



*Standing for Justice and Dignity since 1978.*



# FORTY YEARS AGO,

if you were struggling and in need of civil legal help, there were very few options for you in Western North Carolina. You might have been suffering from abuse, living at the mercy of a negligent landlord, trapped in a scam or in desperate need of health care, but you likely had no one in your corner.

*This photo, circa 1982, was used in Pisgah Legal Services' first brochure.*



## But then a small group of attorneys

recognized the problem and came together to take on cases of people in desperate need of legal help who couldn't afford it.

Pisgah Legal Services has come a long way in the past 40 years. An agency that began with volunteers serving dozens of people out of a small room in the Buncombe County Courthouse is **now an essential nonprofit that helps more than 15,000 people each year through 11 locations around the WNC region.** Thanks to the support of countless generous donors and hundreds of volunteers, this organization is a leader in the fight against poverty in our mountain region. Our lawyers stop domestic violence, help families avoid homelessness, secure health care, access income, and much more.

In 2017 we took on new challenges, including:

- Serving 15,750+ people.
- Weathering \$565,000 in government funding cuts and stepping up local fundraising.
- Embedding an attorney at Mountain Area Health Education Center (MAHEC) to help low-income patients.
- Enrolling even more people in Affordable Care Act (ACA) health insurance in only six weeks, half the time as the previous years' enrollment periods.

- Upgrading our case management software to increase capacity.
- Expanding the attorney emeritus program, which engages retired attorneys and refers more cases to volunteer lawyers.

In 40 years we have grown to 22 full-time staff attorneys and hundreds of volunteer attorneys, compassionate people who are dedicated to helping thousands of individuals and families in our mountains who need legal aid.



**We thank you for your generous support and for making this important work possible. Together, we will continue to stand for justice and dignity for the people of Western North Carolina.**

**Thank you for helping change thousands of lives for the better!**

*James A. Barrett*  
James A. Barrett  
Executive Director

*Lee Anne Mangone*  
Lee Anne Mangone  
Board President



See a complete timeline of major events in our 40-year history at [www.pisgahlegal.org](http://www.pisgahlegal.org).



# STANDING FOR CHILDREN

**Chris** was doing his best to be a good dad, but has been at the mercy of his daughters' mother who made it almost impossible for him to see them.

Last year the girls' babysitter called the police after seeing the mother attack the children. Chris was horrified to discover the abuse had been ongoing, and the girls had been living with the babysitter for months.

When Chris came to Pisgah Legal Services to fight for custody, the mother responded by filing false criminal complaints against him and false claims against the babysitter and others who testified against her.

Chris spent two days in jail due to the concocted allegations. Chris was cleared, and with Pisgah Legal's help, he won sole custody of his daughters. Chris says of his Pisgah Legal attorney Tom Gallagher, **"Tom's help was invaluable. He was our rock – like a family member or a friend – who was right there with me."**



*The Children's Law Project was created at Pisgah Legal in 1995. Last year more than 6,000 children were served.*



## STANDING FOR IMMIGRANTS

**Zahra\*** lives in fear of deportation – of being sent back to Yemen – a country where more than 10,000 people have died in a devastating civil war and an estimated 2.4 million more have been displaced. Yemen is included in the U.S. travel ban implemented in 2017.

Zahra says, **“If we are forced to go back, there is no chance for us. You cannot survive there.”**

Before war broke out in 2015, Zahra worked for the U.S. Embassy in Yemen. She and her two sisters fled to Djibouti, where they lived in a United Nations tent camp, and where Zahra again worked for the U.S. Embassy. In 2016 she and her sisters came to America where they have applied for Temporary Protected Status, but their future, like that of so many others, is uncertain.

Pisgah Legal Attorney Shoshana Fried is working to keep Zahra and her sisters in the U.S.

\*Name and photo changed to protect client's identity.



