

**Rotary**  
Club of  
Charlotte



# THIS WEEK'S PROGRAM

November 16, 2021

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## Ken Schorr, Executive Director, Charlotte Center for Legal Advocacy

By **Suzanne Bledsoe**

Ken Schorr, Executive Director of the Charlotte Center for Legal Advocacy since 1988, has devoted the entirety of his legal career to advocacy for individuals and their families who cannot afford or easily access legal services. His dedication to taking care of those in need of legal representation was recognized recently when he was honored with the Lifetime Achievement Award from the North Carolina Justice Center. A Washington, DC native, Ken is a graduate of Brandeis University, University of Michigan Law School and American University School of Public Affairs and the NTL Institute. Before coming to Charlotte, he practiced law in Little Rock Arkansas, was the Director of Litigation at Community Legal Services in Phoenix and Executive Director of Legal Services of North Texas in Dallas.

The Charlotte Center for Legal Advocacy is singularly focused on seeking justice for those in danger of losing financial security, housing, access to healthcare and other government benefits. Every year, over 3,500 families who are dealing with crises of safety, shelter, health, and income are served by the Center's staff of 50 dedicated lawyers and legal advocates. A wide range of legal issues are addressed regularly by the Center's staff, including consumer protection, domestic violence, immigration, income tax disputes, bankruptcy, foreclosure, and access to government benefits, to name a few. In fact, the Charlotte Center for Legal Advocacy is the largest non-profit provider of representation in the Charlotte immigration court in both North and South Carolina, providing individual legal assistance to immigrants and their families regardless of their immigration status.

With an annual budget of \$4 million+, funding is provided primarily through grants, private donations, and governmental channels. The Mecklenburg County legal community supports the Center by providing countless hours of legal advice and representation, enabling more services for more in need.

Ken and his colleagues at the Charlotte Center for Legal Advocacy are an essential cog in the wheel of addressing the needs of those living in poverty in our community. Join me in thanking them for their much needed and appreciated service.

\*A recording of the program is available here: <https://vimeo.com/647160737>

Mr. Schorr's introduction begins at 23:45 minutes.