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Form **990-EZ****Short Form**
Return of Organization Exempt From Income Tax

OMB No 1545-1150

2009Under section 501(c), 527, or 4947(a)(1) of the Internal Revenue Code
(except black lung benefit trust or private foundation)

Sponsoring organizations of donor advised funds and controlling organizations as defined in section 512(b)(13) must file Form 990. All other organizations with gross receipts less than \$500,000 and total assets less than \$1,250,000 at the end of the year may use this form.

The organization may have to use a copy of this return to satisfy state reporting requirements.

Department of the Treasury
Internal Revenue ServiceOpen to Public
Inspection**A For the 2009 calendar year, or tax year beginning****, 2009, and ending****B Check if applicable:**

- ☐ Address change
☐ Name change
☐ Initial return
☐ Termination
☐ Amended return
☐ Application pending

Please use IRS label or print or type. See Specific Instructions.

C
Southern Coalition for Social Justice
115 Market St. #470
Durham, NC 27701**D Employer identification number**

26-0688375

E Telephone number

919-323-3380

F Group Exemption Number

Section 501(c)(3) organizations and 4947(a)(1) nonexempt charitable trusts must attach a completed Schedule A (Form 990 or 990-EZ).

G Accounting method: ☐ Cash ☒ Accrual
Other (specify) ▶**I Website:** ▶ www.southerncoalition.org**J Tax-exempt status (check only one)** — ☒ 501(c) (3) (insert no) ☐ 4947(a)(1) or ☐ 527**H Check** ☐ if the organization is not required to attach Schedule B (Form 990, 990-EZ, or 990-PF)**K Check** ☐ if the organization is not a section 509(a)(3) supporting organization and its gross receipts are normally not more than \$25,000. A Form 990-EZ or Form 990 return is not required, but if the organization chooses to file a return, be sure to file a complete return.**L Add lines 5b, 6b, and 7b, to line 9 to determine gross receipts; if \$500,000 or more, file Form 990 instead of Form 990-EZ**

▶ \$ 403,555.

Part I Revenue, Expenses, and Changes in Net Assets or Fund Balances (See the instructions for Part I.)

1	Contributions, gifts, grants, and similar amounts received	1	398,554.
2	Program service revenue including government fees and contracts	2	1,000.
3	Membership dues and assessments	3	
4	Investment income	4	2,432.
5a	Gross amount from sale of assets other than inventory	5a	
b	Less: cost or other basis and sales expenses	5b	
c	Gain or (loss) from sale of assets other than inventory (Subtract line 5b from line 5a)	5c	
6	Special events and activities (complete applicable parts of Schedule G) If any amount is from gaming, check here ☐		
a	Gross revenue (not including \$ 797. of contributions reported on line 1)	6a	1,019.
b	Less: direct expenses other than fundraising expenses	6b	
c	Net income or (loss) from special events and activities (Subtract line 6b from line 6a)	6c	1,019.
7a	Gross sales of inventory, less returns and allowances	7a	
b	Less: cost of goods sold	7b	
c	Gross profit or (loss) from sales of inventory (Subtract line 7b from line 7a)	7c	
8	Other revenue (describe ▶ See Statement 1)	8	550.
9	Total revenue. Add lines 1, 2, 3, 4, 5c, 6c, 7c, and 8	9	403,555.
10	Grants and similar amounts paid (attach schedule) See Statement 2	10	60,425.
11	Benefits paid to or for members	11	
12	Salaries, other compensation, and employee benefits	12	437,083.
13	Professional fees and other payments to independent contractors	13	86,400.
14	Occupancy, rent, utilities, and maintenance	14	26,608.
15	Printing, publications, postage, and shipping	15	11,276.
16	Other expenses (describe ▶ See Statement 3)	16	104,477.
17	Total expenses. Add lines 10 through 16	17	726,269.
18	Excess or (deficit) for the year (Subtract line 17 from line 9)	18	-322,714.
19	Net assets or fund balances at beginning of year (from line 27, column (A)) (must agree with end-of-year figure reported on prior year's return)	19	693,756.
20	Other changes in net assets or fund balances (attach explanation)	20	
21	Net assets or fund balances at end of year Combine lines 18 through 20	21	371,042.

Part II Balance Sheets. If Total assets on line 25, column (B) are \$1,250,000 or more, file Form 990 instead of Form 990-EZ

(See the instructions for Part II.)

