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VOLUME 3, NUMBER 1

JUNE 3, 2010

Justice Initiatives Hosts 4th Annual *Evening at the Courthouse*

On Tuesday, May 11, 2010, Justice initiatives, Inc. (JI) hosted its 4th annual *Evening at the Courthouse* event. In attendance were many distinguished members of the federal and state judiciary, state and local elected representatives, and leading members of the Mecklenburg County Bar and community.

Guests enjoyed a sampling of cuisine prepared by some of Charlotte's premier dining establishments (BLT, Blue, Capital Grille, Dressler's, Villa Francesca, and the Greek Isles) and were able to mingle in the grand atrium underneath the kinetic sculpture, "Persistence of Vision."

Those in attendance also had the benefit of learning about a number of court programs that have reached significant milestones this year: Drug Treatment Court — 15 Years; Family Court — 10 Years; SelfServe Center — 10 Years; Permanency Mediation—10 Years; and, Larry King's Clubhouse—10 Years. Former Mayor, Pat McCrory then provided the keynote remarks of the evening noting Charlotte's long-standing and proud tradition of community service and engagement through special organizations like JI.

If all this were not enough, guests capped off the

night in the open air of the 9th floor terrace socializing and listening to live music while enjoying refreshments and delicious desserts on another perfect North Carolina evening.

Raising the Bar Award Winner Announced



Justice Initiatives, Inc. is pleased to announce **Elisa Chinn-Gary**, Family Court Administrator for the 26th Judicial District, received the third annual Raising the Bar Award at the annual *Evening at the Courthouse* event on May 11th. Each year, the Raising the Bar Award is presented to

honor a court employee who has made a notable contribution to the advancement of the Mecklenburg County court system.

Spring Grants Awarded

Justice Initiatives is pleased to award grants for the following projects:

- ◇ **Court Camp** — An outreach effort to educate high school students about the justice system and the 26th Judicial District in particular. The week long camp includes mock trial, guest speakers, research, observation of trials, and guided tours of the jail and courthouse.
- ◇ **Drug Court Month** — An effort to educate the community and elected representatives about the success of our local drug courts. During the month of May, the operations of eight local courts are highlighted through the presentation of background information, various forms of recognition, and publication of research demonstrating the proven advantages of these successful courts.

- ◇ **Courts and Media Seminar** — An effort to strengthen communication between the judiciary and media and promote transparency, Justice Initiatives has provided funding to create continuing forums where judges and reporters can come together to share information and ask questions about each others operations.
- ◇ **Customer Satisfaction Survey Incentives**—An effort of the TCA's Office to obtain greater public feedback in order to evaluate and improve program services
- ◇ **Employee Incentives** — An effort of the TCA's Office to promote a greater level of esprit de corps by rewarding employees for their efforts. Inspired, efficient and productive workers lead to a more enjoyable experience for court system customers.