



## Montana Justice Foundation Newsletter

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### Director's Message

As we settle into fall, I recall the many people that have made a lasting impact on access to justice in Montana and across the nation and recognize that it is truly a time to pause and give thanks.

This issue of our newsletter is full of stories of thanks. Thanks for the dedicated work of Montana's legal aid and pro bono attorneys, thanks for those Leadership Banks who continue to support the Montana Interest on Lawyers Trust Accounts (IOLTA) Program through these difficult economic times, and thanks for our generous supporters, just to name a few.

Moreover, thanks to YOU for your personal contributions to making justice more accessible for all. Legal aid clients are at the center of what drives our mission but it is your unfailing support and commitment that enable us to move ever closer to fulfilling it.

We hope that our efforts continue to move you to action. We recommit ourselves daily to identify and respect; protect and preserve; and facilitate the expression and manifestation of your actions as a partner in the access to justice cause. THANK YOU!

All Best,

*Amy Sings In The Timber*



Ward Shanahan  
Carol Williams  
Douglas J. Wold

MJF thanks the following leadership banks for their support and commitment to making the IOLTA program a success in Montana:

#### Prime Partner

- Bitterroot Valley Bank
- Community Bank
- Mountain West Bank
- Yellowstone Bank

#### Honorable Mention

- Bank of Bozeman
- Valley Bank

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#### Quick Links...

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### MJF Loan Repayment Assistance Program (LRAP) Recipient:

#### Joseph Hardgrave

"When I first saw the job announcement for the Indian Wills Project, I knew it was exactly what I wanted to do and where I wanted to do it. Throughout law school, I had tailored my resume as best I could toward beginning a career in Indian Law. I was in Fort Lauderdale, Florida, studying for the Florida Bar, without any idea what my next move would be when I applied for the job. Thank God I did." [Read More](#)



### Social Security Disability Advocates Give Back to Support Civil Legal Aid for the Poor

In 1996, two former legal aid attorneys submitted a proposal to the Montana Justice Foundation (MJF) for seed money to open a much needed non-profit whose mission was to provide Social Security Disability advocacy for those who could not afford legal representation. The MJF responded by supporting these pioneers with grant funding and the People's Law Center (PLC) was born. Thirteen years later, the PLC is thriving and giving back to Montana communities including its former benefactor, the MJF. [Read More](#)

### Leadership Bank Award

The Montana Justice Foundation (MJF) was pleased to present Bitterroot Valley Bank (Bitterroot Valley) and Community Bank - Missoula, Inc. (Community) with its Third Annual Leadership Bank Award on September 18, 2009 at the State Bar of Montana Annual Awards Luncheon. [Read More](#)



### Bozeman Lunch for Justice



On September 28, 2009, nearly 100 Bozeman area attorneys, judiciary, law makers, and other community leaders gathered at the Hilton Garden Inn in Bozeman in support of the Montana Justice Foundation (MJF) and the access to justice cause. [Read More](#)

**LSC Releases Updated Report on the Justice Gap in America**  
Legal Aid Programs Turn Away One Person for Every Client Served  
Washington, DC-Nearly a million poor people who seek help for civil legal problems, such as foreclosures and domestic violence, will be turned away this year by the nation's largest nonprofit legal aid network because of insufficient resources, the Legal Services Corporation (LSC) projects in a report released today. [Read More](#)

### **IOLTA TAG Update**

On September 1st, the FDIC published its final rule, amending the Temporary Liquidity Guarantee Program (TLGP) and extending the Transaction Account Guarantee Program (TAG) for six months, until June 30, 2010. Under the final Rule, funds in IOLTA accounts will continue to be fully guaranteed by the FDIC, without limit, for participating financial institutions. The FDIC maintains a list of institutions that opted out of the current TAG coverage at: [Opt out](#)

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Thank you for being a partner in the access to justice cause!