	(A) Beginning of year	(B) End of year
22 Cash, savings, and investments	122,138.	22 214,882.
23 Land and buildings		23
24 Other assets (describe ▶ See Statement 4)	572,174.	24 162,148.
25 Total assets	694,312.	25 377,030.
26 Total liabilities (describe ▶ See Statement 5)	556.	26 5,988.
27 Net assets or fund balances (line 27 of column (B) must agree with line 21)	693,756.	27 371,042.

BAA For Privacy Act and Paperwork Reduction Act Notice, see separate instructions.

Form 990-EZ (2009)

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Part III Statement of Program Service Accomplishments (See the instructions.)What is the organization's primary exempt purpose? See Statement 6

Describe what was achieved in carrying out the organization's exempt purposes. In a clear and concise manner, describe the services provided, the number of persons benefited, or other relevant information for each program title.

Expenses

(Required for section 501(c)(3) and (4) organizations and section 4947(a)(1) trusts; optional for others.)

28	<u>See Statement 7</u>		
	(Grants \$ <u>59,425.</u>) If this amount includes foreign grants, check here ☐	28a	<u>265,065.</u>
29	<u>See Statement 8</u>		
	(Grants \$ <u>1,000.</u>) If this amount includes foreign grants, check here ☐	29a	<u>148,022.</u>
30	<u>See Statement 9</u>		
	(Grants \$ <u> </u>) If this amount includes foreign grants, check here ☐	30a	<u>114,173.</u>
31	Other program services (attach schedule) <u>See Statement 10</u>		
	(Grants \$ <u> </u>) If this amount includes foreign grants, check here ☐	31a	<u>67,624.</u>
32	Total program service expenses (add lines 28a through 31a)	32	<u>594,884.</u>

Part IV List of Officers, Directors, Trustees, and Key Employees. List each one even if not compensated. (See the instrs.)

(a) Name and address	(b) Title and average hours per week devoted to position	(c) Compensation (If not paid, enter -0-.)	(d) Contributions to employee benefit plans and deferred compensation	(e) Expense account and other allowances
Anita Earls 115 Market Street, Suite 470 Durham, NC 27701	Executive Direc 50.00	95,000.	12,039.	0.
Jeremy Collins 115 Market Street, Suite 470 Durham, NC 27705	Chair 2.00	0.	0.	0.
Daniella Cook 115 Market Street, Suite 470 Durham, NC 27705	Treasurer 2.00	0.	0.	0.
James Ferguson 115 Market Street, Suite 470 Durham, NC 27705	Director 2.00	0.	0.	0.
Jim Grant 115 Market Street, Suite 470 Durham, NC 27705	Director 2.00	0.	0.	0.
Geeta Kapur 115 Market Street, Suite 470 Durham, NC 27705	Vice Chair 2.00	0.	0.	0.
Shannah Sayers 115 Market Street, Suite 470 Durham, NC 27705	Director 2.00	0.	0.	0.
Diane Standaert 115 Market Street, Suite 470 Durham, NC 27705	Director 2.00	0.	0.	0.
Barry Williams 115 Market Street, Suite 470 Durham, NC 27705	Director 2.00	0.	0.	0.

Part V Other Information (Note the statement requirements in the instrs for Part V.)

See Statement 11

	Yes	No
33 Did the organization engage in any activity not previously reported to the IRS? If 'Yes,' attach a detailed description of each activity		X
34 Were any changes made to the organizing or governing documents? If 'Yes,' attach a conformed copy of the changes		X
35 If the organization had income from business activities, such as those reported on lines 2, 6a, and 7a (among others), but not reported on Form 990-T, attach a statement explaining why the organization did not report the income on Form 990-T		
a Did the organization have unrelated business gross income of \$1,000 or more or was it subject to section 6033(e) notice, reporting, and proxy tax requirements?		X
b If 'Yes,' has it filed a tax return on Form 990-T for this year?		
36 Did the organization undergo a liquidation, dissolution, termination, or significant disposition of net assets during the year? If 'Yes,' complete applicable parts of Schedule N		X
37a Enter amount of political expenditures, direct or indirect, as described in the instructions 37a 0.		
b Did the organization file Form 1120-POL for this year?		X
38a Did the organization borrow from, or make any loans to, any officer, director, trustee, or key employee or were any such loans made in a prior year and still outstanding at the end of the period covered by this return?		X
b If 'Yes,' complete Schedule L, Part II and enter the total amount involved 38b N/A		
39 Section 501(c)(7) organizations Enter:		
a Initiation fees and capital contributions included on line 9 39a N/A		
b Gross receipts, included on line 9, for public use of club facilities 39b N/A		
40a Section 501(c)(3) organizations Enter amount of tax imposed on the organization during the year under: section 4911 0. ; section 4912 0. ; section 4955 0.		
b Section 501(c)(3) and 501(c)(4) organizations Did the organization engage in any section 4958 excess benefit transaction during the year or is it aware that it engaged in an excess benefit transaction with a disqualified person in a prior year, and that the transaction has not been reported on any of the organization's prior Forms 990 or 990-EZ? If 'Yes,' complete Schedule L, Part I 40b X		
c Section 501(c)(3) and 501(c)(4) organizations Enter amount of tax imposed on organization managers or disqualified persons during the year under sections 4912, 4955, and 4958 0.		
d Section 501(c)(3) and 501(c)(4) organizations. Enter amount of tax on line 40c reimbursed by the organization 0.		
e All organizations. At any time during the tax year, was the organization a party to a prohibited tax shelter transaction? If 'Yes,' complete Form 8886-T 40e X		
41 List the states with which a copy of this return is filed None		

