

Hi XXX,

I hope this finds you well. We are thinking of our friends and colleagues in western North Carolina as they deal with the devastation and rebuild from Tropical Storm Helene. We know how important it is to support them during this difficult time. The NCBF will be helping coordinate Disaster Legal Services over the weeks and months to come.

I'm reaching out today on behalf of another important initiative of the North Carolina Bar Foundation, the [Open Door Fund](#). I'm excited to serve as an Open Door Fund Ambassador. I'm reaching out to share more information and ask you to join me in supporting the Fund.

The NCBF Open Door Fund seeks to address a variety of issues experienced by historically excluded or disadvantaged individuals and communities in North Carolina. Its initial project, the Open Door Fellowship creates legal networks for 1L law students who would not otherwise have them.

The Open Door Fund is an endowment campaign to raise \$1 million dollars to support the Open Door Fellowship and other similar NCBA + NCBF initiatives. We've raised over \$837,000, but we need your help to exceed our \$1 million goal this year.

(As an ambassador, if you have been involved in some way with the Open Door Fellowship you can personalize this email with your experience. For example:)

- I've hosted an Open Door Fellow at my office during the summer.
- I also serve on the Open Door Fellowship Committee and get the privilege of reviewing the applications and selecting the Fellows each year.

You can read more about the Open Door Fellowship [here](#). Our first Fellows in 2023 were [Tavaria Smith and Zi Zhou](#). This year we hosted our second class with [Darius Alexander and April Franklin](#) as the 2024 Fellows. Darius and April offered the following reflections on their summer experiences:

This program has been transformative. As a first-generation college student and the only person in my extended family to even consider law school, I possessed no prior knowledge of the inner workings of the profession. This program revealed the multi-faceted nature of the legal space and helped me cultivate relationships with amazing individuals that I will be able to carry with me for the rest of my career!

-Darius Alexander

My experience as an Open Door Fellow has been a life-changing one. From connecting with so many great individuals in the legal profession at the NCBA Annual conference to the hands-on legal experience that I was able to obtain while working at The Fresh Market this summer; my life has been greatly enriched for the better. I've also been exposed to areas of the law that were not previously on my radar but are now areas that I am seriously considering exploring.

-April Franklin

Please join me in:

1. [Making a Gift](#) – you can make a one-time gift of any amount to support the Open Door Fund.

2. [Making a Pledge](#) – you can pledge now and make payments on the pledge for up to five years. Several donors are choosing this option because they can make a larger impact but spread out their payments. A pledge also can allow you to support causes important to western NC now and make your Open Door gift later. Your pledge will be an important step in helping us reach our goal and will be greatly appreciated.

Adding to the excitement, a group of NCBA + NCBF Past Presidents will **match new gifts and pledges totaling up to \$100,000**, so your donation will go twice as far!

Many thanks for considering. I look forward to your thoughts!

Best,

Your name