Back in 2009, when Pisgah Legal Services concluded its capital campaign and moved from the historic Gudger House in Asheville to the larger office on Charlotte Street, volunteer – and later Board President – Don Locke encouraged us to set an admirable yet lofty goal: double the number of people we serve to 20,000 in 2020.

Who could have known it would take a pandemic to reach and even exceed that goal? It is an event we could never have imagined. And yet, we learned what we are capable of, how resilient and skilled we are and that first and foremost:

Pisgah Legal Services is built for hard times.

Looking back, 2020 seems like a blur of moving from crisis to crisis, transitioning to work remotely almost overnight and adapting to the new world as it unfolded: lockdown, court closings, mask wearing, eviction moratoriums and helping hundreds of people access financial relief.

Through it all, you have been there – our friends, funders and supporters – offering encouragement, volunteering, giving and helping your fellow neighbors in Western North Carolina.

Thanks to the truly herculean efforts of our staff, volunteers and donors, we persevered and provided the legal aid that so many needed in 2020.

Here are just a few accomplishments to share with you:
• Providing free services to protect the basic rights and improve the lives of 20,117 people from across our mountains. Many are in crisis due to urgent needs brought on by the pandemic.

• Helping the distribution of hundreds of thousands of dollars in local, state and federal emergency assistance to keep area families housed and their power on.

• Employing new technology to serve clients effectively while ensuring safety from the virus.

• Partnering with Dogwood Health Trust to publicize Affordable Care Act coverage to people who need health insurance. If we ever see the critical connection between health, housing and human services, it is now.

• Opening a new office in Highlands/Cashiers to serve people throughout Jackson and Macon counties. We also added staff attorneys and social workers to help meet increasing demand across the region.

• Harnessing the generosity of volunteer attorneys to meet increasing needs. Pro bono casework jumped 31% in 2020.

• Filing free tax returns for folks who qualify for the Earned Income Tax Credit and putting $155,000+ back in the pockets of working people.

• Notifying the public of scams, correcting misinformation, and informing people of their rights and resources to help them through the pandemic.

• Raising funds and meeting giving challenges issued by caring and generous donors to provide these life-changing services.

While we live in hope for the future, we are still fighting for justice, and the battle is far from over.

In the coming year we have new challenges ahead, including Medicaid transformation in NC to an HMO system which will impact millions. We certainly still need your help to provide services during this difficult time.

Thank you so much for your extraordinary support and for believing in justice.... for all.

William “Bill” Wolcott, III
Board President

James A. Barrett
Executive Director
The phrase “Home Sweet Home” took on new significance in 2020 as the pandemic took hold, and everyone was encouraged to shelter in place. But for Tiffany, her temporary home was more of a prison than a refuge.

After the mobile home she rented was condemned in late 2019, an acquaintance offered her a room to rent at his house. With only 10 days to find a new place, she accepted. Affordable, decent places to live are few and far between, especially when you are working part-time and living with ovarian cancer.

It wasn’t long before Tiffany realized that her new landlord wanted more from her than just rent money. “He would ask me over and over again when was I going to share his bed,” Tiffany says. Afraid to leave during the pandemic, and with nowhere else to go, Tiffany endured constant harassment for almost seven months. One night she woke to find him touching her. She called Pisgah Legal Services.

After consulting with PLS Attorney Casey Steen, Tiffany was referred to PLS Social Worker Sandy Devoid to help her find safe housing. A local church generously paid for temporary housing while Sandy sought long-term housing, food resources, even furniture for Tiffany’s new place. Unfortunately, Tiffany still needed Pisgah Legal. Her former landlord tracked her to her new home and began throwing trash on her lawn and threatening her.

Casey filed for a protective order with Tiffany. It was granted, and the man was jailed soon after for violating the order. Since then, things have been quieter, and Tiffany is finally enjoying her new home. She says, “I’ve never had anyone in my life like Sandy. She doesn’t judge me. She lifts me up. And Pisgah Legal isn’t just a lawyer’s office. They help in a lot of ways that people don’t even think about.”
When James’ wife battled cancer, he quit his job to become her full-time caregiver. They could not make ends meet. He says, “When you choose to care for an individual with a devastating illness in your family, you are financially doomed. When your credit is ruined, there aren’t any other options.”

