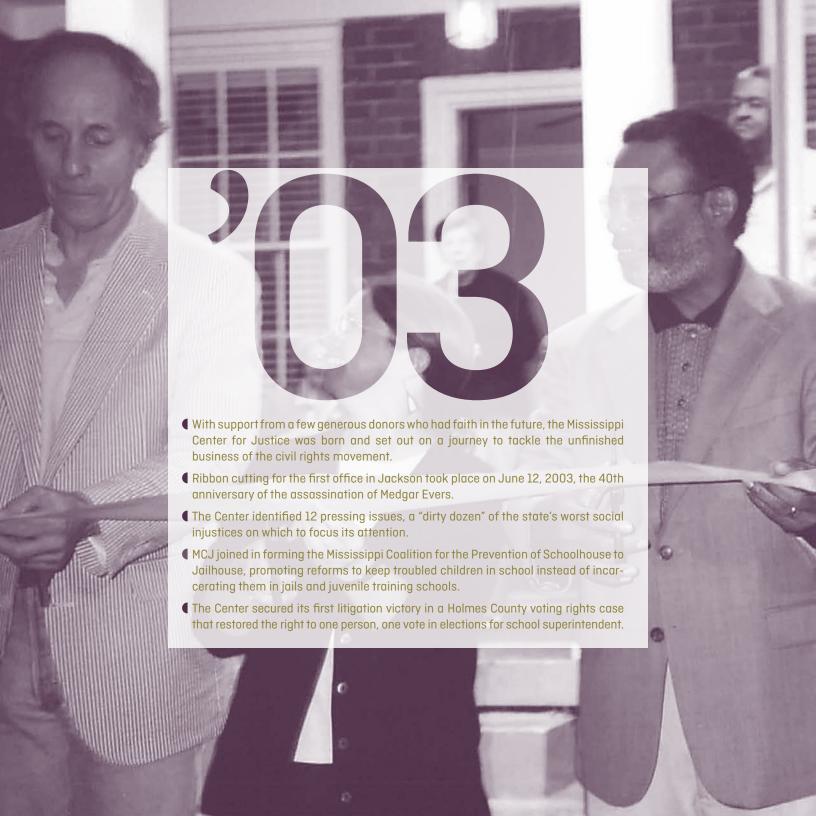
HIGHLIGHTS 2003-2013 A DECADE OF PROGRESS

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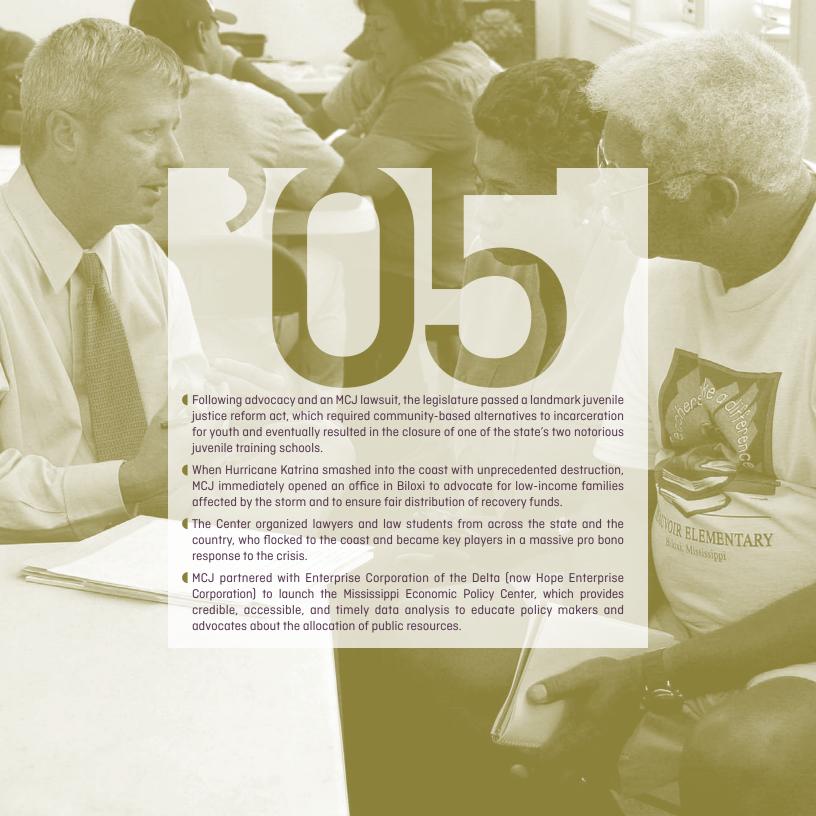
Advancing Racial and Economic Justice