42a The organization's books are in care of **Anita Earls** Telephone no **919-606-8473**
 Located at **115 Market St., No. 470 Durham NC** ZIP + 4 **27701**

b At any time during the calendar year, did the organization have an interest in or a signature or other authority over a financial account in a foreign country (such as a bank account, securities account, or other financial account)? **42b** X
 If 'Yes,' enter the name of the foreign country

See the instructions for exceptions and filing requirements for **Form TD F 90-22.1, Report of a Foreign Bank and Financial Accounts.**

c At any time during the calendar year, did the organization maintain an office outside of the U.S.? **42c** X
 If 'Yes,' enter the name of the foreign country

43 Section 4947(a)(1) nonexempt charitable trusts filing Form 990-EZ in lieu of **Form 1041** — Check here ☐ N/A
 and enter the amount of tax-exempt interest received or accrued during the tax year **43** N/A

44 Did the organization maintain any donor advised funds? If 'Yes,' Form 990 must be completed instead of Form 990-EZ **44** X

45 Is any related organization a controlled entity of the organization within the meaning of section 512(b)(13)? If 'Yes,' Form 990 must be completed instead of Form 990-EZ **45** X

Part VI **Section 501(c)(3) organizations and section 4947(a)(1) nonexempt charitable trusts only.** All section 501(c)(3) organizations and section 4947(a)(1) nonexempt charitable trusts must answer questions 46-49b and complete the tables for lines 50 and 51.

	Yes	No
46 Did the organization engage in direct or indirect political campaign activities on behalf of or in opposition to candidates for public office? If 'Yes,' complete Schedule C, Part I	46	X
47 Did the organization engage in lobbying activities? If 'Yes,' complete Schedule C, Part II	47	X
48 Is the organization a school as described in section 170(b)(1)(A)(ii)? If 'Yes,' complete Schedule E	48	X
49a Did the organization make any transfers to an exempt non-charitable related organization?	49a	X
b If 'Yes,' was the related organization a section 527 organization?	49b	

50 Complete this table for the organization's five highest compensated employees (other than officers, directors, trustees and key employees) who each received more than \$100,000 of compensation from the organization. If there is none, enter 'None.'

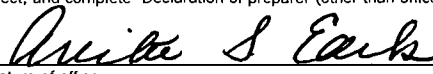
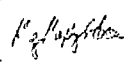
(a) Name and address of each employee paid more than \$100,000	(b) Title and average hours per week devoted to position	(c) Compensation	(d) Contributions to employee benefit plans and deferred compensation	(e) Expense account and other allowances
None				

f Total number of other employees paid over \$100,000 ▶

51 Complete this table for the organization's five highest compensated independent contractors who each received more than \$100,000 of compensation from the organization. If there is none, enter 'None.'

(a) Name and address of each independent contractor paid more than \$100,000	(b) Type of service	(c) Compensation
None		

d Total number of other independent contractors each receiving over \$100,000 ▶

Sign Here	Under penalties of perjury, I declare that I have examined this return, including accompanying schedules and statements, and to the best of my knowledge and belief, it is true, correct, and complete. Declaration of preparer (other than officer) is based on all information of which preparer has any knowledge.			
	 Signature of officer		8-3-2010 Date	
	Anita S. Earls, Executive Director Type or print name and title			
Paid Preparer's Use Only	Preparer's signature	 Digitally signed by Mig Murphy Sistrum Date 2010.07.27 17:48:31 04:00	Date	7/27/10
	Firm's name (or yours if self-employed), address, and ZIP + 4	MIG MURPHY SISTROM, CPA, PC 1925 WARD ST DURHAM, NC 27707-1469		Check if self-employed ☐ Preparer's Identifying Number (See instructions) N/A
				EIN ▶ N/A Phone no ▶ (919) 419-1119

May the IRS discuss this return with the preparer shown above? See instructions

☒ Yes ☐ No

BAA

Form 990-EZ (2009)

Part II Support Schedule for Organizations Described in Sections 170(b)(1)(A)(iv) and 170(b)(1)(A)(vi)

(Complete only if you checked the box on line 5, 7, or 8 of Part I.)

