

POLICY STAFF 2005



NC Justice Center


*Opportunity
and Prosperity
for All*

“As the new Executive Director of the **North Carolina Justice Center**, I am pleased to provide you with this directory of our Policy Staff. The Justice Center is dedicated to helping low-income and disadvantaged North Carolinians escape poverty and move toward economic security. Our policy staff is experienced and expert in conducting research and policy analysis, and advocating before state and local agencies and the North Carolina General Assembly. We are available to provide analysis, training, presentations, advocacy planning, testimony and bill drafting. Staff regularly work with other organizations and coalitions, media, administration staff, legislators and legislative committees. I hope you will refer to the back of this sheet for more information about the Justice Center’s policy work and that you will call us if we can be of any assistance to you.”




Rhonda Raney,
Executive Director
919/856-3193
rhonda@ncjustice.org

Amna Cameron 919/856-2575
amna@ncjustice.org




TITLE: Fiscal Policy Analyst
PROJECT: NC Budget & Tax Center
TOPICS COVERED: *NC Budget, State and Local Tax Policy*

Bill Rowe 919/856-2177
bill@ncjustice.org




TITLE: General Counsel
TOPICS COVERED: *Workforce Issues, Unemployment Insurance, Housing, Access to Courts*

Angella Dunston 919/856-2567
angella@ncjustice.org




TITLE: Parent Advocate and Policy Analyst
PROJECT: NC Education & Law Project
TOPICS COVERED: *Public Education*

Sorien Schmidt 919/856-2151
cell: 919/271-0143
sorien@ncjustice.org




TITLE: Legislative Director
TOPICS COVERED: *Public Assistance and Social Services Programs; Workforce Issues; Immigrant Rights; HHS and General Budget Advocacy; Tax Advocacy*

Elaine Mejia 919/856-2176
elaine@ncjustice.org




TITLE: Director, Budget & Tax Center
PROJECT: NC Budget & Tax Center
TOPICS COVERED: *NC Budget, State and Local Tax Policy*

Rob Schofield 919/856-2153
rob@ncjustice.org




TITLE: Policy Director
TOPICS COVERED: *Editor of NC Policy Brief and analyst of the full array of Justice Center issues*

Sheria Reid 919/856-3192
sheria@ncjustice.org




TITLE: Director, NC Education & Law Project
PROJECT: NC Education & Law Project
TOPICS COVERED: *Public Education*

Adam Searing 919/856-2568
cell: 919/619-4068
adam@ncjustice.org




TITLE: Director, Health Access Coalition
PROJECT: Health Access Coalition
TOPICS COVERED: *Health Care*

Alfred Ripley 919/856-2573
cell: 919/274-8245
al@ncjustice.org



TITLE: Attorney and Director, Consumer Action Network
PROJECT: Consumer Action Network
TOPICS COVERED: *Consumer and Housing issues*

Polly Williams 919/833-3805
pollywil@aol.com



TITLE: Volunteer Policy Advocate
TOPICS COVERED: *State Employee Gender & Pay Equity and Aging*

NOT SURE WHOM TO CALL? HAVE GENERAL QUESTIONS?

CONTACT: Sorien Schmidt, Legislative Director 919/856-2151 (office) 919/271-0143 (cell) Rob Schofield, Policy Director 919/856-2153 (office)

(More detail about Topics Covered on reverse side.)

POLICY WORK

The North Carolina Justice Center is dedicated to helping low-income and disadvantaged North Carolinians escape poverty and move toward economic security. To achieve its mission, the Justice Center uses **four** primary strategies:

1. Public policy advocacy and lobbying
2. Research, policy analysis and report writing
3. Community education and capacity building
4. Litigation

The Justice Center conducts its work in collaboration with disadvantaged individuals and communities and with a variety of other concerned individuals and organizations. The Justice Center includes several well-known projects within its umbrella and has achieved numerous successes in its eight-year history.

NOT SURE WHOM TO CALL?

CONTACT: Sorien K. Schmidt,
Legislative Director
919-856-2151 (office)
919-271-0143 (cell)
sorien@ncjustice.org

CONTACT: Rob Schofield,
Policy Director
919-856-2153
rob@ncjustice.org

NC TOPICS AND ISSUES COVERED

ACCESS TO COURTS: NC Civil Procedure, Indigent Access
CONTACT: [Bill Rowe](#)

CONSUMER ISSUES: Predatory & Payday Lending, Public Utilities, Foreclosures, High Cost Consumer Purchases, Consumer Legal Rights
CONTACTS: [Alfred Ripley](#), [Rob Schofield](#)

HEALTH CARE: Medicaid & NC Health Choice Programs, Health Insurance and The Uninsured, Blue Cross-Blue Shield Conversion, Access To Health Care And Prescription Medications, Mental Health Parity, Long-Term Care, Geriatric and Dental Care
CONTACTS: [Adam Searing](#), [Polly Williams](#)

HOUSING: Landlord-Tenant Law, Safe Housing, Fair Housing, Affordable Housing, NC Housing Trust Fund, Foreclosures, Smart Growth
CONTACTS: [Bill Rowe](#), [Alfred Ripley](#)

PUBLIC ASSISTANCE: Work First, Food Stamps, Temporary Assistance For Needy Families Block Grant (TANF), Social Services Block Grant (SSBG), Departments Of Social Services, Emergency Assistance, Low-Income Energy Assistance, Aging and Older Adult Programs
CONTACTS: [Sorien Schmidt](#), [Polly Williams](#)

PUBLIC EDUCATION: Public School Financing, Testing, No Child Left Behind, ABCs Program, Achievement Gap, Charter Schools, Dropout Prevention, Language Access for Children with Limited English Proficiency (LEP), Exceptional Children's Programs, School Discipline
CONTACTS: [Angella Dunston](#), [Sheria Reid](#)

STATE & LOCAL TAX POLICY AND STATE BUDGET: Fairness, Equity and Adequacy Of State And Local Tax Systems, Impact Of Taxes

On Various Income Groups, Corporate Tax Incentives and Loopholes, Lottery, State Earned Income Tax Credit, Analysis Of State Budget Proposals, Projections Of Budget Surpluses Or Shortfalls

CONTACTS: [Elaine Mejia](#), [Amna Cameron](#)

NC ECONOMY & WORKFORCE ISSUES: Unemployment Insurance, Economic and Employment Data, Mass Layoff And Worker Dislocation, Workforce Safety, Migrant Workers, Workforce Development, Economic Development, Cost Of Living, Wages, Benefits, Family Leave, Pay Equity
CONTACTS: [Sorien Schmidt](#), [Bill Rowe](#), [Polly Williams](#)

JUSTICE CENTER PROJECTS

- NC Budget & Tax Center
- NC Health Access Coalition
- NC Education and Law Project
- Grassroots and Community Empowerment Project
- NC Living Income Initiative
- NC Poverty Law Litigation Project
- NC Immigrant Legal Assistance Project
- NC Consumer Action Network

PUBLICATIONS REGARDING POLICY ISSUES

BTC Reports; NC Policy Brief; Living Income Legislative Email Update; Consumer Watchdog; NC Health Report



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