Still fighting the good fight.
When racial and economic justice seems fragile, when ground gained seems in danger of being lost, when it seems progress has been thwarted, the Mississippi Center for Justice (MCJ) is there to fight the good fight.

MCJ is more active and relevant today than ever before, providing leadership at the highest levels of policy making and offering hands-on help and hope for the disenfranchised.

Year in and year out, MCJ brings the determination and resources to continue the fight for justice, and in a time when so many norms seem upended, MCJ brings extra strength, not only to move forward, but also to protect hard-won gains that must not be lost. New challenges lie ahead, but with the support of key people, MCJ is ready to face them.

In uncertain times, one thing is certain. The Mississippi Center for Justice is here, fighting the good fight.

More than ever, our state is hurting. Our nation is hurting. Racial and economic tensions have grown to new heights. Where we are right now in our state and nation is not healthy. The work of MCJ is more important than ever. We must continue to make bold moves against injustice for all people.

LA’VERNE EDNEY
Shareholder Baker, Donelson, Bearman, Caldwell & Berkowitz, PC
Board of Directors Chair, Mississippi Center for Justice

La’Verne Edney
Shareholder Baker, Donelson, Bearman, Caldwell & Berkowitz, PC
Board of Directors Chair, Mississippi Center for Justice

Sometimes our work is sweeping—a discriminatory law is overturned and tens of thousands of people are served in the course of that single, decisive action. Sometimes justice is served in small victories, a series of individual cases that reveal patterns and build to something larger over time. Whether it begins at the highest level or with one individual in distress, the fight is always about lifting up situations and lifting up people.

Reilly Morse
President and CEO, Mississippi Center for Justice
RAMPING UP FOR THE LONG TERM FIGHT
The Impact Litigation Initiative

In 2017, the Mississippi Center for Justice launched a major impact litigation initiative in honor of distinguished former board member and supporter, the late George Riley. The initiative will allow MCJ to file and pursue landmark cases to advance racial and economic justice, the outcomes of which have the potential to change lives in Mississippi and beyond. One of the first projects handled through the initiative has been defending on appeal the injunction against Mississippi House Bill 1523, a law that would allow discrimination against LGBT citizens based upon a specific set of religious beliefs.

Joining MCJ through the initiative is long-time Mississippi civil rights attorney and MCJ co-founder Robert McDuff.

"Given the troubling signs from the government in Washington and from the state government in Jackson, it is vital that we have the resources to go to court to challenge unconstitutional actions that promote discrimination and threaten poor people," McDuff says. "This initiative adds valuable resources to that effort at a crucial time in our history."

Although MCJ has always worked to improve racial and economic justice in Mississippi, our focus has mostly been on our four campaign areas of housing, education, healthcare, and consumer matters, plus disaster recovery. With the addition of an impact litigation initiative, we have the luxury of expanding our focus beyond those areas to address a variety of issues that affect people of color and low-income families in Mississippi. Having a superb civil rights attorney leading this initiative will attract widespread pro bono support, enabling us to effect systemic change in our state."

Beth Orlansky, Advocacy Director, Mississippi Center for Justice

THE GEORGE RILEY IMPACT LITIGATION FELLOWSHIP

The initiative was made possible by the George Riley Impact Litigation Fellowship, a 10-year program at MCJ created with generous support from Apple and Emerson Collective. Longtime MCJ supporters David and Barbara Lipman also provided supplemental support for this critical project.

George Riley practiced law with the international firm of O’Melveny and Myers and represented a distinguished list of clients, including Steve Jobs and Apple. His lifelong commitment to public interest included an extraordinary pro bono caseload, much of it with MCJ. Riley served on the MCJ Board of Directors from 2009 until his death in 2016.

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A hard-working, single mother of three, Megan Jones was proud when she landed a good job as an assembly line worker with Viking Range in Greenwood, and even prouder when she was promoted to quality control. With her 11-year-old twin daughters enrolled in school and her three-year-old son on the roster at a trusted daycare center, Jones was well on the way to providing a better life for her young family.

When changes in the application process for her childcare subsidy through the Mississippi Department of Human Services (DHS) required Jones to submit a new application, she was quick to comply. DHS responded by citing errors in the paperwork; rather than asking Jones to correct them, the agency denied Jones her childcare subsidy.

"Everyone in my family works—my mother, my father, all of my friends and relatives. Without daycare, I have no back-up to take care of my son," Jones says. "I was looking at not being able to work. Even when the director of the daycare center let me continue to pay the same out-of-pocket cost, I had to take off work and pay for gas to go to Jackson, three hours away, to appeal the decision. It was very confusing and very, very stressful. And all I wanted to do was work and take care of my children."

