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*Funding and Leadership for Justice Since 1947*

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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE – May 7, 2007      CONTACT PERSON: Kelly Quardokus 517-346-6405**

## **MICHIGAN STATE BAR FOUNDATION AWARDS ELEVEN GRANTS**

The Michigan State Bar Foundation awarded eleven Administration of Justice grants totaling \$185,950 to promote law-related education, expand opportunities for innovative conflict resolution, and support the delivery civil legal services to low-income people in Michigan. The Michigan State Bar Foundation is a nonprofit corporation, established in 1947 by Michigan judges and lawyers to support law-related charitable programs.

Recent Administration of Justice grants have been awarded to:

**Children's Charter of the Courts of Michigan** - to implement a pilot project involving families in facilitated decision-making to resolve selected juvenile delinquency cases without formal court intervention.

**Community Legal Resources** - to develop legal information and educational sessions for pro bono attorneys and nonprofit organizations to assist them with legal issues related to operating youth programs.

**Free Legal Aid Clinic**, - to update technology to enhance legal research, client communication and legal services by supervised law students assisting low-income clients with family law matters.

**Lakeshore Legal Aid** - to support organizational strategic and fund development planning, with emphasis on the Counsel and Advocacy Law Line (CALL), and in collaboration with CALL partner programs.

**Legal Services Computer Committee** - to configure the statewide PIKA case management system to track and manage pro bono cases and lawyers and support other statewide technology needs.

**Michigan Supreme Court/State Court Administrative Office-Office of Dispute Resolution** - to develop training to increase the number of qualified domestic relation mediators available for low-income family law cases.

**Midwest Center on Law and the Deaf** - to create a video in American Sign Language about the legal system and individual rights and responsibilities, to be made available to courts and posted on the Internet.

**Schoolcraft College Foundation** - to produce a training video helping first responders (such as police, fire, and emergency medical technicians), recognize child abuse, assess a child's welfare, and identify referral resources.

**State Bar of Michigan/Custodial Interrogation Recording Task Force** - to conduct a pilot project to research the use and benefits of audio/video recordings in custodial interrogations and assess their effectiveness and feasibility.

**University of Detroit Mercy School of Law** - to educate juvenile justice professionals, attorneys, and child advocates about legal relief passed by Congress to help abandoned, abused or orphaned immigrant children.

**Washtenaw County/Eastern Michigan University Legal Resource Center** - to support technology to allow additional court-based assistance in pro se matters by lawyer-supervised students.

**For more information on the Foundation, grant deadlines, criteria and applications, please visit the Foundation website at [www.msbf.org](http://www.msbf.org).**