



## **ATTORNEYS/VOLUNTEERS NEEDED STUDENT DEFENSE PROJECT**

**The Council for Children's Rights** is seeking pro-bono legal representation for students facing long-term suspension or expulsion from the Charlotte-Mecklenburg Schools (CMS).

### **What is the Student Defense Project?**

In 2003, the Civil Rights Project at Harvard University obtained a grant from the Knight Foundation to address the myriad of civil rights concerns regarding K-12 public education. Following an analysis of several United States cities and discussions with community members, The Civil Rights Project at Harvard selected Charlotte, North Carolina as one of the cities experiencing educational upheaval along racial lines. One of the most critical issues identified as a civil rights concern is the disproportionate long-term suspension and expulsion rate impacting minority and low-income children in Charlotte.

### **Why participate in the Student Defense Project?**

You can make a difference in the lives of our community's children by:

- Preventing children from losing their right to education;
- Introducing due process and fairness into disciplinary hearings;
- Reducing the disproportionate impact of these administrative proceedings on minority and low-income youth;
- Gaining valuable experience;
- And, earning pro bono hours.

### **How much time will volunteering require?**

We ask that you agree to take 2 cases per school year, depending on need. Each case will require 4-10 hours of your time and span approximately 10 days.

### **How do I become a volunteer?**

**Sign Up:** Contact Marta Compasso  
marta@cfcrights.org  
(704) 372-7961

### **Attend a Mandatory Training:**

**Friday, October 9<sup>th</sup>  
11:00 am - 1:00 pm**

**Where:** Children and Family Services Center  
601 E. 5<sup>th</sup> Street, Charlotte, NC 28202

*Justice for all children.*