

IDS

Appointed Advocate

APRIL 2026



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Apply NOW for Help with Your Law School Debt



NCLEAF

NC LEAF is committed to providing student loan repayment assistance to **public interest attorneys*** with the least ability to repay their law school debt.

***This includes PAC and MAC attorneys who meet certain qualifications.**

The final 2026 application period is April 1-20.

[Apply Now - NC Leaf - Law School Debt Relief, Financial Assistance](#)

Tech Tip: Troubleshooting Use of eCourts Portal

eCourts has a Frequently Asked Questions document from Feb 2023 that has some helpful tips that may improve your Portal experience. The document is available in the Portal Training Materials and Reference Guides on the Portal homepage or at this [link](#).



Additionally, recorded training videos that you may find helpful are also available on the Portal page.

Here are a few of the tips:

- If you have encountered problems with searching or how document display, especially when using Portal on a mobile device, check that you are using the appropriate browser. Portal works best with Microsoft Edge or Google Chrome. If you aren't using one of those browsers, you may have limited functionality.
- If you have had trouble with locating a case or defendant through [Smart Search](#), you can try clearing your cache, using another browser or a browser incognito window for better functionality.
 - Also, using a wildcard, which is a symbol like * can help make your search more flexible in Smart Search. For example, if you are trying to locate information about a defendant with the name Ashley, you can search for **Ash*** to include various spellings of that name. However, keep in mind that you can't use wildcards throughout Portal, only in certain areas.
- If you haven't been able to find all of the case documents you need through Portal, keep in mind that any confidential, sealed, or otherwise restricted documents are not available through Public Portal.
- Finally, keep in mind that eCourts Portal is not the official court record. Public Portal simply provides internet access to public docket entries for public case types. You should contact the Clerk's office to request official copies of court records.

FY25 IDS Annual Report Goes to the Legislature

The IDS Annual Report for FY2025 was submitted to the North Carolina General Assembly on March 15, 2026, pursuant to G.S. 7A-498.9.

[Click HERE to view the report.](#)

As you know, the General Assembly has not yet passed a biennial budget for the 2025 fiscal biennium. IDS has added some additional requests for funding this short session to meet PAC demand and staffing needs arising out of Iryna's Law. IDS hopes to secure sufficient funding to increase PAC rates and keep the PAC fund solvent through the 2027 fiscal biennium.



New Tools Added to Video Series

Three new videos with corresponding slide decks have been added to Mark Atkinson's "Guidance to Start Your Own Law Firm" series.

With help from an NC IOLTA grant, Mark Atkinson, executive director of The Incubator for Legal Practice and Innovation (ILPI) offers a series of videos and resources that provide guidance on the "business" of opening and running a private law office.

[Click HERE to access the shared folder.](#)

Important Note: You must download each item separately.

Reminder!



OASIS is now being used in all 100 North Carolina counties. You must have an account to bill for all your noncapital adult criminal fee apps.

[Click here to visit the OASIS webpage](#) where you can initiate the steps to acquire your account.

New UNC SOG Resources for Parent Defenders

BIG NEWS!

The UNC School of Government published a new 43-page bulletin that seeks to answer many questions that arise about Rule 17 guardians ad litem (GAL) in A/N/D and TPR cases.

Use the following link to access the new manual: [Rule 17 Guardians ad Litem for Respondents in Abuse, Neglect, Dependency, and Termination of Parental Rights Proceedings: Frequently Asked Questions | UNC School of Government](#)

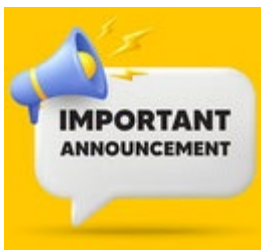


School of
Government

Public Defense
Education

You may also want to visit the [abuse, neglect, dependency, and termination of parental rights](#) webpage for additional resources, including a free comprehensive manual and useful checklist for judges and practitioners, and a summary of appellate case decisions.

Updated Link Alert!



The link to the IDS Expert Witness Guide was updated since our last publication.

IDS prepared [Expert Witnesses in NC Criminal Cases](#) to provide information for any professional considering serving as an expert witness in indigent criminal defense cases, as well as best practices for NC criminal defense attorneys working with expert witnesses.

The guide contains information for experts about billing in IDS cases, deciding whether to accept a case, confidentiality, working with attorneys, report writing, and preparing to testify.

Juvenile First-Degree Murder Roster Now 'LIVE'

March 30 was the official launch of the new Juvenile First-Degree Murder Roster (JFDM Roster) project. Now, courts in 27 North Carolina counties have a new, separate roster of youth defenders who are ready, trained and willing to serve youth ages 13-17 who are charged with first-degree murder.

[Click here to read more about the new roster.](#)

Quick Links



[Fee App Payment Dates](#)



[PAC Fund Updates](#)



[New Payment System](#)



[Experts Database](#)



[Investigator Directory](#)



[Forensic Resources](#)



[Training](#)



[Trial Resources](#)



[UNC SOG Feature](#)

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Indigent Defense Services
123 West Main Street, Suite 400, Durham, NC 27701
Phone: (919) 354-7200 | Fax: (919) 354-7201 | ncids.org

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