

Great Schools in Wake Coalition to Receive 2010 Defender of Justice Award

NC Justice Center honors those who work to make opportunity and prosperity accessible to all North Carolinians

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

CONTACT: Jeff Shaw, NC Justice Center Communications Director, 503-551-3615, jeff@ncjustice.org

(RALEIGH) – [The North Carolina Justice Center](#) will present its 2010 Defenders of Justice Award to the Great Schools in Wake coalition. The coalition is one of five individuals and organizations that the Justice Center will honor at its awards ceremony on **Thursday, September 30** in Durham.

This is the twelfth year that the Justice Center, the state’s leading progressive policy and research non-profit, has honored legislators and advocates who work to make opportunity and prosperity accessible to everyone in North Carolina. Great Schools in Wake was founded in January in response to the effort of the new Wake County School Board majority to discard the district’s nationally renowned diversity policy. GSIW will receive the award for being a strong, diverse and determined voice in opposition to the resegregation of Wake County schools and in support of quality education for all Wake students.

“Great Schools in Wake has worked with remarkable skill, tenacity and inclusiveness to inform the debate and promote real and positive solutions to the many challenges that confront the Wake County schools,” said Chris Hill, director of the Justice Center’s Education & Law Project. “The parents, students, community groups, congregations, civil rights organizations and private businesses that make up this coalition are building a movement that will fight for excellence in the public schools for years to come.”

In addition to Great Schools in Wake, this year’s Defenders of Justice Award recipients are as follows:

- **State Senator Joe Sam Queen of Waynesville** for his commitment to increasing the availability of affordable housing and providing assistance to working families
- **State Representative Garland E. Pierce of Scotland County** for his continuing efforts to ensure the needs and interests of North Carolina’s poor families are represented in the state legislature
- **Jane Wettach** of Duke University’s Children’s Education Law Clinic for her work to ensure students at risk of failing or being excluded from school get the quality education to which they have a right

- **Kay Zwan of Wilmington** for her passionate advocacy for increased access to health care and her efforts to increase public support for national health reform

For more information about the Defenders of Justice Awards event or to buy tickets, visit www.ncjustice.org.