After his wife’s death, James devoted himself to caring for his son and taking time to grieve. In 2020, he found himself in foreclosure.

PLS Attorney Molly Maynard secured a loan modification while James found a job, allowing him and his son to stay in their house. “You guys are a godsend,” says James.

Molly says, “We have seen a huge number of people facing eviction, and unfortunately, while foreclosures often come later in a recession, we anticipate an increase in those cases as well in coming months.”

While the pandemic hasn’t been easy for anyone, the COVID economy has been especially devastating for women. An estimated 2.4 million women in this country have left the workforce since February 2020. With schools and daycares closing, single moms like Kendra (above), had no other choice.

Kendra came to Pisgah Legal for housing help through a special medical-legal partnership with MAHEC led by PLS Attorney Anne Salter. Thanks to emergency assistance funds, Kendra and her children left a dilapidated trailer the landlord refused to fix and are now living in an apartment where their grandfather can stay and help out with the kids.

Pisgah Legal Services has accessed approximately $500,000 in local, state and federal funds for emergency assistance to keep almost 300 local people housed. This work continues as we work to access more state and federal funds to assist people in WNC.

With help from her family, Kendra has found a new job, and while she still worries about the future, she says, “After everything I’ve been through, I’m not giving up.”
In 2019, Gary* learned his heart was failing, and, just as the pandemic struck, his insurance company declined to renew his policy. Gary was left wondering how he would continue to pay for expensive prescriptions and ongoing treatment. “It was very stressful,” Gary says. “I didn’t know what I was going to do.”

While Gary was getting care at Minnie Jones Health Center in Asheville, he was referred to Pisgah Legal Services for help signing up for ACA health insurance.

With PLS Certified Application Counselor Nelson Reyes guiding him through the process, Gary signed up for a plan through healthcare.gov, qualified for tax credits that made it more affordable, and obtained better insurance that covered more of his needs. And because it’s an ACA plan, his pre-existing heart condition was covered.

Valerie also worked with Nelson to secure much-needed ACA health insurance in 2020.

Before COVID-19, she decided to go back to school to earn her master’s degree. Unfortunately, her company classified her as being on educational leave, and she lost her health insurance because she worked part-time while going to school.

Valerie signed up for a new ACA plan that covers her and her son.

More than 535,000 North Carolinians enrolled in a health insurance plan during the 2020 Open Enrollment period. In NC, 83% of current marketplace consumers have plans for 2021 that cost less than $50 per month after financial subsidies.

Special thanks to the Kate B. Reynolds Charitable Trust for continuing to fund PLS’ health justice work, to the RHI Legacy Foundation for supporting this work in Rutherford County, and to Dogwood Health Trust for funding outreach efforts in WNC.

*Client’s identity protected.
If ever there was a time when health care was needed, it surely was in 2020. Many of our neighbors lost health insurance when they lost jobs and employer-provided health insurance during the pandemic.

The Dogwood Health Trust funded two special advertising campaigns to reach people across WNC, especially underserved communities, encouraging folks to reach out to Pisgah Legal, and our enrollment partners in WNC, for free assistance obtaining health insurance.

Staff and volunteers worked to adapt to serving consumers with COVID-19 safety concerns in mind. Helping consumers navigate the health insurance enrollment process by phone, rather than in person was challenging, but our certified application counselors made it work.

Our team persevered with outstanding results: helping 1,426 local people during regular Open Enrollment and 2,398 people overall in 2020.

The consumers we assisted received an average of $773/month* in advanced premium tax credits to pay for their health insurance, resulting in more than $8 million in yearly savings for people in our mountain region.

*Of the consumers who shared tax credit information with PLS.

WRES’ Elder John Hayes (left) and Pisgah Legal’s Health Justice Program Director Shannon Cornelius before a June interview.
Amy* says, “When I met my husband, I thought, ‘He’s going to take care of me.’ Boy, was I wrong.”