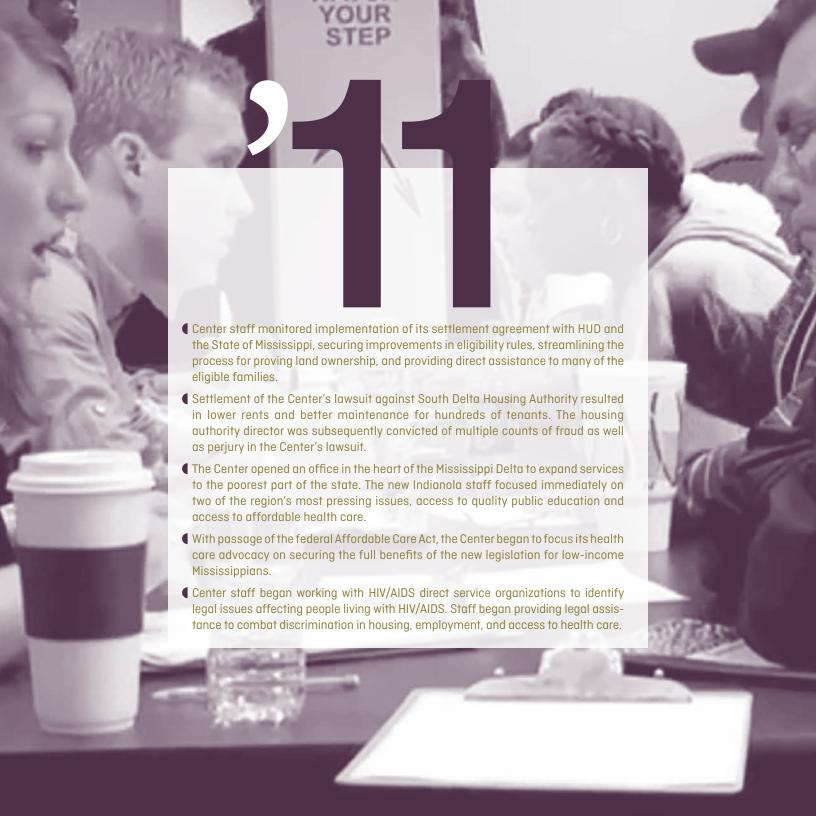
- The Center held numerous legal clinics across the coast in the wake of Hurricane Katrina. Residents stood in line for hours to get help understanding their rights and navigating the complex FEMA claims process. These clinics continued for almost four years.
- MCJ and its partners successfully advocated for substantial improvements in the housing assistance program for Katrina's most vulnerable survivors, most notably a doubling of the cap (from \$50,000 to \$100,000) on housing assistance grants to lower-income coast residents.
- Working with a number of legal and community partners, MCJ won a lawsuit against FEMA mandating that elderly and disabled Katrina evacuees receive accessible trailers. The Center also successfully countered FEMA's attempts to evict thousands of residents from FEMA trailers and blocked the displacement of hundreds of low-income public housing tenants from livable rental units.
- The Center and partners on the coast issued the first in a series of annual Katrina anniversary reports, documenting the story of "two recoveries" with data, maps, charts, and client stories.
- In partnership with the Mississippi Low-Income Child Care Initiative, Center staff provided legal and policy advocacy to improve the availability and administration of child care assistance for working families.





- With predatory lending reform stalled in the state legislature, the Center successfully pursued local options. Jackson passed a moratorium on new payday lenders, and 20 other municipalities across the state subsequently followed suit.
- MCJ filed a lawsuit against South Delta Regional Housing Authority challenging unfair and extravagant rent hikes on homes where maintenance had been neglected for years.
- Fighting restrictive zoning regulations on the coast, MCJ focused on litigation, zoning appeals, and community organizing to ensure that residents living in modular "Katrina cottages" on the coast could remain in their homes.
- Addressing a growing home foreclosure crisis, the Center launched a statewide initiative that provided assistance in individual cases as well as advocacy for policy change. The Mississippi Bar took the lead in recruiting attorneys to participate on a pro bono basis, and MCJ presented a two-day training that prepared more than 60 pro bono attorneys to accept referrals to assist families facing foreclosure.







- In partnership with the University of Mississippi Medical Center and others, the Center launched a medical-legal partnership to provide free legal aid to people living with HIV/AIDS. Center staff provides on-site legal assistance to clinic patients, focusing on HIV-status-related discrimination in housing and employment. The collaboration marks the first-ever medical-legal partnership in Mississippi.
- MCJ's oversight of its settlement agreement with HUD and the State of Mississippi revealed that 1,500 additional households should qualify for \$40 million more in Katrina housing recovery assistance. The additional support brings the estimated number of families assisted to 6,000 and the settlement value to \$172 million. The repair program has employed hundreds of construction workers, almost half of whom are low- and moderate-income residents.
- Relying on MCJ's research and policy analysis, the legislature enacted two laws that add protections for students of for-profit schools that rely on federal student loans for up to 90 percent of their profits. The legislation a first step toward greater accountability to consumers and taxpayers provides for state registration of recruiters and oversight of their accreditation.
- MCJ celebrated its 10th anniversary by launching the New Roots Credit Partnership. Aimed at loosening the stranglehold of predatory lenders across the state, New Roots is a joint venture with financial institutions, corporate partners, and community leaders. It will offer alternatives to predatory lending through fair loans and financial education and is backed by the Clinton Global Initiative.

NEW ROOTS CREDIT PARTNERSHIP





120 COURT AVENUE

INDIANOLA, MISSISSIPPI