Debbie Ellis, the executive director of the Susie M. Brooks Child Care Center where Jones' son was enrolled, is all too familiar with Jones' situation; of the 21 families her daycare center serves, nine have lost their benefits due to paperwork issues with DHS.

"The lives of these low-income, single parents—who actually give up benefits in Mississippi in order to work or go to school—are suddenly and unexpectedly thrown into chaos and often back into extreme poverty by these draconian policies," Ellis says. "Single parents receiving assistance are ill-equipped to question or find the courage to question such authority."

Ellis introduced Megan Jones and her other clients to Beth Orlansky of the Mississippi Center for Justice, who is helping the parents appeal their decisions with DHS.

"Now, Beth and MCJ are there, right beside me the whole way," Jones says. "They believe in me and I know I’m not alone. It’s a great feeling to have somebody on your side."

"These parents now have legal representation from Beth, who demonstrates a passion for removing these barriers and who sees the value in their lives," Ellis says. "If the decision from the hearings is positive, hundreds, if not thousands, of low-income parents will be allowed to continue on their chosen path of dignity through self-reliance. This is the work of the Mississippi Center for Justice. I don’t know what we would do without them."

In a time when the government is tightening down on programs that help working poor families and children, MCJ is helping Mississippians who qualify for much-needed benefits get the help they need.

Federal funding administered through the Mississippi Department of Human Services (DHS) provides subsidies that help low-income, working parents afford daycare, but recent changes in the application process have made applying for the subsidies difficult. Many Mississippi parents have lost their childcare benefits over minor paperwork issues. Without affordable childcare, it is impossible for these parents to work or attend school, the very pursuits that would enable them to build better lives for themselves and their children.

The Mississippi Center for Justice is helping parents navigate the system and handling appeals to DHS for those who have lost their eligibility. With MCJ’s help, these parents can return to work or school and continue moving their families toward a more secure future.
Having a criminal record does not make a person a monster who should be punished for the remainder of his or her life. If we truly believe in justice, we have to give people a chance once they’ve paid their debts to society. I enjoy helping people achieve that feeling of relief and empowerment when they realize that their past can no longer weigh them down. I had a client who had been arrested and convicted as a minor more than 25 years ago for a non-violent felony offense. When his petition was granted, he shed a tear in open court and said, “I’m finally free.”

“I was trying to get bigger and better paying jobs, but I couldn’t get a security clearance. I’d apply and people would be interested in my skills, but as soon as they found out about my record, it was, ‘We’re sorry.’ I started thinking about going back to school, but with my record, I couldn’t qualify for student loans. I was stuck.”

Then Jordan heard about the Mississippi Center for Justice’s expungement program. Just one month after contacting MCJ, his criminal record was expunged. Today, Jordan has the security clearance he needed to land a well-paying job as a welder at V.C. Summer, a nuclear power plant in Virginia.

“I feel like my life has started over,” Jordan says. “That mistake is all in the past. Now there’s nothing keeping me from doing what I want to do.”
Between 2010 and 2017, MCJ served 2,000 oil spill-related clients. MCJ filed 1,150 claims, including 950 economic claims for lost wages, property damages, and subsistence fishing, and 200 medical claims. The total amount awarded to MCJ clients to date is more than $2 million. MCJ designed and administered a four-state consortium of legal service and social non-profits in Mississippi, Alabama, Louisiana, and Florida. The consortium served more than 16,000 clients who received total compensation of $18 million.

On April 20, 2010, the Deepwater Horizon oil drilling rig exploded in the Gulf of Mexico while performing work for BP oil company. The explosion killed 11 people, triggered the largest marine oil spill in history, and crippled the economy of the Gulf Coast states. The Mississippi Center for Justice began serving clients damaged by the BP oil spill in December of 2010. MCJ’s clients typically had losses too small to attract the attention of private attorneys, but the claims process was just as complex for these individual claimants as it was for major businesses that could afford a team of lawyers. In 2017, after 10 years of fighting for justice, the final economic damages claim was paid.

Justice in the Wake of Disaster
Fighting for Disaster Relief

In the spring of 2010, 24-year-old Chris Payet’s future had never looked brighter. A recent graduate of the University of Southern Mississippi, Payet had landed a well-paying job as a quality control lab technician with PSL North America LLC, a Bay St. Louis-based company that manufactured steel pipe used in oil drilling. Then the Deepwater Horizon drilling rig exploded in the Gulf of Mexico.