“About a year into the marriage he first put his hands on me. I’ll never forget it. I was four months pregnant at the time. But I made a promise to him, and to God, that I was going to stay with him until death do us part. So many nights I laid in bed, afraid to close my eyes. I can’t explain the toll that takes on a person’s life.”

“Over the years I left repeatedly, but he knew how to manipulate the system. He told me, ‘I’m going to take you down, one way or another.’ He owned guns, and I took that very seriously.”

“He started hiding the keys and the batteries to the cars so I couldn’t leave. One night, after he fell asleep, I was able to get one of the keys.” Weeks later, he unexpectedly left the house. Amy saw her chance to escape, for good this time.

“I had less than 10 minutes before he would get back home. I threw my clothes on as fast as I could and ran outside. In days leading up to this, I [had] tried to figure out where the batteries were, and I went on YouTube to see how to put a car battery in and jumpstart it.”

Once she got the car running, Amy and her children raced to the courthouse. There, Amy met Olivia Williams, an attorney from Pisgah Legal Services. “I was in tears, trembling.”

Since that day, Amy has worked with Pisgah Legal to secure a protective order, custody of the children and now, a divorce. Amy says, “Olivia was the first person who told me what I was living in is not my fault. I’ve never spoken to someone who helped me like that. She gave me so much hope.”

*Client’s identity protected.
SECURING UNEMPLOYMENT AND ESSENTIAL INCOME

At 80 years old, Ronald was the sole income earner for his family, made up of his husband and elderly mother-in-law. For the past two years he drove for Uber, but when COVID-19 hit, demand for rides plummeted, and driving put his health, and the health of his loved ones, at risk.

In late March, the CARES Act extended benefits to independent contractors and the self-employed. Ronald filed for unemployment insurance benefits and months passed with no word.

Ronald called the unemployment office daily, spending hours on hold. He sent emails, and even contacted Governor Cooper and Senator Van Duyn, who advocated on his behalf to no avail.

Finally, in July, he got an email denying his application. He filed the appeal himself hoping to get a hearing date quickly. Soon after, he contacted Pisgah Legal Services and was matched with PLS Attorney Thomas Lodwick.

Meanwhile, Ronald still wasn’t receiving unemployment benefits, he didn’t have a hearing date for his appeal, and he was running out of money. “For the first time in 80 years, I had to go to a food pantry,” he says, getting choked up.

Finally, eight months after he first applied for unemployment insurance Ronald was granted a hearing for his claim. “I was totally relieved having Thomas on the call with me. He did all the talking. If it had just been me, I would have been stammering and stuttering and wouldn’t know what to say. I can’t thank Pisgah Legal enough.”

The next day Ronald was notified that he won his case, and the following day his back benefits were in his bank account. Ronald continues to receive unemployment insurance benefits. His family is now more financially secure.

PISGAH LEGAL’S STAFF AND VOLUNTEER ATTORNEYS HANDLED 325 UNEMPLOYMENT CASES IN 2020 COMPARED TO ONLY 12 IN 2019.
ASSISTING IMMIGRANTS

In 2020, the Supreme Court ruled the Trump administration could not end protections under the Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals, better known as “DACA.” Later a federal judge ruled that US Citizenship and Immigration Services must fully reinstate the program. These were life-changing rulings for Araceli (left) and hundreds of thousands of other “Dreamers” like her.

Araceli’s family immigrated to the United States when she was an infant. Western North Carolina is the only home she has ever known.

After graduating high school, Araceli applied for and received DACA status. She knew that her dreams of working in the medical field depended on it. Araceli completed a medical assistance program at a local community college, and a few months later she began working at a nearby hospital, assisting patients who suffer from painful and crippling arthritis.

When it was time to renew her DACA status, her mother suggested she reach out to Pisgah Legal Services. “I met Noele Aabye, and she has been really wonderful and understanding. She helped me re-apply and everything went smoothly.”

A year after Araceli began working at the hospital, COVID-19 hit. “It was tough at the beginning – wearing face shields and goggles, staying six feet apart from our co-workers all the time – but now it has become more routine,” says Araceli. “A lot of our patients are elderly and immunocompromised so we have taken a lot of extra precautions to protect them. I love working with them.”

