

# The Blueprint

Volume 6

Justice Initiatives, Inc

July 2013 Newsletter

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## UPCOMING EVENTS:

### **Chiquita Classic Golf Tournament**

September 2 - 8, 2013  
River Run, Davidson, NC  
Tickets \$10.00  
For tickets email  
administration@justiceinitiatives.org

### **Legal Eagle Golf Tournament**

October 25, 2013  
Verdict Ridge Golf and Country Club  
\$85 per player  
\$540 for team sponsorship  
Register at [www.meckbar.org](http://www.meckbar.org)

## 2013 COURT CAMP:

Four sessions of Court Camp were offered in the summer of 2013 allowing 60 students between the age of 14 and 18 to be immersed in the legal field for a week. These lucky teenagers were able to tour the Charlotte School of Law, Parker Poe Law Firm, the Mecklenburg County Jail, the District Attorney's Office, the Public Defender's Office and the CMPD Crime Lab. They also observed different courtrooms and met several judges, bailiffs, a K-9 deputy, clerks, court reporters and attorneys and participated in a mock crime scene. The week long session ended with a mock trial followed by a graduation ceremony and pizza party.



## 2013 STATE BUDGET:

The Governor's, House's and Senate's proposed budgets for fiscal years 2013-14 and 2014-15 have one thing in common: reduced funding for the judiciary. At risk are the elimination of court reporters, the loss of Special Superior Court Judges and a \$3,000,000 reduction in funding for operations at the Administrative Office of the Courts; which provides the operational infrastructure needed to run our local courts. While the three versions of the budget propose cuts in different areas and amounts, it should concern everyone that the overall resources of our court system are being compromised.

Currently, the North Carolina judiciary receives **2.14%** of the state budget; a percentage that has steadily decreased over the last four years. If diminished access and quality of justice worries you, please reach out to your elected House and Senate representatives. An email, letter, phone call or even all three will let them know that protecting the institution that safeguards your rights and liberties is important to you and others.

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