*In 2017, when U.S. immigration policies were changed dramatically, Pisgah Legal was swamped with requests from panicked immigrants. Thanks to generous donors, PLS hired a second immigration attorney to serve 17 WNC counties. Dozens of local attorneys also volunteered to create legal documents for parents afraid of being separated from their children. **Thank you to everyone who is supporting this important work!***

*Pisgah Legal served 743 immigrants in 2017. The Justice for All Project began in 2002.*





# STANDING FOR SURVIVORS OF DOMESTIC VIOLENCE

**Margaret\*** spent more than a week in a coma after her husband attacked her, splitting her skull in two places. Emergency surgery saved her life.

Pisgah Legal attorneys visited Margaret when she awoke at the hospital, taking her statement and representing her when a judge came to her bedside to grant her an initial order of protection.

Later, Pisgah Legal attorneys helped her extend the protection order. This time Margaret had to face her husband in court, but her attorney prepared her for the questions she would be asked and stood by her as she confronted the man who almost killed her. Testifying was no easy task, but she says, "Having an attorney made me feel protected."

While Margaret awaits her husband's criminal trial, she is starting therapy and getting stronger every day. She says, **"I was the type of person who would let the wolf in if he came to the door hungry. That's over. I'm done."**

*\*Name and photo changed to protect client's identity.*



*More than 1/3 of Pisgah Legal's work is providing legal remedies for domestic violence and abuse such as protection orders, custody, and divorce. More than 6,100 survivors received our help last year.*



# STANDING FOR DECENT HOUSING

At Pisgah Legal's 7th Annual Poverty Forum last October, Pulitzer Prize Winner Matthew Desmond (R) told the crowd of more than 1,000 people, **"I don't think that you can address poverty unless you address the lack of affordable housing."**

Pisgah Legal has been working for four decades to help prevent homelessness and advocate for decent and affordable housing across WNC.

When clients come to PLS, they need lawyers to:

- compel landlords to repair deplorable rental units;
- stop unfair or illegal evictions;
- protect them from housing discrimination; and
- save their homes from foreclosure.

In 2005, Pisgah Legal led Asheville's Ten Year Plan to End Homelessness which reduced chronic homelessness by 82 percent during that period.

Over the years, PLS has helped create minimum housing codes for Buncombe and Henderson counties and Brevard, and advocated for their enforcement. We've worked with the City of Asheville and counties in WNC to secure more federal funding for affordable housing development and supportive housing services for the mentally disabled and homeless. And in 2016, after years of advocacy by PLS and our partners, Buncombe County created a zoning density bonus to incentivize the construction of affordable housing units.



Photo by Jesse Kift



*Pisgah Legal Services is 95 percent successful in representing clients facing eviction and producing positive outcomes in these cases.*





# STANDING FOR AFFORDABLE HEALTH CARE



The 2017 ACA Open Enrollment was the fifth and most challenging process yet with political threats to repeal the ACA, confusion about whether the ACA was still in place and a shortened enrollment period that was half the time allotted in previous years.



Undaunted, Pisgah Legal Navigators helped more people enroll in health insurance than in any previous enrollment period. An expanded partnership with Mission Health increased outreach efforts across WNC and provided free enrollment clinics like this one (below) at the U.S. Cellular Center in Asheville.



*In addition to the ACA work, Pisgah Legal helps people with severe disabilities access the care and services they need - 1,220 people in 2017.*



# STANDING WITH VETERANS AND OUR FELLOW NONPROFITS

**Gage** is an Army veteran who struggles with depression and PTSD (post-traumatic stress disorder) after serving in Afghanistan. A new Henderson County nonprofit, **Corpoint**, is providing coaching, mentoring and support so that Gage and other veterans can maximize the educational benefits provided by the GI Bill.

Corpoint President Richard Starkweather worked with Pisgah Legal Services in 2017 during its start-up stage.

"Pisgah Legal was instrumental in advising us about all of the steps necessary to establish our nonprofit with both the IRS and North Carolina," Richard says. "They spent a considerable amount of time preparing all of the legal documentation and helping us make many decisions regarding our operation."

