

INSIDE

A Message from Our
Executive Director.... 2

ACA Sign-Ups Now
through Dec. 15..... 2

Matthew Desmond
Headlines Forum 3

Profiles in Giving: Larry
McDevitt and HomeTrust
Bank 3

Remembering Karl Straus
and Carola Cohn 5



Clients, including Melissa, often tell us that they felt scared, helpless and alone before finding the help they need at Pisgah Legal Services. With an attorney by their sides, they aren't forced to try to navigate a complicated legal system alone and can move forward even in very difficult situations.

40th
Anniversary

SAVE THE DATE!

We hope you
will plan to join
us on
April 11, 2018
as Pisgah Legal
Services celebrates
our 40th
Anniversary.

More details
to come...

From Almost Homeless to Homeowner

YOUR GIFT TO PISGAH LEGAL SERVICES MEANS FAMILIES ON THE VERGE OF HOMELESSNESS HAVE ADVOCATES WHO STAND UP FOR THEIR RIGHTS, SO THEY DON'T HAVE TO GO IT ALONE.

"We're fixin' to be homeless." That's what Melissa, a hard-working single mom of three teenagers, thought when she got a 10-day eviction notice.

But how could that be when she was a model tenant who always paid her rent on time? It turns out that the trailer park where Melissa rented land for her mobile home had gone into foreclosure. She and her kids were paying the price.

How could Melissa move her trailer in just 10 days? Where would she come up

with thousands of dollars to move it? And would her 1970s-era trailer even hold together during transport?

Melissa came to Pisgah Legal Services where an attorney stopped the eviction for her and the other residents of the mobile home park. In the months that followed, Melissa improved her credit and bought a modest, stick-built home where she and her kids now live.

Melissa says, "You guys really helped me. We would have been homeless without you."

We Are So Grateful for This Caring Community

THIS YEAR HAS BEEN ONE OF ACHIEVEMENTS IN SPITE OF MAJOR STATE FUNDING CUTS.

Dear Friends,

Helping our low-income neighbors avoid the problems that cause poverty is always challenging. This year began and ended with more targeted services developed by Pisgah Legal to alleviate suffering.



However, in June we were surprised by the loss of \$535,000 annually due to State funding cuts. The NC General Assembly practically eliminated state funds for legal aid, one of the most effective strategies for addressing causes of poverty. This sudden and significant loss is a threat to our ability to continue to serve 15,000 people each year.

We have been humbled by the many generous supporters who care for their neighbors in WNC, understand legal aid and are giving and volunteering to ensure that Pisgah Legal not only continues established programs, but also takes on new endeavors.

Pisgah Legal Attorney Anne Salter is now working out the OB-GYN office at MAHEC. This partnership allows low-income patients access to a lawyer to address critical issues they face including domestic violence, homelessness and lack of health insurance.

With your help, we continue to provide essential legal assistance to help neighbors solve difficult problems and improve their lives.

Thanks to gifts from area churches, foundations and people like you, we hired a second immigration attorney and recruited numerous volunteer attorneys to assist families in 17 mountain counties who live in fear of being separated from their children and loved ones.

We are pleased to partner in Buncombe County's new Justice Resource Center which assists low-level, non-violent offenders with housing, employment, mental health and substance abuse treatments. Volunteer attorneys will clear non-violent criminal records to improve chances for employment, key to leading productive, self-sufficient lives.

In 2018 we will celebrate Pisgah Legal Services' 40th year as a beacon of hope for vulnerable people in fearful times of crisis. With your help, we continue to provide essential legal assistance to help our neighbors solve difficult problems and improve their lives. Please join us, and make a gift today. Gifts made by Dec. 31st will be matched by generous donors.

Thank you for your support, and Happy Holidays,

James A. Barrett

Jim Barrett, PLS Executive Director

Not Dead Yet: ACA Sign-Ups Fast and Furious

PEOPLE WHO NEED ASSISTANCE SIGNING UP FOR HEALTH INSURANCE TURN TO PISGAH LEGAL SERVICES



Despite the political wrangling to dismantle the Affordable Care Act, the ACA is still the law and people are signing up for health insurance in record numbers. In WNC, Pisgah Legal has even added evening and weekend appointments to accommodate consumer demand.

While premium rates have increased, so have subsidies. PLS Navigators are seeing low-income consumers just above the poverty level secure even lower premiums this year than last, thanks to the tax credits.

Open enrollment for 2018 ends soon - on Dec. 15th! If you or someone you know needs help, make an appointment by calling 1-855-733-3711.

