



Access to Justice Campaign Update December 17, 2004

General Motors Increases ATJ Pledge: The State Bar is pleased to announce that General Motors Corporation has increased its three-year commitment to the ATJ Campaign from \$50,000 to \$75,000 over next three years. With this additional generous commitment, General Motors moves to the Founder Giving Club for ATJ donors with cumulative giving totals of over \$100,000.

Honigman Miller Schwartz & Cohn Supports ATJ Campaign With \$42,750 Gift: The State Bar is pleased to announce the recent gift of \$42,750 to the 2004 ATJ Campaign from the firm of Honigman Miller Schwartz & Cohn. The State Bar is proud to recognize this continued dedication to providing legal assistance to needy citizens.

Dickinson Wright Supports ATJ Campaign Through In-House Campaign: Under the leadership of Brian Martinuzzi, the firm of Dickinson Wright has supported the 2004 ATJ Campaign with gifts totaling \$14,536 to date. During his campaign activities, Brian approached his colleagues with a request to support the ATJ Campaign through their personal gift. Donors were given the opportunity to designate their gift to the ATJ Endowment Fund, the Operations Fund for use throughout the state, or to the legal aid program of their choosing. With the average gift equaling \$300, these donors adhered to Rule 6.1, Michigan's Voluntary *pro bono* Standard that calls for the annual monetary provisions of civil legal aid services to low-income individuals and families. The State Bar is proud to recognize Dickinson Wright for its continued efforts to promote annual giving to the ATJ Campaign through its in-house activities.

Michigan State Bar Foundation Publishes 2003 Annual Grants Report: The Michigan State Bar Foundation's Justice for All Annual Grants Report is now available at <http://www.msbf.org/atj/jfa2003/03JFA.pdf>. This important publication outlines the Foundation's IOLTA (Interest on Lawyers' Trust Accounts) Grants and Filing Fees Contracts supporting civil legal services for the poor in Michigan. Supporting civil legal aid for the poor is the Foundation's largest grant program; it uses funds from the IOLTA program, adopted by the Michigan Supreme Court in 1990, and filing fees targeted for civil legal aid under Public Act 189 of 1993. Through these grants, totaling nearly \$7.7 million last year, the Foundation supported nonprofit legal aid agencies that closed more than 42,000 cases for low-income individuals and families in 2003. Paper copies of the report can be requested from Celee Battsfore at 800.968.6723 or celee@msbf.org.

ATJ Presentation to be given at Upcoming Judicial Conference: In response to an invitation from the Honorable Kathryn J. Root, ATJ staff will give a presentation during the upcoming State Bar of Michigan Judicial and Michigan Probate Judges Association (MPJA) conferences. Recognizing that court operations are clearly affected by the provision of civil legal services in district, circuit and probate courts, Judge Root is using her position as the 2005 conference chair to set a goal of increasing the number of Michigan judges contributing to the Access to Justice Campaign. Judge Root is also exploring the feasibility of including an Access to Justice presentation at the June MPJA conference in Oscoda County.

2004 Race for Justice: The 2004 Race for Justice media release and event photos are now available at www.michbar.org/news/releases/archives04/race_justice.cfm. Thank you to everyone who contributed to the success of this event in support of legal assistance throughout Michigan.