Once her son starts kindergarten, Araceli plans to attend night classes to earn a nursing degree while also working part-time. “DACA gave me the opportunity to achieve my dreams of working in the medical field and will help me achieve my dreams of becoming a nurse. I’m grateful for Pisgah Legal’s help.”

“I WAS STILL LEARNING HOW TO DO MY JOB WHEN THE PANDEMIC HIT. WHILE EVERYTHING ELSE WAS CLOSING, WE WERE STILL SHOWING UP TO THE OFFICE EVERY DAY.”
Pisgah Legal Services appeared in five times as many media stories in 2020 as 2019, sharing important information regarding legal rights and resources during what was a confusing time for many.

Traffic to PLS’ website more than doubled, recording 224,000+ page views for the year.

Popular pages included:
- Resources During COVID-19
- Employment Rights
- ACA Health Insurance

“\textquote{i am so grateful to work alongside our staff, providing purposeful, meaningful work with compassion for our clients and each other.}”
- Jackie Kiger, PLS Chief Operations Officer
OUR LEGAL AID PROGRAMS

Children’s Law Helps disadvantaged children avoid homelessness, escape abuse and access essential services, such as medical care and education.

Consumer Law Defends consumer rights, addresses fraud and stops predatory lending practices by protecting clients’ limited income and resources from unfair collection.

Health Justice Promotes access to health insurance through the Affordable Care Act (ACA), including understanding options for Medicaid and Medicare.

Elder Law Helps seniors live independently in their homes for as long as possible. Protects seniors from financial or physical abuse or harassment, and assists with end-of-life planning.

Homelessness Prevention Prevents families and individuals from losing their homes to eviction or foreclosure and improves existing housing conditions.

Veterans Law Assists homeless or otherwise vulnerable military veterans by obtaining or maintaining stable housing, securing disability benefits and accessing quality health care and health insurance.

Domestic and Sexual Violence Prevention Helps survivors of domestic violence and/or sexual assault take legal action to escape abuse and rebuild their lives and financial stability.

Medical-Legal Partnerships Helps medical patients address legal issues that impact “social determinants” or issues that impact their health, such as domestic violence, housing, or crushing debt.

Income Security Obtains and protects public benefits for low-income people, including SNAP, SSI/SSDI, Social Security and others.

Justice for All Helps eligible immigrants work legally and secure legal status and addresses other basic poverty needs. Provides legal documents to protect children and assets in case of family separation.

Community Economic Development Increases jobs and affordable housing through legal advocacy and in partnership with other nonprofits, church groups and local governments.

Expunction In conjunction with the Buncombe County Justice Resource Center, helps clear criminal records for minor offenses and remove barriers to employment, housing, education, and benefits.

Mountain Area Volunteer Lawyer (MAVL)/Hotline/Emeritus Attorneys Harnesses the power of volunteer attorneys by providing opportunities to serve Pisgah Legal clients pro bono.
Expanding to Help More People in Western North Carolina

Pisgah Legal Services provides a broad array of free, civil legal services in 11 WNC counties, and offers immigration law services in 18 counties.

We have seven offices in Asheville, Brevard, Burnsville, Hendersonville, Highlands/Cashiers, Marshall, and Rutherfordton, and plan to add others in Spruce Pine and Newland in 2021.

CASES CLOSED IN 2020 (PERCENTAGES BY ISSUE AREA)

- 33% Domestic Violence, Child Abuse and Custody
- 26% Homelessness Prevention
- 13% Subsistence Income, Health Care and Government Benefits
- 10% Basic Needs for Immigrants
- 8% Consumer Rights and Essential Property
- 5% End-of-Life Planning for Seniors
- 5% Other

*Includes all members of households in cases closed and pending. Some helped more than once. Includes all family members assisted by ACA health justice work.
Losing her husband to cancer in 2020 wasn’t the only hardship Tammy would have to bear. When the insurance company denied his group life insurance benefits to her, Tammy says, “I was in shock. I didn’t know which way to turn.”