Special thanks go to Mission Health for sponsoring a free enrollment event held November 11 at the U.S. Cellular Center in Asheville (left).

Fall Events Focus on Housing

1,200+ GATHER TO UNDERSTAND PROBLEMS OF POVERTY, EVICTIONS.



Keynote Speaker Matthew Desmond (left) addresses the crowd. David and Laura Bourne enjoy the Forum reception with PLS Board President Lee Anne Mangone (right). Below, a guest questions the panel of housing experts at the Forum.

More than 1,000 people poured into UNCA's Sherrill Center on Sept. 28 to hear Pulitzer Prize-Winning Author Matthew Desmond at Pisgah Legal's 7th Annual Poverty Forum. This year's program illuminated the interwoven relationship between housing and poverty.

Desmond shared stories from his experience researching housing issues while living in a Milwaukee mobile home park. Despite the challenges, he was optimistic about finding new solutions to tough housing issues. "Sometimes the problem can feel eternal," said Desmond, "But we as country, if we want to change huge issues, we will make that change happen."

The following day, developers, activists and nonprofit and government leaders attended a related Housing Summit that drilled down on these issues. Asheville City Councilman Gordon Smith was one of 200 attendees who saw the Summit as a means to create and sustain affordable housing. He said, ***"The event catalyzed new relationships, introduced new ideas, and brought our community together in a solution-focused atmosphere."***

Special thanks to the many generous sponsors for making both these events a big success! You can view Summit videos at www.pisgahlegal.org.



PHOTOS BY JESSE KITT.

PROFILES IN GIVING



Larry McDevitt's Leadership Inspires \$10,000 Gift to PLS from HomeTrust Bank

In November, HomeTrust Bank presented Pisgah Legal Services with a \$10,000 check to honor Larry McDevitt's 30 years of service and leadership on the board of directors of HomeTrust Bank and HomeTrust Bancshares, Inc.

A former Mayor and Asheville City Councilmember, Larry McDevitt (above, left) helped found Pisgah Legal Services and has been instrumental in providing pro bono legal services to those in need on local, state and national levels. He is a Senior Principal and Past President of The Van Winkle Law Firm.

Dana Stonestreet (above, right), HomeTrust's Chairman, President and CEO, says, "Larry's professional legal experience and business expertise have been instrumental to the Bank's strategic growth from \$200 million in assets in 1987 to \$3.2 billion in assets as of September 30, 2017."

Thank you, Larry McDevitt, for the MANY contributions you have made to this community, and thank you to HomeTrust Bank for this extraordinary gift in his honor.

Because You Care, People's Lives Are Changed

Does Your Gift Make a Difference? YOU BET IT DOES!

Your gift to Pisgah Legal provides legal aid that ends the suffering and worries of families in crisis in WNC.

You make it possible for Pisgah Legal Services to intervene at critical times with legal remedies and keep bad situations from becoming tragedies. More than 15,000 lives are touched by Pisgah Legal each year.

Another Great Reason to Give:
Now through Dec. 31st your gift will be matched by generous donors!

If you live in Henderson County, your gift will be matched up to \$40,000 through the *Caring For Our Community Gift Challenge*.

If you live in Transylvania County, your gift will be matched up to \$40,000 through the *Rogow Community Justice Gift Challenge* generously established by Jacquelyn and Bruce Rogow.

And if you live in Buncombe County, WNC or beyond your gift will be matched dollar-for-dollar by generous donors.

**Please, don't wait!
Make a gift today.**



Christopher

needed Pisgah Legal's help signing up for health insurance. His coverage started just one day before a burst appendix sent him to the hospital. Without coverage, the massive medical expenses might have cost him his home and farm.



Anna

fled a violent country filled with drug wars and terrible poverty, and she then had to escape her abusive husband. Today she is on her way to becoming a citizen, pursuing the American Dream, and building a better life for her children with help from Pisgah Legal Services.



Robert

was stuck living in a group home where he was miserable. Shown here with his "hero," PLS Attorney Anne Salter, Robert found an advocate who helped him move to an affordable apartment where he now lives independently.



Caroline

suffered for many years with her abuser. With a Pisgah Legal attorney by her side, she got the protection she needed, custody of her three daughters and she escaped the violence for good. Now Caroline lives free of fear.

Remembering Two Great Friends and Champions

IN SEPTEMBER WE SAID GOODBYE TO TWO EXTRAORDINARY PEOPLE: KARL STRAUS AND CAROLA COHN.