One month later, Payet was laid off from his job, a casualty of the moratorium on oil drilling. He was out of work for three months, and when he did land another job, it paid much less than his previous position. Payet filed a claim against BP for lost wages, and waited. And waited.

“I never heard a word back and I wasn’t getting anywhere with it,” Payet says. “Then I went to the Mississippi Center for Justice.” MCJ monitored Payet’s claim as it moved through the complicated BP system, ensuring his claim didn’t get lost in the maze of paperwork and bureaucracy. On July 25, 2017—more than seven years after the oil spill—Chris Payet received a check for $25,425. Payet’s was the final of 950 economic damages claims handled by MCJ as a result of the oil spill.

Still working toward a successful future despite the setbacks he’s weathered, Payet used the settlement money to refinance his house, replacing his 30-year mortgage with a 15-year mortgage.

“I came close to giving up hope because so much time passed, but MCJ was there to encourage me,” Payet says. “They were great people to work with, and all for no charge. In the end, I felt relieved. It was nice to have some closure and to know this effort to make things right wasn’t a waste of my time or of MCJ’s time.”

MCJ Housing Director John Jopling (right) presents Chris Payet with a settlement check for his losses due to the BP oil spill. Payet’s case was the final economic damages case MCJ settled related to the oil spill.
A COMMUNITY COLLABORATION
The Sunflower County United for Children Implementation Project

Based out of the MCJ Delta office in Indianola, the Sunflower County United for Children (SCUC) Implementation Project is a partnership including the school district, banking institutions, faith-based groups, local governments, advocacy organizations, community development and social service agencies, and the community at large. All of these entities are working together with MCJ to help the children and families of Sunflower County thrive.

SCUC

✓ Works with the school district to provide literacy activities for third graders
✓ Provides educational and workforce opportunities for young adults
✓ Increases access to asset building, financial literacy, and financial coaching
✓ Increases parental participation in school and community activities
✓ Provides recipes for healthy food options
✓ Offers free physical fitness and medical screenings
✓ Promotes racial awareness, equity, healing, and cultural enrichment

HIGHLIGHTS
in Healthcare, Education, Consumer Protection, and Housing
Lack of access to a quality education is far too common for Mississippi’s children, particularly for children in communities of color and students with disabilities. Access requires students to remain in the classroom for instruction, but access is too often interrupted by unjust and discriminatory disciplinary actions or by failure to accommodate students with disabilities or special educational needs.

The Mississippi Center for Justice received 31 calls from concerned parents with issues in school districts in 13 Mississippi counties. MCJ provided services in 20 cases.

The Education Division identified school districts that fail to provide transportation to alternative school students and is working with the Mississippi Department of Education (MDE) to remedy this situation.

Education

The Education Division identified school districts that fail to provide transportation to alternative school students and is working with the Mississippi Department of Education (MDE) to remedy this situation.

Healthcare

“As a person living with HIV, this council gives me a voice.”

“The council gives me a voice. It means a lot to me to know that I’m not only being heard, but that I have the backing of an organization that will put my ideas and thoughts, and the ideas of other council members, into action.”

Cedric Sturdevant, MCJ AIDS Advisory Council Member

Healthcare

The Mississippi Center for Justice established an Advisory Council to explore areas of concern for people living with HIV and develop a strategy to address those issues.

The medical-legal partnership between the Mississippi Center for Justice, the University of Mississippi Medical Center, the Mississippi State Department of Health, and the Jackson Medical Mall Foundation provided free civil legal services to 28 clients living with HIV.

In partnership with the Southern AIDS Coalition, MCJ convened its 6th Annual Mississippi AIDS Justice Project for a discussion about the legal rights of Mississipians living with HIV and addressing those concerns through policy advocacy and education.

The Mississippi Center for Justice conducted more than 24 outreach events educating Mississipians on HIV stigma and discrimination.

Common Standards to Solve a Common Problem

After representing more than 500 students and parents in hearings across the state, MCJ made a commitment to improve school disciplinary procedures in Mississippi. To build consensus, MCJ assessed the student handbooks of every school district in the state and drafted a uniform school due process policy, which was sent to all superintendents and school boards. While MCJ’s efforts were underway, the Mississippi Legislature passed a law containing many of the protections MCJ recommended.

Thanks to MCJ’s pressure to establish uniform standards, every Mississippi public school student facing suspension or expulsion, regardless of which school district he or she lives in, will now have a hearing that includes a guarantee of basic fairness.

