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Pisgah Legal Immigration Attorney Shoshana Fried (second from right), community partners and dozens of volunteer attorneys and interpreters came together at an April legal clinic to help immigrant parents ensure the safety and security of their children.



**Don't Miss
JAVA
FOR JUSTICE
Friday, May 18**

**It's easy: Stop
by a local coffee
shop and show
your support.**

**Which ones? Go to
www.pisgahlegal.org.**

Community Rallies After ICE Arrests

LEGAL AID IS NEEDED MORE THAN EVER! WANT TO HELP? YOUR GIFT TO HELP IMMIGRANTS WILL BE MATCHED UP TO \$40,000 THANKS TO GENEROUS DONORS.

On the heels of April arrests made by Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE), churches, nonprofits and other organizations have come together to provide support and care for our immigrant neighbors who are fearful of being deported and leaving their children behind.

Pisgah Legal has partnered with a number of organizations including CIMA, the Center for Participatory Change, El Centro Henderson County, Unitarian Universalist Congregation of Asheville,

and others to provide this important legal assistance to immigrant families.

Legal clinics began within a few days of the arrests with 30 attorneys, 25 interpreters and several notaries volunteering to help undocumented parents create Powers of Attorney (POA) and health care/educational authorizations so that their children will be cared for if they are detained or deported. (Continued inside...)

Thank You for Making 40 Years of Justice Possible

400+ FRIENDS AND SUPPORTERS GATHER AT THE RENAISSANCE TO CELEBRATE MILESTONE ANNIVERSARY

Having grown from fledgling nonprofit to serving more than 15,000 people annually 40 years later, to what does Pisgah Legal owe its success? Cantankerous mountain people.

That's what special guest speaker and UNC Law Professor Gene Nichol jokingly told the crowd at Pisgah Legal's 40th Anniversary Jazz for Justice Celebration on April 11. He said it was the WNC sense of independence that has enabled his "favorite legal aid" organization to survive and thrive.

"I'm convinced, that you're all cantankerous mountain folk – never willing to let the sophisticates in Washington or Raleigh dictate what you're going to do. That attitude has clearly paid off in the long run. Even if it seemed risky forty years ago. Stubbornness has its charms," said Nichol.

Outstanding supporters were honored that night: Pat Smith – The Terry Van Duyn Community Volunteer Award; James Ellis – The Roy W. Davis, Jr. Award; Sarah Corley – The Karl H. Straus Board Member Emeritus Award; and The Oliver Family – The Pisgah Legal Services Philanthropy Award.

The surprise of the night came when Senator Terry Van Duyn presented PLS Executive Director Jim Barrett with North Carolina's governor's highest civilian honor, The Order of the Long Leaf Pine Award.

Nichol seemed to capture the mood of the evening when he said, **"We're not interested in politics, we're interested in people. We ARE our sisters' and brothers' keepers. We dream bigger dreams, higher goals. We don't just mouth phrases like 'justice for all.' We mean to demand them, to live 'em out."**

Thank you to all of our many generous sponsors! See the full photo gallery by Jesse Kitt at pisgahlegal.org.



PHOTOS BY JESSE KITT.



Top: Gene Nichol and Senator Terry Van Duyn.
Row 2: (L) Wiley Westall, Joanne Badr Morgan and Allison Barkley. (R) Elizabeth Brazas hugs Pat Smith;
Row 3: (L) PLS Staffers Nikki Mitchell and Michelle Spiegel; (R) PLS Executive Director Jim Barrett.
Row 4: More than 400 guests give a standing ovation when The Order of the Long Leaf Pine Award is presented to Jim Barrett.



Teaming Up for Better Health

MAHEC AND PISGAH LEGAL WORK TOGETHER TO IMPROVE PATIENTS' LIVES



(L-R) PLS Attorney Anne Salter, MAHEC Dr. Brittany Matney, PLS Attorney Molly Maynard and PLS Staffer Alicia Merrill have all worked together to assist a patient at MAHEC as part of a new medical-legal collaboration.

Sixty-year-old “James” remembers well the day of his appointment with Dr. Brittany Matney at the Mountain Area Health Education Center (MAHEC). He looked very worried, and she was concerned.

“I told her the bank was about to take my house,” says James. “Then Dr. Matney said, ‘I’ve got someone you should talk to,’ and Anne Salter at Pisgah Legal called me that very day.”

James is just one of the MAHEC patients now benefiting from a new medical-legal partnership to improve patients’ lives. MAHEC doctors and Pisgah Legal lawyers are teaming up to improve health and address social issues that impact health such as affordable housing, and safety in the home.

“I told her the bank was about to take my house. Then Dr. Matney said, ‘I’ve got somebody for you to talk to...”

PLS Managing Attorney Jackie Kiger says, “MAHEC is truly a leader in education, collaboration and collective impact through innovative ways to improve our community’s health. Pisgah Legal is thrilled to be a part of this innovation by including poverty law lawyer Anne Salter at MAHEC as part of the healthcare team.”

A life-long “workaholic,” James has been without a paycheck for more than a year, forced to stop working due to debilitating pain in his stomach and other health issues. His family has struggled to get by; raising their own vegetables and chickens helped. James says, “We pawned just about everything we owned to keep going.”

Pisgah Legal staff members Anne Salter, Molly Maynard and Alicia Merrill successfully stopped the foreclosure on James’s house and secured Social Security benefits for him. James was amazed, and thankful. “When I applied I was denied disability. Pisgah Legal got it for me in just 54 days.”

