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"One night I was crying after he talked down to me," Louisette (right) says of her abusive ex-boyfriend. "He said, 'If you keep acting this way, how do you expect me to marry you so you can have your papers?'" Louisette and her son left him and found help with Pisgah Legal Rural Victim Advocate Sandy Devoid.

The Struggle to Become an American

YOU CAN HELP IMMIGRANTS NAVIGATE THE COMPLICATED, DIFFICULT PATHS TO STAY IN THE COUNTRY THEY LOVE, ESCAPE VIOLENCE AND KEEP THEIR FAMILIES TOGETHER

Why doesn't Louisette return to Cameroon, the African country where she was born?

"They will kill me if I go back," she explains. "The government thinks I am an American, and they target Americans. They think Americans cause trouble."

The irony is that despite living in the U.S. for 20 years, Louisette is not an American. Although she wants to become a citizen and has tried desperately to remain here legally, she is one of thousands of

immigrants who come to Pisgah Legal Services (PLS) in search of answers as they try to navigate complex and changing immigration laws.

Louisette met a visiting American missionary while in high school in Cameroon. He was so impressed by her that he and his family offered to bring her to the United States to attend college. She jumped at the chance at a better life, and entered the country on a student visa.

(Continued on page 4)



We hope to see you
at our annual
Justice Forum
on October 3
with Jose Antonio
Vargas.

Register to attend
at pisgahlegal.org/JusticeForum or
call 828-210-3773.



Pisgah Legal's 9th Annual Justice Forum featuring

Jose Antonio Vargas

Pulitzer Prize-winning Journalist, Immigration Activist, and Author of *Dear America: Notes of An Undocumented Citizen*

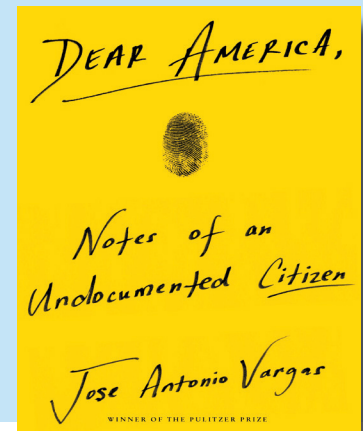
Thursday, October 3, 2019

Thomas Wolfe Auditorium,
U.S. Cellular Center, Asheville
5:30pm Reception/ 7:00pm Forum

TICKETS

\$60/person Reception
Forum - Free
Registration is required.

Due to a limited number of reception tickets, please contact Michelle Spiegel to inquire about availability: (828) 210-3773.



Immigration is the Topic of Annual Justice Forum

Please join us on **October 3** as Jose Antonio Vargas headlines the 9th Annual Justice Forum. Formerly known as the Poverty Forum, the forum this year will explore the difficulties faced by immigrants and illustrate how legal aid can help individuals and families in our mountains navigate narrow and uncertain paths to staying in the United States legally.

Pisgah Legal Immigration Attorney Shoshana Fried says, "We believe that this is the perfect time for our community to hear directly from an immigrant who can tell his personal story and help contextualize this important issue that affects so many of our neighbors."

Jose Antonio Vargas

Jose Antonio Vargas is a Pulitzer Prize-winning journalist, Emmy-nominated filmmaker, and a leading voice for the human rights of immigrants. He is the Founder and CEO of Define American, the nation's leading nonprofit media organization that fights injustice and anti-immigrant hate through the power of storytelling.

Mr. Vargas will share details of his childhood journey to the United States from the Philippines and his life in America as an immigration reform activist. Some have called him the most famous undocumented immigrant in America.

"His book explains that there is no way for people in his position to change their legal status. Even after his hard work, his accomplishments and his many contributions to American life, he cannot 'get in line' to get legal. There is no line."

— The Washington Post

Did You Know?

- More than 10 million immigrants live in N.C.
- A study by the New American Economy shows that Asheville's immigrant households earned \$489 million and contributed more than \$113 million in taxes in 2016.
- PLS' immigration legal work has exploded from 141 cases and 458 people helped in 2003 to 1,291 cases and more than 4,000 people helped last year.