A cancer survivor herself, Tammy had previously reached out to Pisgah Legal for help signing up for ACA health insurance. After assisting Tammy, Pisgah Legal staffers referred her to Harold Kaplan, a business attorney and arbitrator who began taking pro bono cases for Pisgah Legal after retiring to WNC from Florida.

Tammy provided Harold with records of her husband’s insurance policy, and details about his employment for 24 years at the same company. After several telephone meetings with Tammy and verification of the facts, Harold advocated vigorously on her behalf and succeeded; Tammy was paid the full policy benefits.

“This is a big win for an individual who was already turned down by the insurance company and would have never received a dime without an attorney intervening,” says Harold. “Financially, Tammy was living month to month and, on top of everything else, she was still waiting for Social Security to complete processing of her widow’s benefits so she could begin to receive that monthly payment.”

Harold says, “I treat Pisgah Legal clients exactly the same way as if they were paying clients because that’s how I practiced law for 30 years.” Tammy says, “Mr. Kaplan was a very good lawyer and very kind too. I would have lost everything if it hadn’t been for Pisgah Legal Services.”
2020 VOLUNTEER ATTORNEYS

Pro Bono Honor Roll
50 or more hours recorded

Kim Brown
Rob Dimitrijevich
Cindy Eller
Alex Gomes
Harold Kaplan
Gerald Kirksey
Coalter Lathrop
Jessica Lazenby
Jean Lee
Lance Martin
Murphy Miller
Michele Morris
John Noor
Julie Northup
Saul Perla
Scott Taylor
Bryant Webster
Vann Vogel

Pro Bono Honor Roll
10-49 hours recorded

Joanne Dykes
James Ellis
Paul Erickson
Holly Fairbairn
Katherine Fisher
Murphy Home Fletcher
Johanna Fowler
Kerry Friedman
David Gantt
Victor Garlock
Jason Gast
Ben Gilbert
Tikkun Gottschalk
Natalie Gray
Anna Hamrick
Sam S. Harben
Edward Hay, Jr.
David Hillier
Ann-Patton Hornthal
Kenneth Hunt
David Irvine
Gray Jennigan
B.J. Kilgore
Karen Knob
Michelle Knight
Robert Lamb
Bryan Lawler
Meredith Lenell
Doris Loomis
Tom Lowry
Barrett McClattery
Betsey Matthews
Heather Newton
Lois Penn
Ben Pitts
Eleanor Powers
Ben Scales
Glen Shults
John Sutton, Jr.
Scott Taylor
Steven Wingo
Leslie Winner
Nevin Wisnoski
Barbara Wright
Matthew Roberson
Susan Russo Klein
Ronald Sneed

Cynthia Strom
Bill Wolcott

Volunteers for Justice
Up to 9 hours recorded

Steve Agan
Garrett Arzt
Derrick Bailey
Lora Baker
T. Kent Baldwin
Jack Bebber
Nathan Begley
Wm. Michael Begley
William Biggers
Rachel Blackburn
Matt Blair
Jenny Boyer
Annika Brock
Tiffany Burba
April Burt
Allie Bushelli
Hannah Camenzind
Eugene Carr, III
Vincent Childress, Jr.
Eva Clement
Ryan Coffield
Sarah Corley
Jason Craig
Samuel Craig
Wendy Craig
John Crotts
Dale Curridden
Walter Daniels
Jerome Davidow
Jane Deanwaters
John Decker
Gary Dodd
Dustin Dow
Mary Euler
Frank Fischer
Johanna Fowler
Daniel Fox
Kirk Friedland
Ben Gilbert
Evan Gilreath
Carol Goins