Section A. Public Support

Calendar year (or fiscal year beginning in) ▶	(a) 2005	(b) 2006	(c) 2007	(d) 2008	(e) 2009	(f) Total
1 Gifts, grants, contributions and membership fees received. (Do not include 'unusual grants'.)			2,206.	649,046.	398,555.	1,049,807.
2 Tax revenues levied for the organization's benefit and either paid to it or expended on its behalf						0.
3 The value of services or facilities furnished to the organization by a governmental unit without charge. Do not include the value of services or facilities generally furnished to the public without charge.						0.
4 Total. Add lines 1-through 3	0.	0.	2,206.	649,046.	398,555.	1,049,807.
5 The portion of total contributions by each person (other than a governmental unit or publicly supported organization) included on line 1 that exceeds 2% of the amount shown on line 11, column (f).						1,149,212.
6 Public support. Subtract line 5 from line 4						0.

Section B. Total Support

Calendar year (or fiscal year beginning in) ▶	(a) 2005	(b) 2006	(c) 2007	(d) 2008	(e) 2009	(f) Total
7 Amounts from line 4	0.	0.	2,206.	649,046.	398,555.	1,049,807.
8 Gross income from interest, dividends, payments received on securities loans, rents, royalties and income from similar sources				1,995.	1,019.	3,014.
9 Net income from unrelated business activities, whether or not the business is regularly carried on						0.
10 Other income. Do not include gain or loss from the sale of capital assets (Explain in Part IV.)						0.
11 Total support. Add lines 7 through 10						1,052,821.
12 Gross receipts from related activities, etc. (see instructions)					12	3,394.

13 First five years. If the Form 990 is for the organization's first, second, third, fourth, or fifth tax year as a section 501(c)(3) organization, check this box and stop here. ☒**Section C. Computation of Public Support Percentage**

14 Public support percentage for 2009 (line 6, column (f) divided by line 11, column (f))	14	%
15 Public support percentage from 2008 Schedule A, Part II, line 14	15	%

16a 33-1/3 support test – 2009. If the organization did not check the box on line 13, and the line 14 is 33-1/3 % or more, check this box and stop here. The organization qualifies as a publicly supported organization. ☐**b 33-1/3 support test – 2008.** If the organization did not check a box on line 13, or 16a, and line 15 is 33-1/3 % or more, check this box and stop here. The organization qualifies as a publicly supported organization. ☐**17a 10%-facts-and-circumstances test – 2009** If the organization did not check a box on line 13, 16a, or 16b, and line 14 is 10% or more, and if the organization meets the 'facts-and-circumstances' test, check this box and stop here. Explain in Part IV how the organization meets the 'facts-and-circumstances' test. The organization qualifies as a publicly supported organization. ☐**b 10%-facts-and-circumstances test – 2008.** If the organization did not check a box on line 13, 16a, 16b, or 17a, and line 15 is 10% or more, and if the organization meets the 'facts-and-circumstances' test, check this box and stop here. Explain in Part IV how the organization meets the 'facts-and-circumstances' test. The organization qualifies as a publicly supported organization. ☐**18 Private foundation.** If the organization did not check a box on line 13, 16a, 16b, 17a, or 17b, check this box and see instructions. ☐

BAA

Schedule A (Form 990 or 990-EZ) 2009

Part III Support Schedule for Organizations Described in Section 509(a)(2)

(Complete only if you checked the box on line 9 of Part I.)

Section A. Public Support

Calendar year (or fiscal yr beginning in) ▶	(a) 2005	(b) 2006	(c) 2007	(d) 2008	(e) 2009	(f) Total
1 Gifts, grants, contributions and membership fees received (Do not include "unusual grants.")						
2 Gross receipts from admissions, merchandise sold or services performed, or facilities furnished in a activity that is related to the organization's tax-exempt purpose						
3 Gross receipts from activities that are not an unrelated trade or business under section 513						
4 Tax revenues levied for the organization's benefit and either paid to or expended on its behalf						
5 The value of services or facilities furnished by a governmental unit to the organization without charge						
6 Total. Add lines 1 through 5						
7a Amounts included on lines 1, 2, 3 received from disqualified persons						
b Amounts included on lines 2 and 3 received from other than disqualified persons that exceed the greater of 1% of the amount on line 13 for the year						
c Add lines 7a and 7b						
8 Public support (Subtract line 7c from line 6)						

