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LOOKING AHEAD TO 2017-18

STAFF EXPANSION—JI began the process of planning for an Executive Director in July 2017. We're thrilled to invite a new level of leadership in the coming fiscal year.

NEW JI AFFILIATES—We look forward to developing our current affiliates to full capacity, as well as continuing to grow statewide.

NEW ORGANIZATIONAL PARTNERSHIPS—JI has benefitted from working with several organizations this year. Next year, we look forward to strengthening those partnerships, and developing new ones to serve our constituents and to further our respective missions.

STRONGER JUDICIAL ADVOCACY—JI is exploring ways to carry issues of interest to us further and wider. We look forward to accomplishing our traditional advocacy work in new ways, particularly with so much opportunity on the horizon.

Follow Us on Social Media!



2016-17 ANNUAL REPORT HIGHLIGHTS



Justice Initiatives, Inc. (JI)
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Note from the Chair

Justice Initiatives (JI) is finishing up a year of growth and moving the mission to a new level, ushering in an era where we expect to fulfill the mission with a capacity it has never had in the past. In addition to our traditional judicial advocacy work, this fiscal year we embarked on several new adventures in our journey, and the highlights include:

- Replicating our model to expand into two new judicial districts: 15B - Orange and Chatham County, and 28 - Buncombe County. These first JI Affiliates are leading the way to bring a unified voice in support of a strong and independent judiciary from across the State to our leaders in Raleigh.
- Being recognized nationally as a 'Bright Idea' in Government by The Ash Center for Democratic Governance and Innovation at the John F. Kennedy School of Government, Harvard University.
- Participating in Legislative Advocacy Day in Raleigh to share our positions on important legislation of interest, such as the "Raise the Age" bill, which is now law.

These efforts are made possible by the continued support of our generous donors who believe our courts can and will deliver an ever better measure of quality justice, and that the entire State will prosper with the resources needed to do so. Thank you for your support of JI!

- Anthony G. Scheer

FINANCIAL HIGHLIGHTS

Our top financial supporters this fiscal year included:

- Moore & Van Allen, PLLC
- Secunda Donor Advised Fund
- US District Court—Western District NC
- NC Lawyers Weekly



During the last fiscal year, our financial position had improved to a point that we were able to welcome our first part-time employee to expand organizational capacity, particularly in the area of outreach.

However, the value of our volunteer service, vital the organization's functioning, cannot be overstated. Dedicated individuals—from our Board of Directors, to our event volunteers—are the unsung torch bearers of our mission and have contributed over 1,000 hours of service this fiscal year!

NEW DEVELOPMENTS

Expansion—JI added our first two new affiliates in Orange/Chatham Counties and Buncombe County.

UNITE Charlotte & Mecklenburg Bar Foundation Grants—JI was awarded funds by United Way and Mecklenburg Bar Foundation to increase public trust and confidence in the courts and to support judicial public policy research.

Court Ambassador Program—JI piloted a program conjointly with UNC Charlotte, and the Trial Court Administrator's office (TCA) to strengthen student learning and bonds between the TCA and our University partners.

#CivicsWednesday Trivia Game— On Wednesdays a judicial branch related trivia question is posted on Facebook to promote civics education. Winners this year received a gift from sponsors McAlister's Deli and Pei Wei.

PROGRAM HIGHLIGHTS

Judicial Candidates Forum— JI hosted candidates running for seats on the NC Supreme Court, NC Court of Appeals and District Court (26th Judicial District) benches in October with over 80 attendees.

Immigration Law Forum—JI Orange/Chatham, Carolina Student Legal Services, Inc., and the Town of Chapel Hill co-sponsored an open forum on changes in Immigration Law in February.

Court Camp—JI supported 45 teens, ages 14-18, in this one-of-a-kind summer program.

50th Anniversary of NC District Court Gala—JI provided funds to meet the gala's AV needs.