www.law.unc.edu/centers/poverty

Mission
THE CENTER ON POVERTY, WORK AND OPPORTUNITY at UNC School of Law is a non-partisan, interdisciplinary institute designed to study, examine, document and advocate for proposals, policies and services that mitigate poverty in North Carolina and the nation.

Objectives
The center strives to:
• Address the pressing needs of those currently living at or below the poverty level across North Carolina and the country
• Provide a forum to examine innovative and practical ideas to move more Americans out of poverty
• Raise public awareness of issues related to work and poverty
• Train a new generation to combat the causes and effects of poverty and to improve the circumstances of working people

RECENT PROJECTS AND EVENTS
Truth and Hope Poverty Tour
The center organized the tour in partnership with leading North Carolina advocacy organizations to put a face on poverty in the state. The tour included four trips to different areas of the state, where participants met with residents, local officials and service providers to hear their stories of poverty and hardship.

Seeing the Invisible Series
A monthly series published in the Raleigh News & Observer in 2013 highlighting poverty-related issues including homelessness, child poverty, access to the civil justice system, and racial and economic environmental injustice.

Student Speaking Events
The center hosts panel discussions each semester for UNC law students. Recent panel discussions include democracy and campaign finance reform, specifically the McCutcheon v. F.E.C. case; and wage theft in North Carolina.

Urban Poverty Research
The center researched the depth and distribution of urban poverty throughout Charlotte and Durham. The research was publicized via editorials in the News & Observer, Charlotte Observer, and Durham News & Herald.

Foreclosure Project
In collaboration with the school’s Consumer Financial Transactions Clinic, the center is conducting research on foreclosure practices and trends in North Carolina to better understand its causes, assist partner organizations and develop policy proposals.

“History will judge us on the extent to which we have used our gifts to lighten and enrich the lives of our fellows.”
—ROBERT FRANCIS KENNEDY

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