Register Today!

For the first time ever, the Justice Forum is free and open to the public. Registration is required. Go to pisgahlegal.org/JusticeForum. Tickets for the advance reception are \$60/person and availability is limited. Contact Michelle Spiegel: (828) 210-3773.

ACA Still the Law

OPEN ENROLLMENT BEGINS NOV. 1



The Affordable Care Act (ACA) is being challenged in a U.S. Court of Appeals as unconstitutional. However, even if the court rules against the ACA later this year, the fight will likely head to the Supreme Court in 2020.

While this fight for health care continues, people in need of affordable health insurance may still enroll with free help from Pisgah Legal Services.

ACA open enrollment begins Nov. 1 and continues through Dec. 15. Contact us at **828-210-3404** for free appointments, questions, or to volunteer.

We wish to thank the Kate B. Reynolds Charitable Trust for continuing to make this much-needed service available to people in WNC. We appreciate your generous support!

Justice for All Giving Challenge

Gifts will be matched
dollar-for-dollar up to \$40,000
thanks to generous donors.



WHAT DIFFERENCE CAN YOUR DONATION MAKE?

- \$30** Prepares and mails a family's immigration application.
- \$100** Coordinates a free emergency preparedness clinic.
- \$500** Helps a young person renew their DACA status.
- \$1,000** Provides legal representation for a family in immigration court.

We're on our way to meeting the Justice for All Giving Challenge, which supports PLS' immigration law work, but we still need your help to make our goal!

Give online at
pisgahlegal.org/give
or call Ally Wilson at
828-210-3444.

YOUR GIFT MATTERS!



STEVEN

immigrated with his family from Germany at age four. A Vietnam Veteran, Steven couldn't get his Social Security started. But after meeting with Pisgah Legal, he was able to advocate for himself and get the benefits he earned.



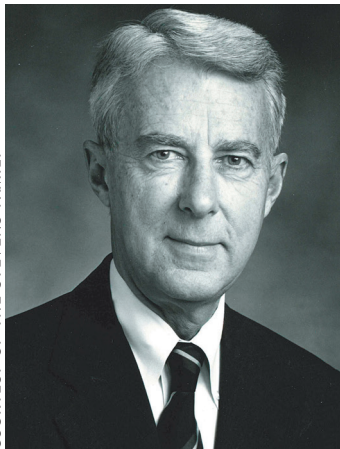
ROMAN

came to the U.S. from Mexico as a child with his family. Pisgah Legal helped Roman, a hard-working student at a local university, renew his DACA status so that he can pursue his American Dream.

In Memoriam

REMEMBERING OUR FRIEND JACK STEVENS

COURTESY OF THE STEVENS FAMILY



In April, we said farewell to long-time supporter John S. “Jack” Stevens who died at age 85.

An Asheville native, Jack graduated Phi Beta Kappa from The University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill and attended UNC’s School of Law.

Jack returned to Asheville to practice law and start a family. Early in his career he served four terms in the NC General Assembly and was Chairman of the House Rules Committee.

Jack loved the practice of law. Under his leadership Roberts & Stevens became one of the preeminent law firms in WNC. He was also devoted to community, serving on and chairing boards that guided the NC Bar Association, University of North Carolina Health Care System, Asheville Regional Airport, and the merger of Mission-St. Joseph Health System, just to name a few. We express our sincere condolences to his family.



Heroes to Our Clients

The Buncombe County Bar recently recognized four local attorneys for their exemplary pro bono service: (L-R) Emeritus Attorney Eleanor Powers; Natalie Gray of Westall, Gray, Connolly, PA; Lance Martin of Ward & Smith, PA and Alex Gomes of Montford Law.

Thank you for your outstanding work!

COVER STORY CONTINUED...

Louisette excelled in college, but eventually the expenses grew too great for her or her host family to afford, even though she worked while attending school. She had to leave college and work full time. And after her father died, Louisette’s family needed the money she sent back to them more than ever as their unstable country teetered on the brink of civil war.

When her student visa and work permit expired, she contacted immigration repeatedly but got no response. Employers either didn’t require documentation or looked the other way.