Section B. Total Support

Calendar year (or fiscal yr beginning in) ▶	(a) 2005	(b) 2006	(c) 2007	(d) 2008	(e) 2009	(f) Total
9 Amounts from line 6						
10a Gross income from interest, dividends, payments received on securities loans, rents, royalties and income from similar sources						
b Unrelated business taxable income (less section 511 taxes) from businesses acquired after June 30, 1975						
c Add lines 10a and 10b						
11 Net income from unrelated business activities not included on line 10b, whether or not the business is regularly carried on						
12 Other income. Do not include gain or loss from the sale of capital assets (Explain in Part IV.)						
13 Total support. (add lns 9, 10c, 11, and 12)						
14 First five years. If the Form 990 is for the organization's first, second, third, fourth, or fifth tax year as a section 501(c)(3) organization, check this box and stop here ☐						

Section C. Computation of Public Support Percentage

15 Public support percentage for 2009 (line 8, column (f) divided by line 13, column (f))	15	%
16 Public support percentage from 2008 Schedule A, Part III, line 15	16	%

Section D. Computation of Investment Income Percentage

17 Investment income percentage for 2009 (line 10c, column (f) divided by line 13, column (f))	17	%
18 Investment income percentage from 2008 Schedule A, Part III, line 17	18	%

19a **33-1/3 support tests – 2009.** If the organization did not check the box on line 14, and line 15 is more than 33-1/3%, and line 17 is not more than 33-1/3%, check this box and **stop here.** The organization qualifies as a publicly supported organization ☐

b **33-1/3 support tests – 2008.** If the organization did not check a box on line 14 or 19a, and line 16 is more than 33-1/3%, and line 18 is not more than 33-1/3%, check this box and **stop here.** The organization qualifies as a publicly supported organization ☐

20 **Private foundation.** If the organization did not check a box on line 14, 19a, or 19b, check this box and see instructions ☐

Part IV **Supplemental Information.** Complete this part to provide the explanations required by Part II, line 10; Part II, line 17a or 17b; and Part III, line 12. Provide any other additional information. See instructions.

This image shows a full page of handwriting practice paper. It features multiple rows of horizontal dashed lines spaced evenly apart, providing a guide for letter height and placement. The background is plain white, and there are no margins or additional markings present.

Statement 1
Form 990-EZ, Part I, Line 8
Other Revenue

Speaker honoraria

Total \$ 550.
\$ 550.

Statement 2
Form 990-EZ, Part I, Line 10
Grants and Similar Amounts Paid

Class of Activity:
 Cash Amount Given:

Mini-grants under \$5000

\$ 60,425.

Statement 3
Form 990-EZ, Part I, Line 16
Other Expenses

Bank and other service charges
 Conferences, Conventions, and Meetings
 Depreciation
 Insurance
 Licenses and fees
 Memberships and dues
 Staff development
 Supplies
 Telephone and internet
 Travel

\$ 153.
 4,830.
 2,142.
 328.
 348.
 3,726.
 2,625.
 13,719.
 8,723.
 67,883.
 Total \$ 104,477.

Statement 4
Form 990-EZ, Part II, Line 24
Other Assets

Accounts Receivable
 Machinery and Equipment
 Pledges and Grants Receivable

	<u>Beginning</u>	<u>Ending</u>
Accounts Receivable	\$ 1,851.	\$ 150.
Machinery and Equipment	10,323.	11,998.
Pledges and Grants Receivable	560,000.	150,000.
Total	<u>\$ 572,174.</u>	<u>\$ 162,148.</u>

Statement 5
Form 990-EZ, Part II, Line 26
Total Liabilities

Accrued vacation
 Accounts payable

	<u>Beginning</u>	<u>Ending</u>
Accrued vacation	\$ 0.	\$ 5,675.
Accounts payable	556.	313.
Total	<u>\$ 556.</u>	<u>\$ 5,988.</u>

Statement 6
Form 990-EZ, Part III
Organization's Primary Exempt Purpose

The Southern Coalition for Social Justice promotes justice by empowering minority and low-income communities to defend and advance their political, social and economic rights, using the combined skills of lawyers, social scientists, community organizers and media experts to help underrepresented people develop strategies to achieve their visions for themselves and their communities, incorporating an international human rights perspective and linking their efforts to broader processes of political, legal, social and economic change in the South.

