



Montana Justice Foundation Newsletter

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Executive Director's Message

Dear MJF Supporter:

As the last few days of summer quickly slip away and the natural world prepares its wind down for an inevitable winter slumber, I am happy to say that we here at the Montana Justice Foundation are preparing to heat things up!

[Read more](#)

All Best,

Amy Sings In The Timber



Amy Sings In The Timber,
Executive Director

Fifth Annual Leadership Bank Award Presented to Glacier Bank



Bonita Richards and
Jim Ness, SVPs
Glacier Bank
Amy Sings In The
Timber, ED MJF

The Montana Justice Foundation presented Glacier Bank with its Fifth Annual Leadership Bank Award at the State Bar of Montana's Annual Awards Banquet held in Kalispell on September 15th. 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. [Read more](#)

Ed Higgins: Tilting at Windmills

Ed Higgins is an attorney working for the Montana Legal Services Association and a current MJF Loan Repayment Assistance Program recipient. He completed both an undergraduate degree and post graduate teacher credentialing program at Humboldt State University and attended the University of Montana School of Law. He currently resides in Missoula. The following is an



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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Montana Justice Foundation

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interview with Ed about his work as a legal aid attorney.
[Read more](#)

Montana Innocence Project : Intern Spotlight



Hundreds of innocent people-including three Montanans-have been freed from prison thanks to DNA evidence and the hard work of Innocence Projects across the country. The Montana Innocence Project is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization-and proud MJF grantee-that works statewide to exonerate the innocent and prevent wrongful convictions. Using DNA and other

evidence, we provide charitable legal and investigative assistance to those with credible claims of innocence. To improve our criminal justice system and prevent wrongful convictions, we promote public policy reform and educate Montanans across the state.

[Read more](#)

Leadership Banks

We wish to acknowledge with special appreciation the financial institutions that have demonstrated a commitment to community-based banking by going above and beyond eligibility requirements to foster the Montana IOLTA program. Leadership Banks are committed to ensuring the success of the IOLTA program and increasing funding for civil legal aid in Montana, by agreeing to waive fees and service charges on IOLTA accounts and keeping interest rates as high as possible. Attorneys are encouraged to consider these "IOLTA friendly" institutions for their banking needs.

Prime Partners

- Bitterroot Valley Bank
- Community Bank of Missoula
- Glacier Bank
- Yellowstone Bank

Honorable Mention

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

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