



Montana Justice Foundation Newsletter

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

Director's Message

In recent months, the subject of civil legal aid, and the funding of such services, has garnered the attention of the national media. And while the saying goes, 'there is no such thing as bad press,' we all know there sure can be!

So I was pleased to see that a few of our local media outlets have not only taken notice of these important and timely topics, but have provided a sounding board for some local opinion and support as well. If you haven't already, I encourage you to read the following pieces which highlight the 35th anniversary of the Legal Services Corporation (LSC) and provide some refreshing perspective on the hot topic of federal funding for civil legal aid: [Havre Daily News](#); [Billings Gazette](#).

On a similar front, one of the MJF's goals is to provide community education regarding civil legal aid and access to justice (ATJ) to our current supporters and beyond. We are always looking for new ways to make current information available and strive to do this in ways that are meaningful to our supporters and the greater community.

Our quarterly newsletter is just one of our efforts to fulfill this goal. However, if you would like up-to-the-minute updates on ATJ issues, I encourage you to follow the MJF on [Twitter](#) or become a fan on [Facebook](#).

As always, thank you for being a partner in the access to justice cause. It is your unfailing support and commitment that enable us to move ever closer to fulfilling our mission of increasing access to justice for all Montanans.

All Best,

Amy Singa In The Timber



Building Skills to Promote Justice: The Community Dispute Resolution Center of Missoula County

Abby Rivenbark has been a volunteer mediator with the Community Dispute Resolution Center of Missoula County (CDRC) since her return from a stint with the Peace Corps in Malawi in 2004. She explains, "When I was in the Peace Corps I



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did a lot of teaching and community building and ran into a lot of conflicts. I became interested in cross-cultural conflict resolution and how people resolve misunderstandings in a productive way." University of Montana professor and CDRC board member Otto Koester directed her to the CDRC and mediation classes. [Read More](#)

IOLTA Leadership Banks: A Beacon of Hope for Civil Legal Aid in Troubled Times

During a time when interest rates have been reduced to their lowest levels in more than a decade, a small number of Montana banks continue to make a significant investment in programs that serve the most vulnerable and underserved in Montana. [Read More](#)

Lunch for Justice: Missoula, MT

The Montana Justice Foundation (MJF) celebrated its 30th anniversary as part of a special event series spotlighting community education and annual giving.



On June 23, 2009, more than 100 attorneys, judges, and other community leaders from the Missoula area gathered for the MJF's Lunch for Justice Event. [Read More](#)

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

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