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Council for Children's Rights Supporters,

We're excited to share the news that Charlotte Center for Legal Advocacy (Advocacy Center), a nonprofit civil legal services organization committed to pursuing justice for those in need, will expand its services this fall by integrating the Education Law Program (ELP), formerly housed at the Council for Children's Rights (CFCR).

The transition marks a significant milestone for both organizations and ensures the continued delivery of high-quality legal services to students and families in Mecklenburg and surrounding counties. Beginning by September 2025, the Education Law Program will become a permanent part of the Advocacy Center's portfolio of services. The transition includes four experienced attorneys who currently lead the program and will continue their work with the Advocacy Center.

As you're aware, the Education Law Program provides legal representation for students and their families in Mecklenburg and surrounding counties, focusing on special education, Section 504 and disciplinary issues. It offers education navigation for court-involved youth in the foster care or juvenile justice systems, helping families and professionals support educational rights. Through free community trainings, it builds the capacity of parent groups and partners to advocate effectively. Recognizing limited resources, the team amplifies its impact through systemic advocacy targeting broader educational barriers. A key priority is improving outcomes for youth in foster care across North Carolina. Overall, this multi-tiered approach blends individual support with strategic outreach to create lasting educational change.

We're incredibly grateful to Charlotte Center for Legal Advocacy for their partnership and look forward to seeing ELP grow and thrive under this new structure. Earlier this year, CFCR discontinued its Custody Advocacy Program and Children's Defense Team. Following the transition of the Education Law Program this fall, the organization will formally conclude its operations after more than four decades of incredible service to the Charlotte community.

We want to express our most sincere thanks to each of you. Whether you served as a volunteer, staff, donor or partner, your unwavering support made a critical difference to thousands of children throughout the Charlotte region and beyond. Our community has been forever changed by your generosity and passion for children!

In gratitude,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Karen Parker".

Karen Parker  
Interim Executive Director