



Montana Justice Foundation Newsletter

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Executive Director's Message

Dear Friends,
If you haven't heard already you will have a chance to read below about Congress' recent funding cuts to the Legal Services Corporation (LSC) and the impact that this and other funding shortages have had on the delivery of legal services in Montana and throughout the nation.



Amy Singe In The Timber,
Executive Director

It comes as no surprise that less funding generally necessitates change. And while we have begun to see the effects of that change in the number and delivery of legal services available to low-income Montanans I am grateful to note the things that have not changed:

The **commitment** of those working to provide access to justice;

The **courage** of those in need of legal assistance; and

The **support** of those who believe that access to justice should be equal - regardless of a person's income.

Thank you for the many ways you support equal access to justice.

Best wishes to you and yours for a happy holiday season and joy and prosperity in the New Year.

Best regards,

Amy Singe In The Timber

House-Senate Agreement Reduces LSC Budget By Nearly 15%



On November 17, the House and Senate reached an agreement to fund the Legal Services Corporation at \$348 million dollars, a reduction of 14.8% from past funding. The cuts, representing about \$56 million will all be taken from basic field grants. The number represents a

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
- Glacier Bank
- Yellowstone Bank

Honorable Mention

- First Citizens Bank of Butte
- Mountain West Bank
- Ravalli County Bank
- Stockman Bank
- Valley Bank

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compromise of sorts, as the House originally proposed a budget of \$300 million, while the Senate proposed \$396.1 million.

The Legal Services Corporation, created by Congress, is the primary funding source for civil legal aid in the United States, providing funding to 136 independent non-profit legal aid programs in every state. [Read more](#)

Diana Garrett: Free at Last (From Student Loans)

Montana Justice Foundation LRAP (Loan Repayment Assistance Program) recipient Diana Garrett was born and raised in Mequon, WI but has lived in Missoula for quite some time. She attended the University of Montana School of Law and currently works with Montana Legal Services Association as a staff attorney.



Briefly describe your work with your organization.

My current practice is primarily focused on working with survivors of domestic violence in family law cases (parenting plans, dissolutions, orders of protection), and representing children in dependency/neglect cases. I assist on other general civil law cases as needed. In addition, I help to supervise staff and law student interns and have been involved in presenting trainings on family law and domestic violence to clinical and non-clinical interns at the University of Montana School of Law as well as to community organizations. [Read More](#)

**You're Invited!
To Our Upcoming Lunches for Justice**



Please join the Montana Justice Foundation to Lunch, Learn, & Support Equal Access to Justice at one of its Lunch for Justice CLE & Fundraisers.

Friday, February 10, 2012

Noon to 1:30 PM
The Hilton Garden Inn, Larkspur Ballroom
Bozeman, Montana
\$10 includes lunch & 1 ethics credit
CLE Presentation TBA
RSVP to the MJF at 406.523.3920 by Feb. 3

Friday, February 24, 2012

Noon to 1:30 PM

The Double Tree Hotel, Bitterroot/Blackfoot Ballrooms

Missoula, Montana

\$10 includes lunch & 1 ethics credit

Featuring a fireside discussion with The Hon. Karen Townsend;
Prof. Cynthia Ford & Mars P. Scott regarding the implications of
Turner v. Rogers

RSVP to the MJF at 406.523.3920 by Feb. 17

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