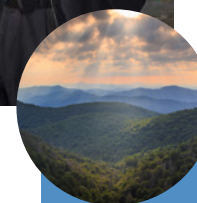


Photo by Matt Rose, Bold Life

**"Without Pisgah Legal's help, we would not have been able to establish our organization and provide a very important service to North Carolina veterans," he adds.**

Corpoint is helping Gage as he pursues a degree from Asheville-Buncombe Technical Community College. Gage is shown above (center) with Corpoint founders.

**PLS helped 232 veterans with legal services in 2017.**



*Pisgah Legal has assisted 20+ WNC nonprofits with start-up support over the past 40 years. For a complete list, visit [www.pisgahlegal.org](http://www.pisgahlegal.org)*

# 2017 FINANCIAL REPORT

## Grants of \$10,000 or more

Anonymous Foundations (2)  
 Beattie Foundation  
 Cannon Foundation  
 The Chaddick Foundation  
 Charles M. and Mary D. Grant Foundation  
 Clannad Foundation  
 Community Foundation of Henderson County  
 - Perry N. Rudnick Endowment Fund  
 The Community Foundation of Western  
 North Carolina  
 - Southwestern Child Development  
 Commission  
 - Women for Women Giving Circle  
 Fanny Landwirth Foundation  
 Federal Bar Association Foundation  
 Grace Covenant Presbyterian Church  
 Little Acorn Fund - H  
 Little Acorn Fund - M  
 Kate B. Reynolds Charitable Trust  
 Selby & Richard McRae Foundation  
 Mission Health Community Investment  
 Mountain Area Health Education Center (MAHEC)  
 N.C. Bar Foundation  
 N.C. Get Covered  
 North Carolina Synod of the ELCA  
 RHI Legacy Foundation, Inc.  
 Sisters of Mercy of North Carolina Foundation  
 Stonecutter Foundation, Inc.  
 Vaya Health  
 Walnut Cove Members Association  
 WNC Conference UMC  
 Z. Smith Reynolds Foundation

## IOLTA

N.C. Interest on Lawyers Trust Accounts

## United Way

United Way of Asheville  
 and Buncombe County  
 United Way of Henderson County  
 United Way of Transylvania County

## Competitive Federal Sources

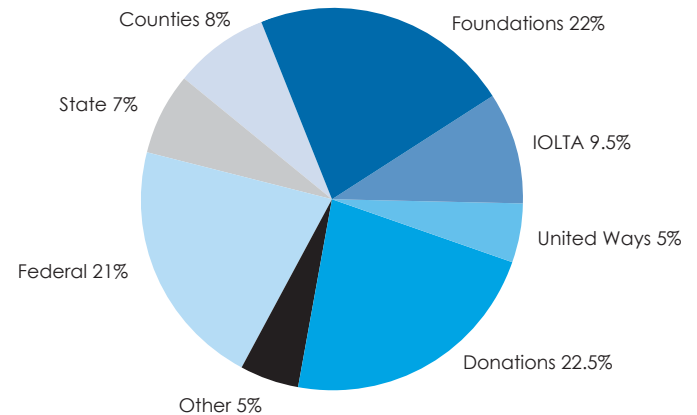
Community Development Block Grant  
 - City of Asheville  
 Family Violence Prevention and Services  
 - N.C. Council for Women  
 Home and Community Care Block Grants  
 N.C. Department of Justice  
 U.S. Dept of Health and Human Services  
 - Legal Aid of N.C.  
 Victims of Crime Act  
 - N.C. Governor's Crime Commission  
 - Family Justice Center (Buncombe)  
 - Safelight  
 Violence Against Women Act  
 - U.S. Department of Justice  
 - Mediation Center