Statement 7
Form 990-EZ, Part III, Line 28
Statement of Program Service Accomplishments

Census, Redistricting, & Voting Rights -

Distributed almost \$60,000 in small grants to 27 community organizations in Virginia, North Carolina, Florida, Georgia, and Louisiana to conduct outreach for hard-to-count communities prior to and during the 2010 Census.

Hosted 2 meetings of experts in redistricting to develop a community-based institute to train expert witnesses and community organizations to be involved in redistricting efforts following the 2010 Census.

Represented individual clients in election challenges and submitted an amicus brief in a voting rights case of national significance.

Statement 8
Form 990-EZ, Part III, Line 29
Statement of Program Service Accomplishments

Human Rights -

Produced and distributed a documentary highlighting the need for healthcare reform by sharing the stories of uninsured and underinsured citizens.

Worked with communities to develop community-based solutions to criminal activity and counter police harassment and intimidation.

Assisted an international human rights investigation of torture at Guantanamo Bay.

Statement 9
Form 990-EZ, Part III, Line 30
Statement of Program Service Accomplishments

Immigrant Rights -

Provided pro-bono representation to approximately 75 people in immigration court.

Conducted a number of educational events to inform the public about immigration policy and opportunities for reform.

Statement 9 (continued)
Form 990-EZ, Part III, Line 30
Statement of Program Service Accomplishments

Served as national partners in a number of immigrant rights initiatives and as members of a number of national committees and workgroups.

Developed a checkpoint watch program to monitor police checkpoints for evidence of racial profiling.

Statement 10
Form 990-EZ, Part III, Line 31
Statement of Program Service Accomplishments

Description	Grants	Program Service Expenses
Preserving Heirs' Property -		
Worked with the NC Bar Association to implement stronger ethics guidelines with regard to lawyers involvement in partition sales.		
Worked with a number of families to ensure that their land will be protected by creating LLC's, drafting wills, and providing networking opportunities and educational information.		
Conducted a number of educational events for families and advocates to raise awareness about heirs' property and black land loss in the South.		34,379.
Includes Foreign Grants: No		
Environmental Justice -		
Represented the majority African-American community of New Hill in its opposition to the placement of a sewage treatment plant in their historic district.		
Represented the rural, low & moderate-income community of Gates County in its opposition to the placement of an outlying landing field in their county.		
Intervened on behalf of the NC NAACP and grassroots group to defend a state law restricting the size and location of new landfills.		33,245.
Includes Foreign Grants: No		
Total \$	0.	\$ 67,624.

Statement 11
Form 990-EZ, Part V
Regarding Transfers Associated with Personal Benefit Contracts

(a) Did the organization, during the year, receive any funds, directly or indirectly, to pay premiums on a personal benefit contract?

No

(b) Did the organization, during the year, pay premiums, directly or indirectly, on a personal benefit contract?

No

Southern Coalition for Social Justice

January – December, 2009

Attachment to Form 990

Disclosures required under Revenue Procedure 92-59 (1992), Sections 3.04 and 4.08

3.04 – “Description of cases litigated and rationale for the determination that they would benefit the public generally.”

Voting Rights Cases

1. League of Women Voters of Indiana, et al., v. Rokita, Indiana Supreme Court, Case No. 49S02-1001-CV-50.

This case was a challenge to the state of Indiana’s voter ID law. We filed an amicus brief, together with the ACLU, arguing that the Indiana Supreme Court should strike down the Indiana photo ID law because it violates the state constitution’s Equal Privileges and Immunities Clause. The law unjustifiably privileges select groups by exempting them from photo identification requirements of voters. The Equal Privileges and Immunities Clause of the Indiana Constitution demands a critical look at legislative classifications that convey an advantage to one group over another. The Indiana court has explicitly adopted a method of review for challenges made under this clause that is different from the method of review applied to federal Equal Protection challenges. We hoped to advance a stronger legal standard for equal protection under state constitutions that would then guide other state courts. Our goal was twofold: to urge an end to voter ID requirements that make it harder for certain populations to vote and to develop equal protection law jurisprudence to provide stronger protections. Both of these goals benefit the public generally by facilitating access to the ballot and strengthening democracy.

