



Access to Justice Campaign Update October 21, 2005

Justice Initiative Division Hosts Program Retreat: In support of ATJ eligible programs throughout the state, the Justice Initiatives Division of the SBM hosted a two and one half day retreat on September 12-14. Thirty-nine attendees from 26 programs were onsite at the East Lansing Marriott to receive hands-on information on fundraising and coordinated grant seeking and sustainability. To assist with program fundraising efforts, attendees volunteered to tape twenty ATJ public service announcements. In areas where available, these PSA's will be used as a regional marketing efforts and can be included on the program websites.

Legacy Society Honors Planned Gifts to ATJ: The Justice Initiative Division is proud to introduce the Access to Justice Legacy Society to recognize donors who provide for future support of the ATJ Fund through their planned estate gifts. Planned giving opportunities to the ATJ Fund include gifts of cash, stock, real estate, insurance, bequests, and charitable remainder trusts. Programs are encouraged to begin planned giving discussions with their donors. Please contact Lesa Smith 517.3467.6307 for additional information on this special giving opportunity.

Southeast Michigan ATJ Corporate Committee To Host Luncheon: On November 14, the SE Michigan ATJ Corporate Committee will host a luncheon at the Miller Canfield Detroit office. State Bar President Tom Cranmer and the Honorable Dennis W. Archer will join the committee during this special event aimed at furthering the awareness of law firm leaders to the very serious issue of assuring the availability of civil legal services to underprivileged individuals and families throughout the state. To date, gifts received through corporate and law firm donations account for forty percent of contributions received by the Access to Justice Fund.

Battle Creek Reception Raises Over \$57,000 for ATJ: On Tuesday April 19, 2005, leaders from the legal and corporate community in Battle Creek raised over \$57,000 during a benefit reception for the Legal Services of South Central Michigan (LSSCM) put on by the Access to Justice Campaign of the State Bar of Michigan. In response to the reception call for support, the Miller Foundation in Battle Creek gave a \$47,000 grant to LSSCM to be able to provide education and advocacy for rental housing and public benefits for low-income people in the Battle Creek area. The reception itself raised another \$10,625 through donations from attendees.

Fifth Round of ATJ Fund Grants Awarded to Five Nonprofit Agencies: On September 22, 2005, the Michigan State Bar Foundation awarded the fifth round of grants from the Access to Justice Fund. See attached media release for additional information.

Statewide Campaign Leadership Meeting: The ATJ Statewide Campaign Leadership Committee will meet on Wednesday, November 16 at 3:00 p.m. Legal aid providers are encouraged to work with their local SCC leader to coordinate fundraising activities. Resource Development Initiative Leadership roster is attached.

Katrina Evacuees In Michigan – Urgent Call: The State Bar of Michigan is asking its members to volunteer their time and expertise to support those thousands of evacuees who have found shelter in the state after Hurricane Katrina. There is an immediate need for legal help to those once their home and food needs have been met. If you are unable to provide *pro bono* services at this time, please seriously consider giving to the Access to Justice Katrina Appeal so that other legal service providers in the area can address those individuals' requests when they are so financially unable to do so on their own.
<http://www.michbar.org/programs/ATJCampaign/katrinadonations.cfm>