer Lawyers Program
2006	NCBA Elder Law & Health Law Sections
2004	NCBA Bankruptcy Section
2003	Wake County Bar Association
2002	Buncombe, Henderson, Madison, Polk & Rutherford County Bar Associations
1998	Forsyth County Bar Association
1997	Gaston County Bar Association
1996	McDowell County Bar Volunteer Lawyers Program
1995	28th Judicial District Bar
1994	7th Judicial District Bar
1993	Mecklenburg County Bar Volunteer Lawyers Program
1992	Wake County Volunteer Lawyers Program
1991	Gaston County Volunteer Lawyers Program
1989	30th Judicial District

Law Student Group Project Award

2017	Elon University School of Law Pro Bono Board
2016	North Carolina Central University School of Law Legal Aid Ambassadors
2015	Campbell Law School Re-Entry Pro Bono Project
2014	Duke-UNC Cancer Pro Bono Project
2013	Guardian ad Litem Project, Wake Forest University School of Law
2012	Elder Law Clinic, North Carolina Central School of Law
2011	Driver's License Restoration Project, NCCU & UNC Schools of Law
2010	Wills Project, UNC School of Law
2009	SelfServe Center Group Project, Charlotte School of Law
2008	Immigration Law Association, UNC School of Law
2007	Public Interest and Pro Bono Board, Duke University School of Law
2006	Carolina Law Pro Bono Program, UNC School of Law
2005	Guardian ad Litem Project, Duke University School of Law
2004	Domestic Violence Advocacy, Center Student Organization Wake Forest University School of Law
2003	Civil Litigation and Family Law Clinics, NCCU School of Law
2002	The Innocence Project, UNC School of Law

Younger Lawyer Pro Bono Service Award

2017	Rachel Blunk, Brooks F. Jaffa and M. Cabell Clay
2016	Rachel M. Blunk
2015	Ericca Starling
2014	Kristin R. Kelly
2013	Jennifer Lyday
2012	Sherry Honeycutt Everett
2011	R. Michael Wells Jr.
2010	Clark Walton
2009	Laura Slaughter
2008	Georgi Yonuschot
2007	Sean Perrin
2005	Lisa Gordon
2004	Heather W. Goldstein
2003	Beth Yount Grimes
2002	Lisa A. Flowers
2001	Julian Wright

NORTH CAROLINA

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