## Local and State Governments

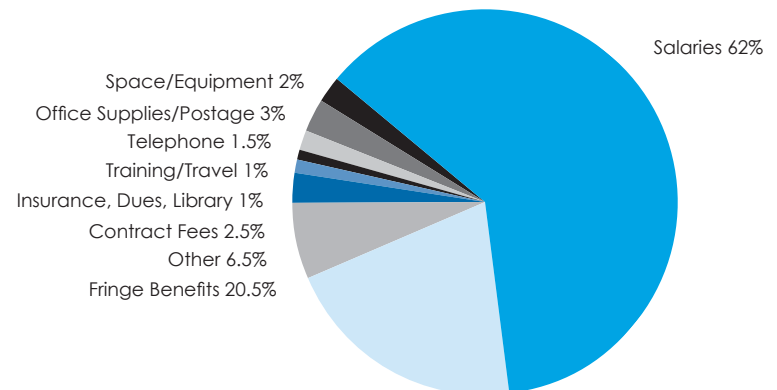
Buncombe County  
 City of Asheville  
 City of Hendersonville  
 Henderson County  
 Madison County  
 Transylvania County  
 State of North Carolina

**PLS also leveraged \$794,083  
 in pro bono legal services in  
 cases closed in 2017.**

Revenue: \$4,851,428



Expenses: \$4,270,663



These numbers are based on information available as of February 26, 2018.  
 A few items, such as contributions to the PLS Endowment, are not included.  
Most excess revenue over expenses in 2017 is restricted for expenses in 2018.



## Pisgah Legal Services' impact on mountain communities:

**Pisgah Legal Services is the primary provider of legal aid in our six-county service area:** Buncombe, Henderson, Madison, Polk, Rutherford and Transylvania counties.

We provide limited free civil legal help in an additional 11 WNC counties.



**15,750+**

PEOPLE ACROSS THE MOUNTAINS  
WERE SERVED BY PISGAH LEGAL IN 2017

**13,884**

VOLUNTEER HOURS  
CONTRIBUTED TO PLS  
LAST YEAR



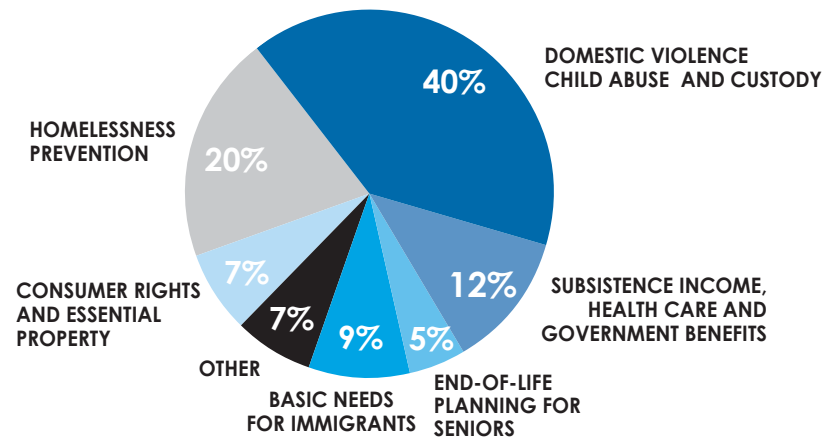
**That's more than a 5 to 1  
return on your investment  
in Pisgah Legal Services!**

**21.3 MILLION  
SECURED  
IN QUANTIFIABLE  
BENEFITS TO OUR  
CLIENTS**

Pisgah Legal Services secured \$21,378,406 in quantifiable benefits for our clients in 2017 with a budget of \$4.2 million, including:

- Home equity saved from foreclosure
- Child support for victims of domestic violence
- Medicaid benefits payable to local medical providers
- Subsistence income for disabled individuals
- Tax credits for consumers buying insurance through the Affordable Care Act Marketplace

### PERCENTAGE OF CASES CLOSED BY ISSUE AREA IN 2017



# STANDING TOGETHER TO USE OUR LEGAL EXPERTISE FOR THOSE IN NEED

Pisgah Legal Services was born when a small group of local attorneys responded to a compelling need: helping low-income people in our mountains who needed legal aid but could not afford an attorney.