Mike Greer
Steve Grabenstein
Daren Gum
Jackson Hamilton
Larry Hartley
Barbara Henry
Burcu Hensley
David Hudson
Margie Huggins
Ivana Hughes
Ronald Justice, Jr.
Linda Kane
John Kelso
Brian King
Melody King
Anne Knight
Caroline Knox
Rich Kucharski
Scott Lamb
Zachary Lamb
Dennis Lanahan
Beth Lane
Katherine Langley
Jessica Leavens
Tod Leaven
Gene Leicht
Susan Lewis
Eugene Linkous, Jr.
Haris Livingstain
Barbara Lubin
Jack Lyda
Richard Malita
Esther Manheimer
Blake Marcus
James Marshall
Mark Martin
B.B. Massagee, III
Lucy Massagee
Diame McDonald
Peter McGuire
Mariah McKinney
James Minick
S. Christopher Moore
Tom Morris
Paulette (Lee) Mulligan
Christopher Musial
Elizabeth Newman
Jeffrey Owen

Susan Patterson
Amita Peltz
Jason Peltz
Robert Pitts
Leonard Poe
Ana Prendergast
Susan Taylor Rash
Chris Reed
James Reynolds
Norman Riddle
John F. Robenalt
Adrienne Roberson
Thomas Roberts
Robert Robinson
Sabrina Rockoff
Kathleen Rodberg
Kaitlin Romanelli
Ellen Rose
Marc Rudow
Ashley Saville-Amtower
Cindy Schirmer
K. Dean Shatley, II
James Siemons
Justin Sigmon
Zeb Smathers
Jennifer Snyder
Caroline Snipes
Carole Spainhour
Heidi Stewart
Jamie Stokes
Douglas Tate
Sarah Thomburg
Gabrielle Trott
Cynthia Vardiman
Alina Vega
Gay Vinson
Adam Vorhis
Elise Wall
Diane Walton
Eunice Ward
John Watson, III
Carin Webb
Theresa Weber
Wiley Vestall
Clifton Williams
Terry Young

We do our best to keep accurate records. If you have a correction to this list, please contact Katie Russell Miller: katierm@pisgahlegal.org.

WELL-DESERVED HONORS

The North Carolina Bar Association selected McGuire Wood & Bissette Attorney Matt Roberson (L) as the recipient of the 2020 William L. Thorp Pro Bono Award. Matt generously volunteers his time and expertise to serve our clients.

We do our best to keep accurate records. If you have a correction to this list, please contact Katierm@pisgahlegal.org.
THANK YOU BOARD AND VOLUNTEERS

“WORKING WITH PISGAH DEFINITELY SOLIDIFIED WHAT I WANT TO DO IN THE FUTURE WITH MY LEGAL CAREER.”

– DESIREE ROSS
SUMMER LAW CLERK

2020 Board of Directors
Bill Wolcott
President
Shelley Brown,
Vice-President
Billy Solmon,
Treasurer
Frank Castelblanco,
Secretary
Leslie Heywood,
Executive Committee
Member-at-Large
John Noor,
Executive Committee
Member-at-Large
Sharon Alexander
Ryan Coffield
Perrin Dargan
Judy Futch
Claudia Hawkins
Jean Lee
Harris Livingstain
Gwen McKinney
Lindia Pearson
Jorge Redmond
Charlie Shanor

Earned Income Tax Credit Clinic Volunteers
Evelyn Braziner
Jim Carillon
Jerry Davidow
Jeff Dektor
Paul Glaser
Fanny Hicks
Alex Hill
Mara Kent
Tara Kerr
Debbie Lehman
Olga Lucia
Joe Moyer
Barb Mueller
Glenn Ottley
Flor Santiago
Pat Strang
Christina Strickland
Harv Wechsler
Steve Wingo

Health Justice Volunteers
Debbie Aiton
Katie Alexander
Michael Beech
Patricia Call
Terry Call
Jim Carillon
Jeff Dektor
Lynda Feldman
Terry Foley
Gilda Gatti
Ben Gilbert
Claudia Hawkins
Marlene Jacoby
Gene Keil
Lucy Keil
Bill Lease
Karen Lechner
Fred Littleton
Leslie Long
Lynne Meacham
Marianne Mooney
Barb Mueller
Becky Pitts
Tom Plaut
Bob Songereth
Jane Vasica
Katie Winchell
Johanna Young

