

## Washtenaw Bar and State Bar Recognize Firms for Leadership Gifts



Robert Gillett, director of LSSCM, honored three local firms that have been important to the success of the Friends of Legal Aid/ATJ fundraising campaign. Above, l-r, Gillett salutes Charles Borgsdorf, Hooper Hathaway, PC; Allen Philbrick, Conlin, McKenney and Philbrick, PC; and Edwin Pear, Pear, Sperling, Eggan and Daniels, PC.

At the May 25 Washtenaw County Bar Association (WCBA) Annual Meeting, both the State Bar and the WCBA celebrated the past and future contributions of three firms to the Access to Justice (ATJ) Campaign. The firms—Pear Sperling Eggan & Daniels, Conlin McKenney & Philbrick, and Hooper Hathaway Price Beuche & Wallace—received the Founding Firm Award from the local Friends of Legal Aid (FOLA) campaign.

Kim Cahill, president-elect of the State Bar and chair of the ATJ Statewide Campaign, presented the awards, acknowledging that the three firms have been strong supporters of FO LA since the ATJ Campaign began in 1988. Kim noted that Pear Sperling made the first multi-year pledge to the ATJ Campaign from Washtenaw County in 2001, a five-year \$25,000 pledge. When that pledge was satisfied late last year, the firm renewed its commitment with an additional multi-year pledge, after which Conlin McKenney & Philbrick and Hooper Hathaway Price Beuche & Wallace joined with new pledges of their own. Together, the firms have supported Legal Services of South Central Michigan with pledges totaling over \$80,000 through ATJ.

Ed Pear accepted the award on behalf of Pear Sperling, Allen Philbrick accepted the award on behalf of Conlin McKenney, and Charles Borgsdorf accepted the award on behalf of Hooper Hathaway. Mr. Borgsdorf also serves as Chair of the ATJ Campaign's Region 8 Committee.

Bob Gillett, Director of Legal Services of South Central Michigan and Chair of the State Bar's Pro Bono Initiative, noted that, as significant as these contributions are, they are just the "tip of the iceberg" in terms of the contributions that these firms make to the local community. In addition to their support for the FO LA Campaign, these firms are among the oldest firms in the county, are noted for their great lawyers, and are involved in a great deal of pro bono and public service work.

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### Tax Contribution

While you are enjoying the summer sun, remember that to be eligible for treatment as a 2006 charitable contribution, ATJ gifts must be received by the Michigan State Bar Foundation or postmarked by December 31, 2006. For more information, please visit [www.atjfund.org](http://www.atjfund.org) or contact Lesa Smith at 800.968.1442 ext. 6307.

# 2006 Pro Bono Circle of Excellence

The Pro Bono Initiative (PBI) of the State Bar of Michigan would like to particularly recognize the following firms and corporations in the Pro Bono Circle of Excellence. These entities have demonstrated that they have put their pro bono policies into practice by documenting a high level of participation by their affiliated lawyers. They have provided pro bono service collectively through donations of reduced-fee or no-fee work, financial contributions, or both to bring affiliated attorneys into compliance with the Voluntary Pro Bono Standard adopted by the Representative Assembly in 1990.

On average, each attorney has contributed at least 30 hours of representation to low-income individuals and families or to organizations that provide legal services, or has donated at least \$300 to a nonprofit program that is organized for the purpose of delivering civil legal services to low-income individuals.

These entities include firms who submitted an application in 2006 and those whose full compliance with the Voluntary Standard through contributions to the Access to Justice Fund is noted by State Bar Access to Justice staff.

## Large Firms

Barris, Sott, Denn & Driker, PLLC  
 Bodman, LLP  
 Butzel Long  
 Clark Hill, PLC  
 Conlin, McKenney & Philbrick, PC  
 Dickinson Wright, PLLC  
 Dykema Gossett, PLLC  
 Honigman, Miller, Schwartz & Cohn, LLP  
 Hooper, Hathaway, Price, Beuche  
 & Wallace, PC  
 Johnson, Rosati, LaBarge, Aseltyne & Field, PC  
 Kienbaum, Opperwall, Hardy & Pelton, PLC  
 Law Weathers & Richardson, PC  
 McShane & Bowie, PLC  
 Mika, Meyers, Beckett & Jones, PLC  
 Miller, Canfield, Paddock and Stone, PLC  
 Miller, Johnson, Snell & Cumiskey, PLC  
 McShane & Bowie, PLC  
 Pear, Sperling, Eggen & Daniels, PC  
 Pepper Hamilton, LLP  
 Sinas, Dramis, Brake, Boughton & McIntyre, PC  
 Rhoades McKee, PLC  
 Warner, Norcross & Judd, LLP  
 Varnum, Riddering, Schmidt & Howlett, LLP

## Small Firms

Bos & Glazier, PLC  
 Drew, Cooper & Anding  
 Farr, Oosterhouse & Krissoff  
 Garris, Garris, Garris, & Garris, PC  
 Gregory & Reiter, PC  
 Gruel, Mills, Nims & Pylman, LLP  
 Nichols, Sacks, Slank, Sendelbach &  
 Buiteweg, PC  
 O'Brien and O'Brien, PLC  
 Pence & Numinen  
 Pitt, Dowty, McGehee, Mirer & Palmer, PC  
 Schmick Law Offices  
 Silver & Van Essen, PC  
 Thomas, Garvey, Garvey & Sciotti, PLLC

## Corporations

General Motors Corporation  
 Ford Motor Company

## You're Encouraged

Every reader is encouraged to initiate steps within the firm, corporate legal department, or organization with which he or she is associated to adopt a pro bono policy and lead efforts in its implementation. Please contact Gregory Conyers or Tomika Horne at the State Bar of Michigan, 306 Townsend Street, Lansing, MI 48933 for more information about pro bono programs and the PBI.

**Note:** acknowledgment for Circle of Excellence data is based on calendar year 2005 activities of firms and corporations in order to align more closely with Access to Justice Campaign data acknowledging those who are in full compliance with the Voluntary Standard through contributions to the fund.