



When I became Executive Director of the NC Housing Coalition and went through our my first Annual Conference Awards I felt that we needed another category of award to recognize the many folks in our state who have done so much for low income people through affordable housing over the course of their careers and not just highlight one particular year. So the next year we created a new category called the “Service to Affordable Housing” award to recognize folks who had done so much over their careers that you really couldn’t honor them for any one year. Past winners include folks such Jack Priess founder of both NLIHC and NC LIHC, Rich Lee who led the Durham Affordable Housing Coalition, Bill Hobbs, USDA, Pat Garrett, Mecklenburg Housing Partnership.

This year we decided to follow precedence of our other awards and “name” the award in honor of someone who would be a rightful recipient but had done so much for so long that the best way to honor them is to name the award after them and I am pleased to announce that **Bill Rowe of the NC Justice Center** is that person.

Bill Rowe has been a constant force for social and economic just justice throughout his career. Whether it is working on landlord tenant issues (of which he has authored most of NC law on the topic), or lobbying for increased funding for the NC Housing Trust Fund every year since it was created no one has done more than Bill for low income people and affordable housing.

Along with Al Ripley from the NC Justice Center, he is our go to person on legislative and legal issues. He has helped write and pass legislation on consumer protections for manufactured housing owners and park residents, making affordable housing part of the fair housing act, establishing statewide rental standards for the first time, improving the Migrant Housing Act to improve the living conditions of migrant workers in our state and a multitude of lending consumer protections.

So Bill we have decided to honor you by naming this award after you. I am very happy to present this to as a taken of our appreciation of all you have done for the Housing Coalition, affordable housing and low income people.