Volunteer attorneys have always been the lifeblood of the work Pisgah Legal Services does. Last year, through the Mountain Area Volunteer Lawyer (MAVL) Program, hundreds of area attorneys volunteered 3,176 hours of *pro bono* service to Pisgah Legal clients. **These services are valued at \$794,083.**

Thank you for sharing your knowledge of the law and for helping our clients navigate the complex legal system.

The 28th Judicial District Bar and PLS recognized four outstanding attorney volunteers (L-R) at a 2017 Pro Bono Celebration: David Hillier, Gum, Hillier & McCroskey; Ben Scales; Johanna Fowler; and Zephyr Jost Sullivan, McAngus, Goudelock & Courie.



*The MAVL Program began in 1983 and is going strong 35 years later. Thank you to each and every attorney that has volunteered.*





## 2017 VOLUNTEER ATTORNEYS

Stephen Agan  
Sharon Alexander  
Cynthia Alleman  
Matthew Allen  
Chad Anderson  
Nicole Applefield  
Garrett Artz  
Jannice Ashley  
Andrew Atherton  
Derrick Bailey  
Lora Baker  
Kent T. Baldwin  
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Jillian Ballard  
Shannan Barclay  
Tuorto  
Wm. Michael  
Begley  
Pelatiah Bickford  
William Biggers  
Jenna Blackwell  
Jenny Boyer  
Martha Bradley  
Annika Brock  
Leah Broker  
Jean Brooks  
Kim Brown  
April Burt  
Hannah Camezind  
Christopher  
Campbell  
Rachel Carlson  
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Eugene Carr  
Steve Carruthers  
Ariella Carver  
Vincent Childress  
William Christy  
Catherine  
Claussen  
Eva Clement  
Bob Clifford  
Ryan Coffield  
Page C. Collie  
Eric Contre  
Sarah Corley  
Alan Coxie

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Katherine Dare  
Charles Davis  
Walton R. Davis  
Perrin de Jong  
Emily Dezio  
Gary Dodd  
Elleveve Donahue  
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Allison Garren  
Jason Gast  
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Heather Goldstein  
Alexander Gomes  
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Natalie Gray  
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Larry Harris  
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Heather Hays  
Borcu Hensley  
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Laura Hooks  
Ann-Patton Hornthal  
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Margie Huggins  
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Kenneth Hunt  
Johnny Hutchens  
Will Jamison  
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Don Jones  
Zephyr Jost Sullivan  
John Kelso  
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BJ Kilgore  
Melody King  
Gerald Kirksey  
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Lance Martin  
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Barrett McFatter  
Dustin McIntee  
C.W. McKeller

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Linda Meade  
Megan Medley  
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Robert Pitts  
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Bryant Webster  
Wiley Westall  
Susan Wilson  
William Wolcott  
Mindy Wudarsky  
Terry Young  
Kenneth Youngblood  
Lachiotte F. Zemp

*We do our best to keep accurate records. If you have a correction to this list, please contact Katie Russell Miller at [katiemr@pisgahlegal.org](mailto:katiemr@pisgahlegal.org).*



### REMEMBERING THE “DREAM TEAM”

*In 2005 a “dream team” of local attorneys defended Pisgah Legal Services in a lawsuit brought by the Legal Services Corporation over ownership of the Gudger House, which had been the main office of Pisgah Legal Services since 1981. Thanks to this impressive group, Pisgah Legal retained its long-time office.*

*To read more about PLS’ history, visit [www.pisgahlegal.org](http://www.pisgahlegal.org).*

# THANK YOU

to the volunteers, community members and staff who stand with Pisgah Legal Services.



The 28th Judicial District Bar honored Pisgah Legal Services attorneys Bill Whalen and Jaclyn Kiger for their outstanding work.