Eventually, she came to Western North Carolina (WNC) where she began a relationship with a man who said he wanted to marry her. After she became pregnant, she discovered that he hadn’t divorced his first wife. He became controlling and abusive and held the promise of helping Louisette become a citizen just out of reach. After their son was born, she wanted to leave, but her abuser’s threats increased. **“He said if I left, I would never see my son again. He would have me locked up and deported.”**

One night after he attacked her, Louisette called the police who helped her find a domestic violence shelter. She also began working with Pisgah Legal Services. Attorneys are now helping Louisette with domestic violence protection, a custody agreement and immigration status. As a survivor of violence, she now has a path to earning a special visa to stay in the U.S. legally, but it will take 13 years to secure it.

Pisgah Legal Rural Victim Advocate Sandy Devoid is helping Louisette connect with a variety of resources to get her life on track. Fluent in three languages, Louisette hopes to work as a medical interpreter. This summer in Asheville, MAHEC offered Louisette a computer and a spot in a medical interpretation course. While she studied, Brooks-Howell retirement community covered her meals and lodging, the YWCA cared for Louisette’s son and Grace Covenant Presbyterian Church provided transportation.

Grateful and overwhelmed by this generosity, Louisette says, “It gives me hope. This is America. We’re going to survive no matter how difficult it is. Just to see how everybody is loving on us ...it’s the America that I know and I’ve come to love.”

Pisgah Legal Opens Office in Spruce Pine

NEW LEGAL RESOURCES NOW AVAILABLE FOR LOW-INCOME PEOPLE IN MITCHELL AND YANCEY COUNTIES



Local folks came out in force to celebrate the opening of Pisgah Legal's newest office in downtown Spruce Pine on July 10.

People who need help with legal issues in Mitchell and Yancey counties can now turn to Pisgah Legal Services thanks to the opening of our new Spruce Pine office.

PLS Executive Director Jim Barrett says, "The needs are great in these

communities, so we are thrilled to expand in order to help folks who need us most."

PLS Attorney Olivia Williams (above, holding scissors) is now working out of the office located at 167 Locust Street, Suite 206.

Our thanks go out to the Phillips Foundation for providing start-up funding for this location, as well as The Fund for Mitchell County, an affiliate of CFWNC, which also recently made a grant supporting the new office.

Ensuring the Future of Justice in Our Mountains

ENDOWMENT GIVING CHALLENGE MET... THANKS TO YOU!



A giving challenge of \$100,000 issued earlier this year by an anonymous donor to raise funds

for PLS' endowment fund has been met thanks to our many friends and supporters who understand the value of creating this stable and permanent resource.

Friends of the endowment gathered at Rhubarb in Asheville on May 15

to celebrate and get an update from from Endowment Committee Co-Chairs Phil (left) and Pat Smith.

It's never too late for you to leave your own legacy of justice. You can make a gift at any time that will be used to help vulnerable people for decades to come.

Contact Ally Wilson at Pisgah Legal, ally@pisgahlegal.org or (828) 210-3444, for information about including PLS in your will or estate plans.

Profiles in Giving



Security Camera Warehouse, a growing and innovative Asheville company, has been incredibly generous this year to Pisgah Legal Services by donating and installing security systems in our offices in Asheville, Hendersonville, Rutherfordton, and soon, Brevard. These systems are valued at over \$10,000.

PLS Managing Attorney Julia Horrocks says, "We are so grateful to everyone at Security Camera Warehouse.

Our clients are sometimes faced with dangerous situations, escaping domestic violence, for example. It's important that our offices are safe and secure for them as well as our staff and volunteers. This gift allows everyone to feel more at ease."



JAMES CAMPBELL PHOTO

SCW CEO Matt Nederland (above) says, "Pisgah Legal is a pillar of our community. They do phenomenal work assisting vulnerable members of our society, and SCW is proud to support their work."

Thank you, Matt, and Security Camera Warehouse!

Thank You Stone & Christy

NC BAR ASSOCIATION'S 2019 PRO BONO SERVICE AWARD WINNER



Black Mountain law firm Stone & Christy was honored by the North Carolina Bar Association for their exemplary service and accepted the statewide 2019 Law Firm Pro Bono Service Award in June.

