

Montana Justice Foundation Hires New Director *Montana Lawyer* – February 2007

Amy Sings in the Timber, a 2005 graduate of the University of the Montana School of Law, has been hired by the Montana Justice Foundation to be its first, full-time Director of IOLTA Operations and Director of Development.

Ms. Sings in the Timber will oversee the Foundation's largest source of income, the Interest on Lawyers' Trust Accounts (IOLTA) program, a program which pools interest from state lawyer trust accounts to provide civil legal aid to the poor and support improvements to the justice system.

Also within her realm of responsibility, Ms. Sings in the Timber will work to cultivate and enhance relationships within the banking community, will focus on private bar fundraising activities and will work to develop *cy pres* awards from leftover funds from class action lawsuits.

"Organizationally, the Montana Justice Foundation carries an enormous responsibility – appropriately funding the Montana access to justice community and ensuring justice is accessible to all Montanans," said Chris Newbold of ALPS Foundation Services, which provides strategic direction to the Montana Justice Foundation. "With Amy's hiring, this Foundation will take a major step forward in realizing its potential and strengthening its overall position. We are just thrilled to have an individual of Amy's talent and energy partner on board."

Ms. Sings in the Timber has been working the past year as an instructional coordinator for the Indian Education Division of the Montana Office of Public Instruction. Also, she worked as an attorney for the UM School of Law's Indian Law Clinic last summer.

She has served as a legal intern for Smith, Doherty & Belcourt in Missoula and for the Oneida Tribal Law Office in Wisconsin.

Ms. Sings in the Timber earned a Bachelor of Arts degree with honors in Anthropology and Native American Studies at the University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee in 2000, and attended the Milwaukee Institute of Art & Design for two years.

While at the University of Montana School of Law, she was president of the Native American Law Students Association, and was on the moot court team that took second place in the 2004 Native American moot-court competition.

She will be based in Missoula and can be reached by phone at (406) 523-3890 or by e-mail at asings@mtjustice.org.