Summer Law Clerks
Kia Barrett
- Elon University
School of Law
Coburn Burroughs
- Loyola University
New Orleans
College of Law
John Clucas
- University of Tennessee College of Law
Lauren Cook
- Campbell School of Law
Samantha Lejune
- University of North Carolina School of Law
Kate Merlin
- Wake Forest University School of Law
Desiree Ross
- North Carolina Central University School of Law

Pat and Terry Call receive a porch visit and thank you from Pisgah Legal.
In 2020, serving the people who need Pisgah Legal most required flexibility, ingenuity and creativity on behalf of our volunteers and staff. When the weather cooperated, clients were sometimes helped outdoors in our offices’ parking lots. We are so grateful to the 450+ volunteers who gave their time and talent to help their fellow neighbors even as they too were navigating life during a pandemic.
Saluting the Staff of Pisgah Legal Services

In the early days of the pandemic, Pisgah Legal staff transitioned almost overnight to work remotely for the safety of everyone.

And yet, our attorneys and staff still donned masks and bravely went to court to represent local people whose lives and crises didn’t stop just because the rest of the world seemed to.

Weekly online staff meetings offered us a chance to share important news and gave us new glimpses into the lives of our co-workers, including their homes, their families and even their pets.

We found our way through 2020 together, offering support, cheer, and gentle reminders when we found ourselves “on mute.”

To each and every staff member who juggled home and work lives, calmed frantic people calling in for help, learned new technology on the fly, fought like hell to protect our clients and their families and provided understanding and assistance to your fellow co-workers – all while serving more people than ever before – we say:

THANK YOU! You are inspiring, courageous, dedicated and extraordinary people.

*As of March 2021

PISGAH LEGAL ATTORNEYS AND STAFF*

Noele Aabye  
Liz Allen  
KaDeidra Baker  
Jim Barrett  
David Bartholomew  
Cindy Benitez  
Parris Booker  
Rhonda Brown  
Keverlee Burchett  
Veronica Burke  
Patricia Caddell  
Isabel Carson  
Phillip Carwane  
Pat Casey  
John Cashion  
Kirsten Cole  
Shannon Cornelius  
Flor Corral  
Ruby DayBranch  
Joan Dennehy  
Sandy Devoid  
Nancy Diaz  
Jeanne DiBella  
Mary Dotson  
Becca Eden  
Justin Edge  
Emily Ermer  
Ben Fehsenfeld  
Franchesca Figaro  
Frank Fischer  
Jodi Ford  
Katherine Freeman  
Shoshana Fried  
Patricia Furnish  
Sam Galloway  
Joanne Gaylord  
James Gorsuch  
Beth Herman  
Daniel Heyman  
Deborah Holt  
Haley Honeycutt  
Julia Horrocks  
Thalia Hoy  
Ty Johnson  
Jaclyn Kiger  
Colyn Kilmer  
Erin Kinard  
Je’vonne Knox  
Katie Latino  
Thomas Lodwick  
Ben Many  
Molly Maynard  
Ivan Melchar  
Robin Merrell  
Alicia Merrill  
Katie Russell Miller  
Jacquelyn Miner  
Meghan Moran  
Tom Newton  
Jacob Oakes  
Madeleine Offen  
Sam Peck  
Angie Peña  
Kelley Pierce  
Megan  
Quattlebaum  
Nelson Reyes  
Christy Rhodes  
Daniela Risquez  
Carol Rogers  
Anne Sailer  
Judi Schultz  
Cynthia Shawamreh  
Alex Sewell  
Dylan Simsko  
Parker Smith  
Michelle Spiegel  
Casey Steen  
Andrew Stevenson  
Jeanne Stillson  
Madison Thornton  
Ed Treat  
Valerie True  
Kathy Walker  
Tracey Walker  
Jenna Walley  
Robert Wharton  
Evie Sandlin White  
Ally Wilson  
Leah Yetter

