



## Access to Justice Campaign Update November 5, 2005

**Legal Aid and Defender Helping Katrina Evacuees:** Survivors of Hurricane Katrina evacuated to Michigan are receiving free legal services from the Detroit-based Legal Aid and Defender Association, Inc., through its Displaced Gulf Coast Residents Program. Staff attorneys and pro bono attorneys recruited from private practice met with survivors in Southfield Sept. 12 and in Mount Clemens Sept. 26. Ongoing efforts to address the legal needs of these individuals and families are underway.

**Pro-Bono and ATJ Presentation Given In Detroit:** On Nov. 1, Justice Initiatives staff members Jerome Reide, Gregory Conyers and Lesa Smith made a presentation to The Council of Baptist Pastors of Detroit & Vicinity. More than 50 attendees heard first-hand how the SBM's pro bono and ATJ efforts work to support those in their congregations who may need civil legal assistance but are unable to pay for it.

**Programs Coordinate Year-End Mailings with ATJ Campaign:** During the past few months, the ATJ staff has worked with several programs to coordinate year-end solicitation mailings. Friends of Legal Aid, Neighborhood Legal Services Michigan and Guild/Sugar Law Center are taking part in the ATJ "Use the Fund" program to maximize their fundraising efforts through director organization and management of their solicitation mailings with the ATJ staff including the writing of their letter and the receipt of specific population mailing labels.

**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 the future support of the ATJ Fund through 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 at 517.346.6307 for additional information.

**Justice Initiative Division Staff "On The Road":** Members of SBM's Justice Initiatives Staff are traveling across Michigan as part of a continuing effort to visit with ATJ eligible programs, donors and major gift prospects to further generate support for Access to Justice activities. If your program would like to schedule a visit or coordinate contact with particular donors and/or prospects, please contact Lesa Smith at 517.346.6307 or [lsmith@mail.michbar.org](mailto:lsmith@mail.michbar.org).

**Justice Initiatives & Bar Foundation Staff Attend Planned Giving Conference:** On Nov. 2, State Bar of Michigan Justice Initiatives and Michigan State Bar Foundation staff attended the Fall Conference on Planned Giving featuring Laura Hansen Dean, President & CEO of the Community Foundation of Southern Indiana. The conference – hosted by the Association of Fundraising Professionals Capital Area Chapter, Burcham Hills Foundation, Michigan Planned Giving Council and the Michigan Nonprofit Association – offered attendees in-depth information regarding the benefits of having and best practices of organized planned giving programs within their organizations.

**Statewide Campaign Leadership Meeting:** The ATJ Statewide Campaign Leadership Committee meets via teleconference on Wednesday, Nov. 16 at 3 p.m. Legal aid providers are encouraged to work with their local SCC leader to coordinate fundraising activities.