



## Access to Justice Campaign Update December 16, 2005

**Silver & Van Essen Supports ATJ Campaign With \$6,000 Gift:** The State Bar is pleased to announce the recent gift of \$6,000 to the 2005 ATJ Campaign from the firm of Silver & Van Essen, PC. This is the first time the firm has designated this gift to support the Legal Assistance Center in Grand Rapids.

**DTE Energy Contributes \$15,000 to ATJ:** As a member of the State Bar of Michigan's Access to Justice Southeast Michigan Corporate Committee, DTE Energy Senior Vice President and General Counsel Bruce D. Peterson recently announced a \$15,000 gift to the ATJ Fund. This is the second year that DTE has supported non-profit programs delivering civil legal services to the poor through the ATJ Campaign. This year's DTE Energy gift has been designated to support the operations of both Elder Law of Michigan and Community Legal Resources. A portion of the contribution will also be used to support the ATJ endowment for needs throughout the state.

**Dues Appeal Update:** To date, \$83,596 in gifts has been received from members who used their State Bar of Michigan dues invoice to support the 2005 ATJ Campaign. Through this option, Bar members have been given the convenient opportunity to support access to justice by returning their charitable contribution along with their membership renewal.

**2005 Tax Treatment For ATJ Contributions:** To be eligible for treatment as a 2005 charitable contribution, ATJ gifts must be received by the Michigan State Bar Foundation or postmarked no later December 31. For more information please visit [www.atjfund.org](http://www.atjfund.org) or contact Lesa Smith at 1.800.968.1442 ext. 6307.

**ATJ Donor Newsletter Available Online:** The fall 2005 ATJ Donor Newsletter is available for viewing online [http://www.michbar.org/programs/ATJCampaign/pdfs/atj\\_fall05.pdf](http://www.michbar.org/programs/ATJCampaign/pdfs/atj_fall05.pdf). Included are client legal assistance success stories, recognition of the 2005 Circle of Excellence, and State Bar President Tom Cranmer's ATJ year-end message. Fundraisers are encouraged to use the newsletter as a discussion topic with donors. Contact Lesa Smith for extra copies.

**Michigan Attorneys Thanked for Katrina Support:** In a recent email to the State Bar Michigan, Jeffrey Brooks, President of the Tulane Law School Public Interest Law Foundation (PILF), thanked Michigan attorneys, on behalf of his fellow classmates and citizens of New Orleans, for their assistance in the aftermath of Hurricane Katrina. PILF is a not-for-profit organization, existing to provide first and second-year law students with the funding they need to devote time and experience to individuals and organizations that typically suffer from a lack of legal representation. In 2005, the Foundation awarded \$70,000 in grants toward these efforts. The Foundation is currently conducting a fundraising appeal to raise funds for additional grants to be distributed during the summer of 2006. According to Brooks, many of the potential grant recipients have seen their own possessions destroyed and their finances strained in the wake of Hurricane Katrina. Additional information can be found at <http://www.tulanepilf.org>.