Cases Included:

7 general discipline cases
9 special education cases
1 physical assault case
1 bullying case
1 bullying/youth court issue
504 Plan

The Education Division identified school districts that fail to provide transportation to alternative school students and is working with the Mississippi Department of Education (MDE) to remedy this situation.
DOUBLE THE FIGHT, DOUBLE THE VICTORY

Over a five-year period, MCJ represented the Watkins family in multiple proceedings over special education eligibility, appropriate services and accommodations, and bullying issues. MCJ eventually filed a suit against the school district in chancery court, at which point the district relented and allowed Drew and Gage the accommodations for which the Watkins had fought so hard. The battle had begun when the boys were in sixth grade; Drew and Gage were now high school juniors.

“One MCJ stepped in, we started getting what we needed,” Becky says. “I remember thinking, ‘There is a God in Heaven and finally we have somebody who cares. That’s when things started turning around for Drew and Gage. We knew they had disabilities, but we had always focused on their abilities and now we could do that again. Drew and Gage excelled their junior and senior years of high school. We attribute that to MCJ stepping in and standing with us.”

Drew and Gage earned their diplomas in 2017, but graduating from high school was only the beginning. Both received scholarships to Jones County Junior College.

“The Watkins case taught me that keeping children with special challenges in school and moving towards graduation demands an ongoing commitment far beyond what normal litigation requires,” says Jeremy Eisler, the MCJ attorney who handled the case. “As an advocate, it’s always gratifying to succeed on behalf of a client. It’s even more gratifying when that success helps your client succeed on his own behalf. I am so proud of Drew’s and Gage’s accomplishments, and so hopeful for their future.”

“We are forever grateful for what MCJ has done for our family. If ever there were two children that MCJ has made a difference for, they are Drew and Gage Watkins. I just wonder how many kids with the same potential are sitting in an institution somewhere because they didn’t get the resources they needed and they didn’t have the Mississippi Center for Justice.”

Becky Watkins
Many low-income Mississippians working to better themselves by attending community college face setbacks in the form of housing issues, debt, and past criminal records. MCJ is the legal provider for the Single Stop Program at Hinds County Community College, a free program offering legal counseling, advice, and services that help overcome these obstacles.

MCJ’s “It’s A Family Affair: Consumer Issues for the Entire Family” conference provided the Metro Jackson community with information from local experts on children’s savings accounts, college savings plans, household budgeting, strategies for retirement saving, and recognizing and avoiding scams targeting senior citizens.

Average Mississippians may feel they have no voice in Washington. MCJ represented Mississippians in the first National Consumer Lobby Day in Washington, D.C., lobbying the offices of Senators Wicker and Cochran and Congressman Thompson regarding the Consumer Financial Protection Bureau and the proposed payday lending rule and arbitration rule.

MCJ continued its foreclosure prevention work, providing legal services to 155 clients in danger of losing their homes from January 2016-January 2017.

TO MAKE SURE JUSTICE IS SERVED IN JUSTICE COURT, MCJ:

- Developed a brochure for defendants outlining their legal rights in justice court civil actions.
- Is working with the Mississippi College School of Law to develop a clinic for law students that would allow them to represent litigants in justice court.
- Is developing training for justice court judges regarding issues of debt collection, as well as a bench book to guide them through the process.

Housing

The United States made a commitment some 50 years ago to prevent discrimination in the rental, sale, and financing of housing. Locally in Mississippi, however, there is no law or agency dedicated to enforcing fair housing practices. As a result, public awareness of what constitutes housing discrimination is limited. Mississippians, especially those in rural areas, may not recognize fair housing violations that directly affect their ability to obtain decent, affordable housing.

In 2017, MCJ conducted educational and outreach activities in rural areas of the state, as well as continued to conduct fair housing enforcement testing and investigation statewide.

In 2017, the Housing Division conducted fair housing education and outreach programs in 10 Mississippi Counties, including: Chickasaw, Clarke, Harrison, Humphreys, Hinds, Jasper, Lafayette, Marshall, Panola, and Tishomingo.

The Housing Division conducted 32 fair housing investigations in 14 cities, including: Biloxi, Booneville, Canton, D’Iberville, Greenwood, Gulfport, Hattiesburg, Horn Lake, Indiana, Jackson, Pascagoula, Picayune, Ridgeland, Sumrall, Tupelo, and Waveland.

Some of these investigations are still ongoing; it is expected that at least three of the cases will be referred to the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) for further action.

“...The passage of the Fair Housing Act was spurred by the death of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. in 1968. As we approach the 50th anniversary of Dr. King’s death, we continue to fight to ensure that access to housing in every corner of Mississippi shall not be impaired by one’s race, color, religion, sex, national origin, disability, or familial status.”