*As of March 2021
2020 FINANCIAL REPORT

Grants of $10,000 or More
AMY Wellness Foundation
Anonymous Foundations (3)
Beattie Foundation
Blue Cross Blue Shield Foundation of North Carolina Foundation
Church of the Good Shepherd
Clannad Foundation
Colonel Club Community Fund – High Hampton
Community Foundation of Henderson County
- COVID-19 Response Fund
- Perry N. Rudnick Endowment
- The Paton Fund
The Community Foundation of Western North Carolina
- Emergency and Disaster Response Fund
- Fund for Mitchell County
- Highlands Community Fund
- People in Need
- Rutherford County Endowment
- Women for Women
- The Yancey Fund
Dogwood Health Trust
Highlands Cashiers Health Foundation
High Country Charitable Foundation
Hot Springs Health Program, Inc.
James H. Cummings Foundation
Kate B. Reynolds Charitable Trust
Lake Toxaway Charities
The Leon Levine Foundation
Sandra and Leon Levine
N.C. Bar Foundation Endowment
N.C. Healthcare Foundation
N.C. Justice Center
Pisgah Health Foundation
RHA Health Services, Inc.
RHI Legacy Foundation, Inc.
Samuel L. Phillips Family Foundation
Sisters of Mercy of N.C Foundation
Sisters of Mercy of N.C Foundation
Walnut Cove Members Association
Wells Fargo
WNC Bridge Foundation
- Western Carolina Medical Society
Women’s Fund of the Blue Ridge
Z. Smith Reynolds Foundation

Revenue: $6,917,553*

- State 2%
- Federal 22%
- IOLTA 8%
- Foundations 36%
- Counties 5%
- Other 2%

Expenses: $6,184,035

- Salaries 66%
- Fringe Benefits 20%
- Other 1%
- Space/Equipment 2%
- Training/Travel 1%
- Insurance, Dues, Library 1%
- Telephone 1%
- Office Supplies/Postage 6%
- Contract Fees 2%

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
Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security (CARES) Act
Family Violence Prevention and Services
- N.C. Council for Women and Youth Involvement
Home and Community Care Block Grants
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- Legal Assistance for Victims Grant
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PLS also leveraged $835,750 in pro bono legal services in cases closed in 2020.

*These numbers are based on information available as of March 10, 2021. A few items, such as depreciation and contributions to the PLS Endowment, are not included. Most excess revenue over expenses in 2020 is restricted for expenses in 2021. Financial information about this organization and a copy of its solicitation license are available from the State Solicitation Licensing Branch at 888.830.4989. The license is not an endorsement by the State.
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Not even a pandemic could stop Pisgah Legal’s 10th Annual Justice Forum. On Oct. 1, 2020 the event was held online for the first time. More than 500 guests Zoomed in to hear poet Clint Smith give an inspiring and powerful address that resonated even in the virtual space.

After months of protests and social unrest around the nation – and right here in WNC – Smith moved us to act and advocate to create a more equitable and just world. Guests were also treated to an outstanding performance by local singer Kat Williams. Special thanks to the many sponsors, attendees, staff and volunteers who made this virtual event a success.

“I WANT TO LIVE IN A WORLD WHERE MY SON WILL NOT BE PRESUMED GUILTY THE MOMENT HE IS BORN, WHERE A TOY IN HIS HAND ISN’T MISTAKEN FOR ANYTHING OTHER THAN A TOY.”

– CLINT SMITH
CELEBRATING 2020’S JAZZ FOR JUSTICE HONOREES

Our annual Jazz for Justice event was postponed in the Spring of 2020. Until we can honor and thank our wonderful award recipients in person, please read more about their generous contributions at: pigshalegal.org/JazzHonorees.
CONGRATULATIONS WICKED WEED BREWING, NOMINATED BY PISGAH LEGAL, AND CHOSEN AS 2020’S OUTSTANDING BUSINESS IN PHILANTHROPY BY THE ASSOCIATION OF FUNDRAISING PROFESSIONALS.

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“We’re just sitting here, almost in tears, because we can’t believe how much Leah did for us and how grateful we are. She was so helpful and made it so easy for us. We just wanted to give her a shout out and let you know how wonderful an employee you have in her. She was just amazing and helpful and kind and it’s life changing for us.

So, thank you so much.”

– Carl and Catherine

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EAST FORK

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