**2017 Summer Law Clerks:** (L-R) Amy Smith (Campbell); Masha Kazakova (Indiana); Charly Gilfoil (Georgetown); Garrett Eggen (Tulane); Jacquelyn Miner (William & Mary); Pelatiah Bickford (Pepperdine); and David Ballard (Notre Dame).

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lindia Pearson  
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Edward Hay  
Anne Kimmel  
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Bill Smith  
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Larry Wilson  
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Hayley Michaels  
Martha Milcarek  
Jacquelyn Miner  
Carly Mitchell  
Erin Montero  
Robert Moore  
Joe Mouer  
Sydney Nazloo  
Iris Nevers  
Sunny Norman  
Julie Northup  
Rosaire Nottage  
Paula O'Brien  
Kevin O'Connor  
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Mitchell Ortega  
Glenn Ottley  
Janet Phillips  
Judith Pigossi  
Della Pinto  
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Eleanor Powers  
Savannah Purdy  
Pamela Quattrini  
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Sheila Reeves  
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Ken Richstad  
Alix Rivard  
Elaine Robbins  
Debbie Rogers  
Katherine Sampson  
Kimberly Samuels  
Sabrina Sandoval  
Noelle Sauve  
Joslyn Schaefer  
K. Norwood Shoenke  
Russell Shuler  
Rebecca Sharp  
Jamie Shell  
Lydia Shelley  
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Bill Swafford  
Jane Swafford  
Thomas Swaim  
Leslie Urgo  
Katie Valeika  
Rosario Villareal  
Aidan Wallace  
Sharon Wallace  
Eunice Ward  
Alice Weldon Weldon  
Kaylin Whitmire  
Vivian Williamson  
Jamie Wooley  
Keith Wright  
Valeria Carrizo-Wyda  
Jakub Zaborski



## 2017 ACA Volunteer Navigators



Debbie Aiton  
Michael Beech  
Irene Brinegar  
Rich Brinegar  
Karen Cadwell  
Pat Call  
Terry Call  
Jim Carillon  
Esther Cartwright  
Joanne Comito  
Jeff Dektor  
Juan Manuel Diaz Juarez  
Lynda Feldman



Ben Gilbert  
Claudia Hawkins  
Marlene Jacoby  
Julie Johnson  
Gene Keil  
Lucy Keil  
Ken Kiser  
Javan Lapp  
Les Long  
Sheila Lutjens  
Bill Mance  
Jo Marcus  
Lynne Meacham



Marianne Mooney  
Becky Pitts  
Tom Plaut  
Mary Roerty  
Ali Schuetze  
Tom Snow  
Meg Trowbridge  
Jane Vasica  
Katie Winchell  
Jacob Yochem

## PISGAH LEGAL ATTORNEYS AND STAFF

Noele Aabye  
Mitchell Albers  
Liz Allen  
Eleanor Ashton  
Pablo Averza  
Jim Barrett  
Kristianna Bartow  
Cindy Benitez  
Rhonda Brown  
Shannon Cornelius  
Flor Corral  
Jason Craig  
Chris Culbreth  
Sammy Cunningham  
Rupa Dave  
Ruby DayBranch  
Joan Dennehy  
Justin Edge  
Betsy Ellis  
Nora Frank  
Sioux Free  
Shoshana Fried  
Tom Gallagher

Samantha Winn  
Galloway  
Latoya Gardner  
Joanne Gaylord  
Andrew Gibbons  
James Gorsuch  
Beth Herrman  
S.J. Hightower  
Julia Horrocks  
Thalia Hoy  
Eric Johnson  
Sandra Johnson  
Jaclyn Kiger  
Nitiki Kilgore  
Ken Kiser  
Bryan Klinge  
Javan Lapp  
Ben Many  
Molly Maynard  
Yallana McGee  
Brent McKnight  
Robin Merrell  
Alicia Merrill

