



**Access to Justice Campaign Update
December 2, 2005**

Ford Motor Company Donates \$50,000 during Access to Justice Detroit Luncheon: The Southeast Michigan Access to Justice Corporate Committee hosted over 30 large law firm and corporate leaders at a Detroit luncheon on November 14, 2005. The purpose of the luncheon, led by E. Christopher Johnson, General Motors North America vice president and general counsel, was to recognize and thank Detroit-area law firms and corporations for their support of the ATJ Fund, which included Ford Motor Company for their gift of \$50,000. In addition, Bruce Peterson, senior vice-president and general counsel for DTE Energy, recognized gifts made in 2005 from Bodman, Longley & Dahling, Howard and Howard, and Sommers Schwartz Silver & Schwartz.

Anonymous Donor Contributes \$50,000 to ATJ Endowment Fund: An anonymous donor has made another generous contribution to support civil legal needs of low-income people on the west side of Michigan. The \$50,000 gift designated to Legal Aid of Western Michigan, accompanied the lawyer's dues invoice, the same vehicle used by this donor in 2002 to make his first contribution of \$100,000. Both gifts designated to support endowment funds, helping to assure that civil legal services will continue in perpetuity.

Law Firms Support ATJ Campaign Through Yearend Gifts: The State Bar is pleased to announce the receipt of year-end law firm gifts to support the 2005 ATJ Campaign. The Bar is proud to recognize this continued dedication from the following law firms to provide legal assistance to needy citizens:

Buchanan & Beckering
Butch, Quinn, Rosemurgy, Jardis, Burkhart,
Lewand & Miller
Church, Kritselis, & Wyble
Cooley, Moulton & Smith
Dale Sprik & Associates
Ferris & Salter
Gruel Mills Nims Pylman

Mika, Meyers, Beckett & Jones
Miller, Johnson, Snell & Cummiskey
Price Heneveld Cooper DeWitt & Litton
Rhoades McKee
Seward Tally & Piggott
Sinus Dramis Brake Boughton & McIntyre
The Elder & Estate Planning Law Firm

Federal Legislation Offers Special Tax Incentive: Recent federal tax legislation enacted in an emergency response to the Katrina disaster relaxes the 50 percent limitation on charitable deductions for cash gifts to public charities, including the Access to Justice Fund, given between August 28, 2005 and December 31, 2005. Because full dollar amount of charitable gifts will be deducted from amount on which the donors' income tax is based, donors may have the opportunity to substantially reduce their taxable income by giving a contribution of cash to the 2005 Access to Justice Campaign. Contact your tax preparer for additional information regarding the potential tax benefits of ATJ gifts in light of this new legislation.

State Bar President To Send Year-End ATJ Email Message: During the week of December 5, State Bar president Tom Cranmer will send a year-end email message to members requesting support for the ATJ Fund. Tom's message will suggest that donors use the Fund to support either the statewide endowment or specific local legal aid programs of the donor's choosing. After you receive this email, please forward a copy to your colleagues and prospects along with a cover message encouraging year-end gifts to the Fund through the ATJ website. Remember that this is a perfect time for donors to make the best use of tax planning and act to reduce income tax liability, but contributions must be postmarked or credit card numbers transmitted by December 31 to qualify for 2005 charitable tax treatment.