

She immigrated to the U.S. and thinks that being an entrepreneur is living the American dream. Her business provides architectural assistance to green builders because she wants to protect our environment.



NC LEAP has

DONATED

more than 1,900 hours of pro bono service ...

SAVED

more than \$253,000 for low-wealth entrepreneurs ...

ASSISTED

more than 400 entrepreneurs and small business owners and ...

HELPED

with more than 450 legal matters.*

**During January 2007-September 2009*



NC LEAP (North Carolina Lawyers for Entrepreneurs Assistance Program) is a project of the North Carolina Bar Association (NCBA) and the NCBA Foundation that provides free legal services to low-wealth entrepreneurs who are starting or expanding their own businesses. NC LEAP serves all 100 North Carolina counties.

NC LEAP fills a critical gap in technical services for entrepreneurs across the state by providing a full range of pro bono business and transactional legal services, including:

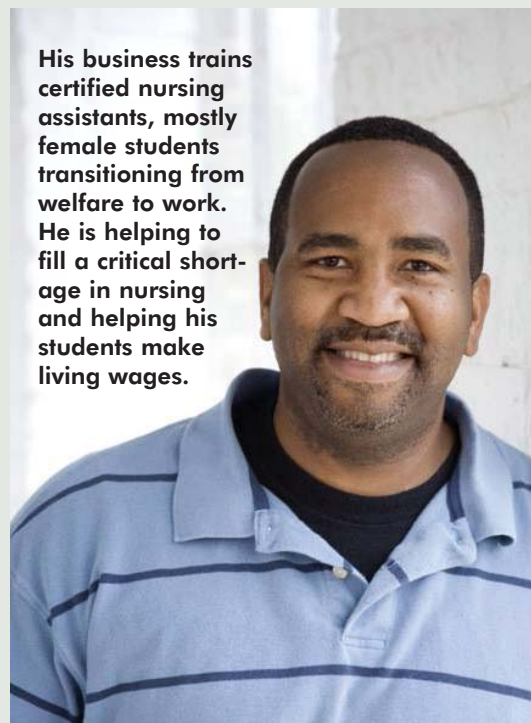
- Legal counsel and advice in starting and organizing a new business;
- Drafting and/or reviewing formation documents and contracts such as leases, loan documents, franchise agreements and vendor agreements;
- Assistance in negotiating contracts;
- Legal advice regarding business permits and licenses and other applicable laws and regulations;
- Referral to community partners including: micro-lenders, entrepreneurial training programs and technical assistance programs; and
- Training sessions and presentations on legal issues for small business owners.

Since its establishment in 2007, NC LEAP volunteer attorneys have committed more than 1,900 hours of pro bono service, resulting in more than \$253,000 in savings for low-wealth entrepreneurs. The program has been helping hard-working citizens in all 100 North Carolina counties create successful businesses while helping communities across the state prepare for success in our changing economy. NC LEAP has assisted more than 400 entrepreneurs and small business owners on more than 450 legal matters, helping them grow and create statewide jobs.

These statistics only begin to show the ways in which NC LEAP services provide pathways out of poverty not just for the low-wealth business owner, but for the entire distressed community surrounding the business. However, the success and longevity of small businesses in the microenterprise industry can often depend on an overlooked service: access to legal counsel. There are many pitfalls and hurdles for the entrepreneur if left

Continued on other side.

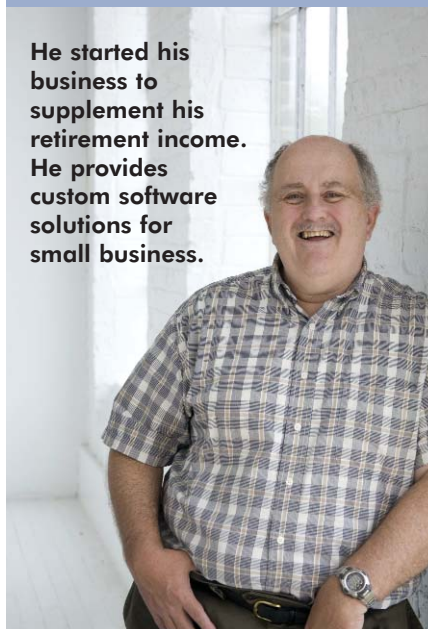
His business trains certified nursing assistants, mostly female students transitioning from welfare to work. He is helping to fill a critical shortage in nursing and helping his students make living wages.



He started a business that produces R&B recordings and provides support to entertainers.



He started his business to supplement his retirement income. He provides custom software solutions for small business.



Continued from other side.

unrepresented in legal matters. NC LEAP fills that gap. NC LEAP provides the tools to build our economy one client, one legal issue at a time.

Funding for NC LEAP is provided through grants, private donations from law firms and lawyers, corporate gifts and significant donations from the NCBA Foundation Endowment and volunteers attorneys. Because NC LEAP is a privately funded, volunteer driven endeavor, volunteers and contributions are vital to our ability to grow and help more low-wealth communities throughout the state. Our first funding cycle raised \$270,000 for three years of operations through June 2010. NC LEAP thanks those supporters who helped this program move forward at its inception.

Throughout the year, NC LEAP staff travel the state educating entrepreneurs about legal issues impacting their businesses, organize legal clinics and conduct outreach to community partners. And now we need *your* help. Please help NC LEAP support low-wealth businesses in 2010 and beyond. Consider giving to NC LEAP's current programs online by clicking "Donate Now" at www.ncleap.com.

Thank you.

Tarek Azhari, Director of NC LEAP
(919) 657-1559
tazhari@ncbar.org



She was earning minimum wage when she decided to start her own business. Since then her income has tripled. Her business supports a family of four.



**NORTH CAROLINA
BAR ASSOCIATION**
SEEKING LIBERTY & JUSTICE



**NORTH CAROLINA
FOUNDATION
BAR ASSOCIATION**

NC LEAP is the signature project of the Business Law and Corporate Counsel sections of the NCBA

NC LEAP Steering Committee 2009-2011

Garland Graham, Chair, Greensboro, N.C. • Anna Mills, Vice-Chair, Asheville, N.C. • David Caplan, Durham, N.C. • Chris Capel, Raleigh, N.C.
Susan Carr, Cary, N.C. • Ken Carroll, Raleigh, N.C. • Jeremy Deese, Charlotte, N.C. • Deborah Gerhardt, Chapel Hill, N.C. • Bill Gwyn, Raleigh, N.C.
Patrick Johnson, Raleigh, N.C. • Steve Lynch, Charlotte, N.C. • Milan Pham, Durham, N.C. • Debbie Segal, Atlanta, Ga. • Wendy Sexton, Cary, N.C.
Tom Watkins, Greensboro, N.C. • Kent Workman, Charlotte, N.C.