This small but distinguished law firm's four attorneys provided 455 hours of pro bono service last year alone and have given thousands of hours in the past two decades by partnering with Pisgah Legal Services.

"It's the most satisfying work we do," says Attorney Bill Christy. "The clients are in difficult situations and are extremely grateful for the help. People need representation because the system will just run you over."

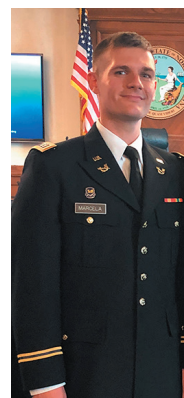
Staff News (Spoiler: They're Great!)

A LOCAL HONOR AND A NEW CHALLENGE AHEAD

Kudos to our own **Shoshana Fried** for earning top honors as the Buncombe County Bar's Distinguished Young

Attorney of the Year. Shoshana is an immigration attorney and program director of our Justice for All Program.

Pisgah Legal domestic violence attorney and **US Army Reserve**



Captain Braxton Marcela has been mobilized for duty as a Judge Advocate for one year at Fort Hood in Texas.

Braxton has been serving in the U.S. Army Reserve JAG Corps, spending

one weekend a month providing legal assistance to soldiers and veterans. After his year of service, Braxton will return to Pisgah Legal Services.

It's the People Who Make Justice Possible

A FEW HIGHLIGHTS OF THE YEAR SO FAR AND SOME OF THE WONDERFUL PEOPLE WHO MAKE GOOD THINGS HAPPEN



PHOTOS THIS ROW BY JESSE KITT

More than 400 people gathered for the Jazz for Justice Celebration at the Renaissance Asheville Hotel in April, including honoree Bob Deutsch (left), guests Katie Fisher, Kerry Friedman and Robby Russell (center) and honorees Lyn and Tom Leslie (right).



(Left) PLS Attorney Ben Many, barista Collin Demos and owner Bill Tanner start the morning right at PennyCup during PLS' Java for Justice fundraiser. The Our Global Table benefit (right) attracted 200 people to the Wedge at Foundation where local chefs like Sanaa Amer and Suzy Phillips delighted guests with international foods in support of our legal work with immigrants.



After a quick dunk in the lake, the Pisgah Legal Pirates rallied to earn second place in the nonprofit division this summer at the third annual Bridge Foundation Drums and Dragons boat race at Lake Julian Park. The event raises funds for local charities.



PISGAH
LEGAL SERVICES

Standing for Justice and Dignity since 1978.

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Rutherfordton 828.427.0297

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“Citizenship to me is more than a piece of paper. Citizenship is also about character. I am an American. We’re just waiting for our country to recognize it.” – Jose Antonio Vargas

We Stand for Justice, and You Can Too!

WAYS YOU CAN SHOW YOUR SUPPORT AND HELP OTHERS IN OUR MOUNTAIN REGION



Celebrate it Celebrating a milestone birthday or anniversary? Ask friends and family to donate to Pisgah Legal in your honor in lieu of traditional gifts.

Get social

Create a Facebook fundraiser for Pisgah Legal Services, and tell your friends why justice is important to you.



Come for a visit Sign up to attend our next **Justice Matters Tour** on September 19 and get a behind-the-scenes tour of Pisgah Legal Services. Contact Ally Wilson at (828) 210-3444.

Become a Justice Keeper Sign up for easy monthly giving, and you’ll never wonder again if you made your gift or not. Ally Wilson can tell you how.

Use your IRA A qualified charitable distribution allows individuals who are 70½ years old or older to make direct transfers to nonprofits from an IRA without counting as income for tax purposes. These transfers count toward your minimum required distributions for the year.

Attend the Justice

Forum It’s free for the first time this year. Join us on Oct. 3. Learn more inside.



Show you care this

holiday season This Fall we’ll be offering special holiday cards that you can purchase, and we’ll mail to your friends, family and clients. Details to come!

Because justice is for everyone, not just those who can afford it.