

## **Montana Justice Foundation Presents First Annual Leadership Bank Award to Mountain West Bank**

### ***Montana Lawyer – October 2007***

The Montana Justice Foundation (MJF) presented Mountain West Bank (MWB) with its First Annual Leadership Bank Award at the State Bar Annual Meeting. The Leadership Bank Award was created as a way to recognize Montana banks that have demonstrated a strong commitment to ensuring the success of the Interest on Lawyers Trust Account (IOLTA) program and increasing funding for access to justice programs in Montana.

“We are pleased to present Mountain West Bank with this award,” said MJF Director Amy Sings In The Timber, “Mountain West has demonstrated an exceptional level of commitment to the access to justice cause.”

The IOLTA program works through the partnership of Montana bankers and lawyers coming together in a charitable endeavor to benefit our local Montana communities. Leadership Banks are financial institutions that have demonstrated a commitment to community-based banking by going above and beyond eligibility requirements to foster the IOLTA program.

Mountain West Bank was a pioneer in the Leadership Bank movement in Montana. In 2004, after several years of predominantly low IOLTA interest rates nationwide, MWB took the initiative to tie its IOLTA rates to a recognized industry benchmark and waive all fees and service charges on IOLTA accounts. MWB has held fast to this high standard of commitment to the IOLTA program and those it serves. Currently, IOLTA accounts held with MWB earn an interest rate of over 4.0 per cent.

“We are happy to do our part for this important cause,” said MWB CFO, Dick Morgan, “and we are honored to receive this award.”

MWB’s actions and continued commitment have paved the way for MJF to expand access to justice programs in Montana by providing increased funding to grantees like Montana Legal Services Association (MLSA), Cascade County Legal Clinic, and CASA/GAL.

To find out more about the IOLTA program or MJF’s Leadership Banks, please contact Amy Sings In The Timber at: (406) 523-3920 or [asings@mtjustice.org](mailto:asings@mtjustice.org)