



## North Carolina IOLTA: 40 Years of Investing in Justice

North Carolina Interest on  
Lawyers' Trust Accounts  
A program of the North Carolina State Bar

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## Meet our Leadership



**Shelby Benton, Chair**  
Benton Family Law  
Goldsboro, North Carolina



**Mary Irvine, Executive Director**  
NC IOLTA  
Raleigh, North Carolina

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## What is NC IOLTA?

Program created in 1983 by the State Bar and approved by the North Carolina Supreme Court to collect interest earned on lawyers' general pooled trust accounts to fund programs for the public's benefit.



### Mission

To improve the lives of North Carolinians by strengthening the justice system as a leader, partner, and funder.

### Vision

A North Carolina where all people can effectively meet their legal needs.



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## Thank you for your service!

**John Arrowood**, N.C. Court of Appeals, Superior Court, Mecklenburg County  
**Rhoda B. Billings**, N.C. Supreme Court  
**Charles L. Becton**, N.C. Court of Appeals  
**Sidney S. Eagles Jr.**, N.C. Court of Appeals  
**Robinson O. Everett**, U.S. Court of Military Appeals  
**James G. Exum Jr.**, N.C. Supreme Court, Superior Court, Guilford County  
**Jane V. Harper**, District Court, Mecklenburg County  
**Clifton E. Johnson**, N.C. Court of Appeals, Superior Court, District Court, Mecklenburg County  
**Linda M. McGee**, N.C. Court of Appeals  
**Naomi E. Morris**, N.C. Court of Appeals  
**Lillian B. O'Briant**, District Court, Randolph, Montgomery, & Moore Counties  
**James A. Wynn**, U.S. Court of Appeals for the Fourth Circuit, N.C. Supreme Court, N.C. Court of Appeals

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## THE NEED

There is **one legal aid attorney for every 8,000 North Carolinians** eligible for services.



**21%** of the population of North Carolina, 2 million individuals, qualify for legal aid.



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## Our duty to help

"The legal profession is a group of people united in a learned calling for the public good. At their best, lawyers assure the availability of legal services to all, regardless of ability to pay..."



..."the provision of free legal services to those unable to pay reasonable fees continues to be an obligation of each lawyer as well as the profession generally, but the efforts of individual lawyers are often not enough to meet the need. Thus, the profession and government instituted additional programs to provide legal services. Accordingly, legal aid offices, lawyer referral services and other related programs were developed... Every lawyer should support all proper efforts to meet this need for legal services."

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### Civil legal aid changes lives.

Aisha escaped her abusive estranged husband and was able to tell her story in court with the help of a legal aid attorney, securing safety and stability for her children.



In 2021, NC IOLTA grantees provided assistance in more than **31,000 closed cases**, impacting the lives of more than **91,000 household members**.

## Why We Do This Work

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## How We Work

We partner with financial institutions across the state to secure the highest interest rates and lowest fees possible.

We assist individual lawyers and law offices with establishing mandatory interest-bearing IOLTA accounts to hold client funds.

Those accounts earn interest which financial institutions send to IOLTA on a monthly basis.

We distribute funds to grantees who, in turn, provide legal advice and representation across our communities and in every county.

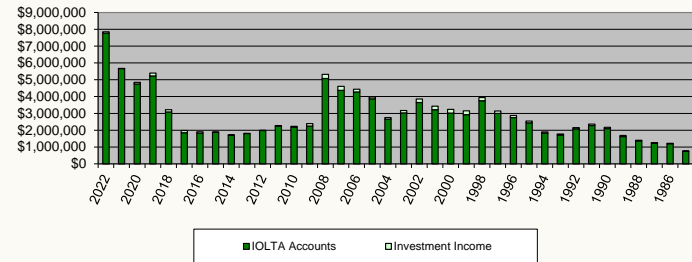
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## IOLTA Account Income

Income from IOLTA accounts fluctuates based on interest rates paid on accounts and the average balances.



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## 2023 IOLTA Grants

\$4,957,500 to organizations to provide direct civil legal services

\$629,564 to volunteer lawyer programs

\$514,800 to improve the administration of justice

Total IOLTA grants: \$6,101,864



An increase in regular IOLTA grants of 43% over regular 2022 awards

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## Our Impact

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Our Impact

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Our Impact

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## Get Involved

Join us in working toward equitable access to civil legal aid to create a North Carolina where all individuals, families and children can fairly navigate the justice system to have their basic needs met and their rights protected *so they can thrive*.

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## Contact Us

Visit [www.nciolta.org](http://www.nciolta.org) for more information about North Carolina IOLTA.

Questions?  
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