With these new benefits secured, James and Dr. Matney can focus on his healthcare treatments without the stress from fear of foreclosure. James’ life is changing for the better thanks to this effective collaboration.

PROFILES IN GIVING



Asheville Cyclist Rides from the Mountains to the Sea to help People in Need

Each year, national environmental consulting firm Anchor QEA encourages its employees to fundraise for their favorite local nonprofits. This spring, their Asheville office (formerly known as Altamont Environmental) chose Pisgah Legal Services.

Tony Hauser, Anchor QEA’s Senior Managing Engineer, is an avid cyclist. Stu Ryman, a Partner at Anchor QEA, said to Tony, “If you’re going to do these crazy, long-distance rides, you might as well be crazy for a cause.”

At the end of March, Hauser embarked on a near 300-mile bike ride from Asheville, NC to Charleston, SC. He completed the ride in less than 24 hours!

Thanks to pledges from friends, family, and co-workers - based on every mile Hauser biked - **more than \$8,000** was raised for Pisgah Legal Services.

Thank you to Tony Hauser, our friends at Anchor QEA, and all of the generous sponsors who supported this epic ride!

Give Today and give hope
and help to folks who need it most!



Why Pisgah Legal?

Legal remedies exist for low-income people in crisis, but they don't have money to hire an attorney or the knowledge to navigate the legal system alone. Your donation provides free legal advocates to the families who desperately need them.

Your Gift Matters

Each year more than 15,000 people in our mountain region are assisted by Pisgah Legal's staff and hundreds of volunteers. Your gift helps disabled children, families on the verge of homelessness, veterans in need of benefits and many more!

Join Us

With government funding on the decline, we depend more and more on local individuals and funders to help care for people in our mountains. Please make a gift that truly changes lives today.

We need your help! Give today at pisgahlegal.org.

PLS Partners in Brevard

NEW FAMILY RESOURCE CENTER OPENS



A ribbon cutting ceremony was held on March 20 at the new Family Resource Center in Brevard. (L-R) Yvette Brooks and Sally Steppe of SAFE, Assistant District Attorney Beth Dierauf, County Commissioner Paige Lemel, Sheriff David Mahoney, PLS Attorney Casey Steen, and Police Chief Phil Harris. (Photo by Ray Adams)

Transylvania County recently opened a Family Resource Center (FRC) that consolidates important resources to better assist victims of domestic violence and sexual assault, all under one roof. These include counseling and support, law enforcement and legal aid.

Pisgah Legal Attorney Casey Steen, who is a native of Transylvania County, says that it's an exciting approach that is already paying dividends. "Just yesterday, a very difficult situation was unfolding with one of my clients who is trying to escape domestic violence."

Steen reached out to representatives from SAFE and the sheriff's department who "immediately dropped what they were doing, and within 10 minutes we were putting our heads together in my office, trying to decide what the best course of action would be. That type of collaboration and teamwork wasn't happening before." Steen continues, "I think our community is going to benefit from the FRC tremendously."

This is the third center in WNC that Pisgah Legal Services collaborates with to improve services for victims of sexual assault and domestic violence. The others, called Family Justice Centers, are located in Buncombe and Henderson counties.

HELP FOR IMMIGRANTS CONTINUED...

Scores of caring volunteers drove immigrant families to and from the legal clinics, provided food, space to meet and much more.

PLS Mountain Area Volunteer Lawyer Program Director Katie Russell Miller, who organized the clinics, says, **"We've heard heartbreaking stories of parents being detained and lots of fear about the future, but we also had the heartwarming experience of seeing so many people come together to help our neighbors."**

One of those volunteers is retired attorney Gerald Kirksey, (R) who has been creating POAs, and helping Pisgah Legal raise funds. "I've been given second and third chances all my life," he says. "These folks aren't even getting a second chance."



So far, three clinics have been held with three others planned and another two already in the works. Pisgah Legal serves a total of 17 WNC counties with immigration legal aid. If you or someone you know needs assistance, please call **828-210-3452** and speak to a multi-lingual staff member.

Generous donors have also mobilized to support these efforts. They have issued a \$40,000 challenge to match any gift made to our "Justice for All" immigration work. **Please make a gift today with the enclosed envelope, give online at www.pisgahlegal.org, or call Pisgah Legal Services at (828)210-3444.**

Since January, members of the Grace Covenant Presbyterian Church in Asheville have been making home-made soups and bringing lunches once a month to Pisgah Legal staff to show their support of PLS' immigration work (below). (L-R) Nancy Gaskin, Cathy Froehlich, Lynne Meacham and PLS Staffers Annie Reid and Brent McKnight.





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**“We don’t just mouth phrases like ‘justice for all.’
We mean to demand them, to live ‘em out.”**

— Gene Nichol

Your gift to the Justice for All Project will be matched
dollar-for-dollar! Find out more inside...

Thank you, Blossoms

SUPPORTING PLS IN THE MOST BEAUTIFUL WAY



PHOTO BY JESSE KITTE

Thank you, Blossoms, for your long-time support and for continuing to provide stunning arrangements at Pisgah Legal events, like this one at the 40th Anniversary Jazz for Justice.



Save the Date!

PISGAH LEGAL’S 8TH ANNUAL POVERTY FORUM



Thursday, October 4, 2018

Making Ends Meet: WOMEN AND POVERTY IN WNC

with Kathryn Edin,

*Bloomberg Distinguished Professor of Sociology
and Public Health at Johns Hopkins University
and author of*

**“\$2 a Day: The Art of Living on Virtually Nothing
in America.”**

Tickets go on sale in August. Details to come!