Katie Russell Miller  
Nikki Mitchell  
Bess Newton  
Vicki Nichols  
Jacob Oakes  
Madeline Offen  
Sam Peck  
Sara Player  
Ashley Porter  
Annie Reid  
Nelson Reyes  
Carol Rogers  
Anne Salter  
Parker Smith  
Michelle Spiegel  
Casey Steen  
Jeanne Stillson  
Ginny Thompson  
Valerie True  
Chris Waters  
Bill Whalen  
Evie Sandlin White  
Elba Willette  
Jacob Yochem



## Special Thanks to Long-time Staff Members

In honor of Pisgah Legal's 40th Anniversary, we recognize those who have been on staff for 10 or more years. (L-R) **Joanne Gaylord**, Receptionist (2001); **Robin Merrell**, Managing Attorney (2000); **Katie Russell Miller**, Director of Community Engagement (2005); **Carol Rogers**, Domestic Violence Legal Assistant (2005); **Betsy Ellis**, Director of Philanthropy (2006); **Thalia Hoy**, Fully Accredited Dept of Justice Representative (2003); **Jim Barrett**, Executive Director (1983); **Bill Whalen**, Senior Staff Attorney (1980).

Not pictured: **Pablo Averza**, Data Manager (2006) and **Bryan Klinge**, Chief Financial Officer (1998).

# STANDING UP FOR THOSE WHO NEED US MOST THANK YOU!

## 2017 DONORS

### Champions for Justice \$10,000 or more

Anonymous (8)  
Asheville Radio Group  
Beattie Foundation  
Chaddick Foundation  
Nancy Ackerman Cole  
and Don Cole  
Karen and Phillips Cutright  
Libby and Michael  
de Caetani  
Kathryn and Harry Durity  
Fanny Landwirth Foundation  
Fran and Allan Fedor  
Grace Covenant  
Presbyterian Church  
Bernice and Arnold Green  
Denise and Rick Guthy  
Jennifer and George  
Hodges, Jr.  
Tara and Jay Kerr  
Theresa and Gary Landwirth  
Little Acorn Fund - H  
Little Acorn Fund - M  
Selby & Richard McRae  
Foundation  
Rosalind Willis and  
Greg Olson  
Joanne and Thomas Parker  
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Barbara and Robert  
Peterson

Francella Poston  
Jacquelyn and Bruce Rogow  
Susan and Charles Shanor  
Karen Spacek and Bill Solmson  
Jerry Sternberg  
Pam and Jim Turner  
Terry and Ted Van Duyen  
Walnut Cove Members  
Association  
WNC Conference UMC  
Meg and Winfield Word-Sims

### Partners for Justice \$5,000 or more

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Biltmore Company  
Blossoms at Biltmore Park  
/ Baggie Goose  
Blue Ridge Public Radio  
Laura and David Bourne  
Shelley and Kirk Brown  
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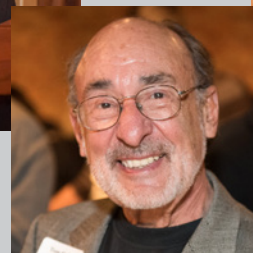
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**Arnold and Bernice Green** (top),  
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 and **Russell Shuler**  
 (far right) were



recognized for their outstanding contributions to PLS at our 2017 Jazz for Justice Celebration.

## IN MEMORIAM

We said goodbye to **Karl Straus** in 2017, an attorney who was a pillar of the legal community in Asheville for more than 50 years. He and his father-in-law began the firm known as Patla, Straus, Robinson & Moore, P.A.

Karl served as President of the Buncombe County Bar and was a founder of the Legal Aid Society, the predecessor of Pisgah Legal Services. Pisgah Legal named the *Board Member Emeritus Award* for Karl after he served 12 years on the Board of Directors.



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**Stuart Cohn**

(1924 - 2018)

**Carola Cohn**

(1928 - 2017)

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**— Nelson Mandela**



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