Environmental Justice Cases:

1. Waste Industries USA, et al. v. North Carolina, et al., Wake County Superior Court, Case No. 7 CVS 19407.

We represent the North Carolina NAACP and the Rogers-Eubanks Neighborhood Association who intervened in this case as Defendants to uphold state laws that provide environmental justice protections to minority communities in North Carolina. This action challenges the constitutionality, under the United States and North Carolina Constitutions, of Senate Bills 1492 and 6, and the addition to the North Carolina General Statutes (N. C. Gen. Stat. § 130A-295.6) that they create. Plaintiffs, who are landfill operators, allege that the geographic limitations that

the statute places on the location of sanitary landfills, including a prohibition of the construction of a landfill within five miles of a National Wildlife Refuge, within two miles of a component of the State Parks System, and in a 100-year floodplain, are arbitrary, capricious and irrational constraints with no defensible justification. Furthermore, Plaintiffs challenge as arbitrary, capricious and irrational the statute's prohibition on the issuance of permits for landfills with a capacity of more than 55 million cubic yards of waste, a disposal area of more than 350 acres, and a maximum height of more than 250 feet above the mean natural elevation of the disposal area.

NC Conference and RENA have an interest in the subject of this litigation including where landfills are permitted to be constructed in the state of North Carolina. Camden County, the site in question in the current case, and other sites where construction of such landfills has been proposed contain significant low-income and minority populations. NC Conference and RENA advocate for the interests of such populations. Furthermore, the NC Conference and RENA have an interest in defending the constitutionality of this legislation because it protects low-income and minority residents across the state from being subject to the disparate and devastating health and environmental impacts of large landfills being built in their communities. In fact, the NC Conference worked to get the challenged legislation passed because they believed that it would protect minority communities. Our clients have an interest in safeguarding the General Assembly's ability to pass such protective legislation. Finally, the NC Conference and RENA have an interest in the fair administration and application of environmental laws and regulations in North Carolina, all of which benefits the public.

2. Client: Citizens Against OLF, Gates County, North Carolina.

This matter is not in litigation at this point, but may lead to litigation. We represent a community-based organization in rural northeastern North Carolina that seeks to preserve their heritage and way of life. They are threatened with the possible loss of their land, century farms, and their homes from the U.S. Navy's announced plans to consider constructing an outlying landing field (OLF) to support field carrier landing practice operations for aircraft stationed at NAS Oceana in Virginia Beach and Naval Station Norfolk Chambers Field, Virginia. One of the five sites selected for further study in 2008 was the Sandbanks site in Gates County.

Gates County Commissioners have twice passed resolutions opposing the OLF, and citizens throughout the county have joined together to document the impact that the OLF would have on their community. We determined that representation of these clients would be for public benefit because it would provide them with legal expertise that they do not otherwise have, including expertise regarding environmental justice laws and general environmental protection laws. It would assist them in asserting their civil and constitutional rights, and help maintain a sustainable community that is rural, low-income, disproportionately African-American, and

unified in their opposition to the taking of their land for this purpose. Their goal is to preserve the rich environmental resources in the Sandbanks area; as well as protect the people, farms and small businesses that serve the area.

3. Client: New Hill Community Association.

This matter is not yet in litigation. The New Hill community has fought for six years to stop the Western Wake Partners (“Partners”) from building a sewage treatment plant in New Hill. The Partner communities are all affluent and predominantly white; the New Hill community is predominantly African-American and low-income. The Partners insist on locating the sewage treatment plant on 200 acres (“Site 14”) in the center of New Hill, next to the community historic district, the New Hill Baptist Church, the First Baptist Church of New Hill, and the associated historic African-American cemetery. They refuse to use alternative sites with smaller human and environmental impacts. The environmental assessment process is nearly complete, and it is very likely the New Hill Community Association will have to resort to litigation.

The proposed litigation is part of a broader environmental justice struggle against the placement of undesirable, environmentally harmful developments in impoverished communities of color. We will challenge the white, affluent Partner communities’ decision to place their sewage treatment plant in an overwhelmingly African-American community outside of their city limits. The Partner communities of Cary, Apex, Holly Springs, and Morrisville are approximately 81% white with median incomes well above both the averages in North Carolina and in affluent Wake County. In fact, the Partner communities have a miniscule poverty rate of approximately 3%. But 83% of the people whom Site 14 will directly impact are people of color. Furthermore, given that New Hill is unincorporated and outside the Partners’ city limits, New Hill residents have limited capacity to influence the Partners’ political decisions. They have no town government to protect their interests and cannot vote in the Partners’ municipal elections. Their most immediate political representatives are the Wake County Commissioners, who, in a county of over 800,000 people, generally defer to municipal governments.

Heirs Property Case:

Freeman Beach, LLC v. Evelyn Williams, John Coble as Guardian Ad Litem for the heirs of Robert Bruce Freeman Jr., Beverly Goins, William and Rachel Freeman, Assata Shakur, Donald Goins, Kakuya Shakur, Braddock Goins, Minor and Velma Mae Bishop, Colonel Lincoln Hill, North Carolina Superior Court, New Hanover County, file number 8SP1038.