Karl H. Straus was born in Germany in 1921 and immigrated to the United States in 1936. He came to NC in 1953, and, along with his father-in-law, Joseph A. Patla, began the firm now known as Patla, Straus, Robinson & Moore, P.A.



Karl was a pillar of the legal community in Asheville for more than 50 years. He 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. Karl was widely regarded for his community involvement and leadership, and served on countless boards and committees.

The Honorable Sharon Tracey Barrett practiced at his firm for 19 years. She said of her mentor and friend, "Mr. Straus loved the practice of law, and he loved helping people. He was a man who connected with others and had compassion and care for their difficulties."

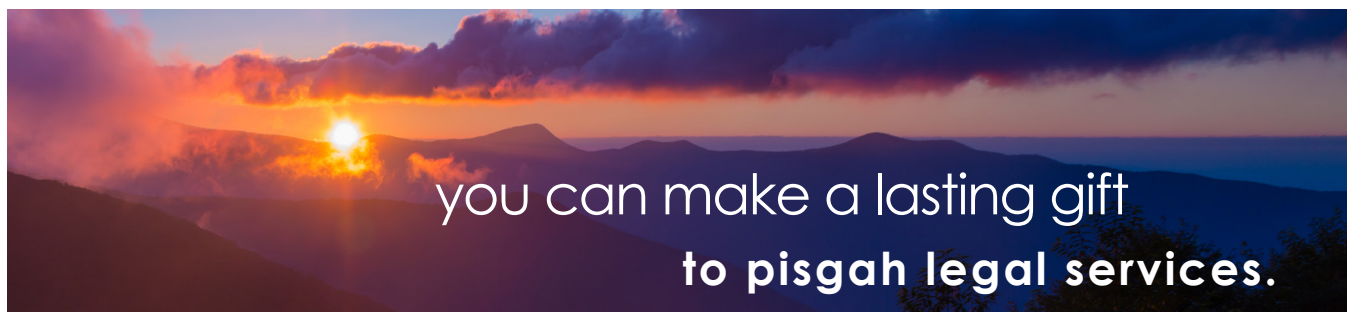


Carola V. Cohn grew up in Chicago, met her husband Stu at the University of Illinois and then raised a family in Michigan.

Carola and Stu retired to Henderson County in 1985. Her sense of fairness and justice brought her to

Pisgah Legal Services, where she was one of four initial volunteers who helped start our Hendersonville office. In 2008 Pisgah Legal recognized Carola's generous, compassionate efforts by presenting her with the *Terry Van Duyn Community Volunteer Award* (above).

Shelley Brown, a long-time PLS advocate and attorney, worked at our Hendersonville office when Carola was volunteering. She said, "Carola not only provided an excellent service in screening potential clients, she was an invaluable source of support and kindness to the attorneys and staff. She always extended her compassion and wisdom to shore up those of us in the trenches. Carola would always stop by my office and ask, 'How are you really?' You know you have to take care of yourself first.' And we would laugh so much. I will miss her!"



Carola and Karl were both extraordinary individuals who had something else in common: they both started endowment funds for Pisgah Legal Services: Karl at The Community Foundation of WNC and Carola at the Community Foundation of Henderson County. They leave behind legacies that will help people in need in our mountains for generations to come. If you would like information about making an endowment gift or creating your own legacy of justice, please contact Senior Development Officer Bess Newton at 828-210-3443 or bess@pisgahlegal.org.



PISGAH
LEGAL SERVICES

P.O. Box 2276

Asheville, NC 28802

Toll Free 800.489.6144

Asheville Brevard 828.253.0406

Hendersonville 828.692.7622

Marshall 828.210.3788

Rutherfordton 828.247.0297

www.pisgahlegal.org



Nonprofit Org
U.S. Postage
PAID
Asheville NC
Permit No. 292



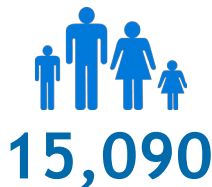
**“When we give cheerfully and accept gratefully,
everyone is blessed.” — Maya Angelou**

Give by December 31st and your gift will be matched dollar-for-dollar!

Need A Good Reason to Give this Season?

WE’LL GIVE YOU MORE THAN 15,000! PLEASE JOIN US AS WE FIGHT FOR JUSTICE.

Pisgah Legal’s Impact in Just One Year’s Time



people helped last year



5,631

children helped to avoid
homelessness, escape abuse,
and secure essential basic needs



5,750

people helped to
escape
domestic violence



300+

attorneys volunteer
pro bono to help
Pisgah Legal clients



2,967

people helped
to stabilize
housing and
avoid
homelessness



10,859

volunteer hours
donated