This case concerns over a hundred acres of ocean-front property at the northern end of Carolina Beach, in New Hanover County, North Carolina. We represent members of the Freeman family, William Freeman, Minor and Velma Bishop, and Colonel Lincoln Hill, who have historically owned the land in question. Over the years, a developer has purchased the interests of certain family members and filed a partition action as part of his efforts to develop this currently undeveloped land. Our representation of Freeman family members benefits the public generally as it seeks not only the preservation of historically black lands, a huge challenge in the South, but also the preservation of unspoiled coastline, which touches upon public enjoyment of land and environmental protection considerations.

Police/Community Relations, Law Enforcement Accountability, and Racial Profiling Cases:

1. Kilfoil v. Meadows, Guilford County Superior Ct., Case No. 09-cvs-8535.

This case involves an unprovoked attack by Byron Meadows upon Russell Kilfoil, while Meadows was working as a security guard for Lankford Protective Services, Inc. at J. Douglas Galyon Depot in Greensboro, North Carolina, a public bus depot. We represented the plaintiff, Russell Kilfoil, a young Hispanic male, in a civil suit seeking injunctive and monetary relief for the injuries he suffered as a result of this attack. The Guilford Human Relations Council investigated the incident and concluded that Defendant Meadows should no longer be employed as a security guard at the bus depot. The case was eventually settled on the eve of trial. The problem of young men of color being singled out and harassed without justification at the Greensboro bus depot has been substantially addressed as result of our advocacy in this case. We sought to demonstrate that racial profiling on city-owned property, even if carried out by a private security force under contract with the city, is not acceptable. The benefit to the public includes improvement in race relations generally and improved police/community relations.

2. Greensboro Collaborative.

Our continued work with the Greensboro Collaborative—a coalition of the Beloved Community Center, the Pulpit Forum, and the Latin Kings—has allowed us to assist the Collaborative in demonstrating to Greensboro city leaders that all-out gang suppression based on racial profiling is not a productive solution to problems of gang violence. As part of our work with this collaboration, we have successfully defended Latino youth unjustifiably targeted because of police bias. We provided them with pro bono legal counsel in several criminal cases where unjustified charges were eventually dismissed. This work benefits the public because we are able to improve police and community relations as well as improve the administration of justice.

Landlord/Tenant Case

Rick Soles Property Management Inc. v. Malachi Blaine, Durham County District Court, Case No. 09-cvm-11115. In this case we represented the defendant in a summary ejectment action. There was evidence suggesting that the landlord was seeking to evict Mr. Blaine because of his race. We represented Mr. Blaine in order to help prevent unlawful racial discrimination in residential leasing. The broader public benefit we obtained was preventing increased residential segregation by race in the City of Durham and ending discriminatory practices by this particular landlord.

Immigration Cases

In 2009 SCSJ provided pro bono legal representation in approximately 175 cases of immigrants facing deportation, most having been detained under the 287(g) program. Immigrants we represented came from 16 different countries, the average time the clients involved had been in the United States was 9.32 years. Immigration law and procedures are complex and rapidly changing. We have responded to a need in the immigrant community for individual representation of those in deportation proceedings. By assisting individuals in understanding and navigating this frequently inhumane system, we are able to reunite families, help negotiate bonds so that immigrants can be released from jail and leave the U.S. in a dignified way, and help individuals who are entitled to stay to assert and protect that right. The individual casework gives us “on-the-ground” knowledge and experience that allows us to participate effectively in broader efforts to meaningfully reform the serious injustices embodied in current immigration law and practice. The broader public interest we serve is to bring individual representation to persons who otherwise would not have counsel in the immigration court, and to foster greater respect for basic human rights.

Miscellaneous Case

Everett v. NAACP and El Pueblo, Durham County Superior Court, Case No. 09-cvs-01611. This litigation was filed by a private citizen, representing himself, making a series of allegations against the NAACP and El Pueblo, two non-profit organizations in North Carolina. We represented the Defendants to secure dismissal of this frivolous litigation. The plaintiff claimed that the non-profit organizations owed him reimbursement for losses his business allegedly suffered as a result of illegal immigration and for their failure to advocate for policy positions that he supported. We served the public interest by providing pro bono representation to two non-profit organizations that seek to further social justice goals.

4.08 – “all attorneys fees sought and recovered in each case.”

We are not seeking attorneys’ fees in any of the above cases and did not receive or recover any attorneys fees from litigation in 2009.