JOHN JOPLING
BILL OF MANUSCRIPT ATTORNEY
HOUSING LAW DIRECTOR
MISSISSIPPI CENTER FOR JUSTICE
SOCIAL JUSTICE CAMPAIGN PARTNERS

STATE AND REGIONAL PARTNERS

ACLU of Mississippi
Back Bay Mission
BancorpSouth
BankPlus
Capital Area Bar Association Young Lawyers Division
Children’s Defense Fund, Southern Regional Office
Church of Christ (Holiness)
City of Canton
City of Jackson
Coalition for a Prosperous Mississippi
Coastal Family Health Center
Coastal Women for Change
Community Health
Disability Rights Mississippi
East Biloxi Community Collaborative
Grace House
Gulf Coast Center for Law & Policy
Gulf Coast Community Design Studio
Gulf Regional Planning Commission
Gulf Restoration Network
Habitat for Humanity—Metro Jackson
Hope Alliance
Hope Enterprise Corporation
Hope Policy Institute
Indiana Promise Community Youth Council
Jackson Medical Mall Foundation
Nolle Jenkins Family Center
Unity Bank and Trust Company
Living Independence for Everyone
Magnolia Bar Association
Money, Housing, and Human Development
Mississippi Access to Justice Commission
Mississippi Association for Justice
The Mississippi Bar
Mississippi Center for Legal Services
Mississippi Coalition for Citizens with Disabilities
Mississippi Coalition for the Prevention of Schoolhouse to Jailhouse
Mississippi Coalition of Vietnamese American Families and Friends
Mississippi Commission for Volunteer Service
Mississippi Community Financial Access Coalition
Mississippi Consumer Protection Division, Office of the Attorney General
Mississippi Credit Union Association
Mississippi Families as Allies for Children’s Mental Health
Mississippi Health Advocacy Program
Mississippi Home Corporation
Mississippi Housing Partnership
Mississippi Human Services Coalition
Mississippi Immigrants’ Rights Alliance
Mississippi Junior League
Mississippi Law-Related Education
Mississippi Legal Aid
Mississippi Legal Aid Education/Referral Center
Mississippi Low-Income Child Care Initiative
Mississippi Parent Training and Information Center
Mississippi Religious Leadership Conference
Mississippi State Department of Health
Mississippi United to End Homelessness
My Brother’s Keeper
Moore Community House
NAACP, Biloxi Branch
NAACP, Gulfport Branch
NAACP, Mississippi State Conference
North Florida Center for Equal Justice
North Gulfport Civic Club
North Gulfport Community Land Trust
North Mississippi Rural Legal Services
Operation Shoestring
Parents for Public Schools—Jackson
Public Policy Center of Mississippi
Racial Equity Community of Practice
Rethink MS
Rural LISC
Self-Help
Sonja City Civic Organization
Southern Echo
Southern HIV/AIDS Strategy Initiative
Southern Mississippi Planning and Development District
Southern Poverty Law Center
Steps Coalition
Sunflower County Parents and Students Organization
Teach for America
Turkey Creek Community Initiative
University of Mississippi Medical Center
Voice of Calvary Ministries
We gather Creating Change
West Tennessee Legal Services
William Winter Institute for Racial Reconciliation
Women’s Foundation of Mississippi

NATIONAL PARTNERS

AFL-CIO
American Bar Association Center for Pro Bono
Center for Law and Social Policy
Center for Legal Aid Education/Shriver Center
Center for Responsible Lending
Center on Budget and Policy Priorities
Community Catalyst
Consumer Federation of America
Corporation for National and Community Service
Empire Justice Center
Equal Justice Works
Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation
Georgetown Center for Children and Families
Housing Works
Lawyers’ Committee for Civil Rights Under Law
Money Management International
NAACP Legal Defense and Educational Fund, Inc.
National Consumer Law Center
National Health Law Program
National Legal Aid & Defender Association
National Low Income Housing Coalition
Oxfam America
Opportunity Agenda
Oxfam America
Parents for Public Schools—National
Pro Bono Net
Southern AIDS Coalition

LAW FIRMS AND CORPORATE LEGAL DEPARTMENTS

Akin Gump Strauss Hauer & Feld LLP
Baker, Danielson, Bearman, Caldwell & Berkowitz, PC
Ballard Spahr
Bradley Arant Boult Cummings LLP
Butler Snow LLP
DLA Piper
Farmland Workforce & Knute PLLC
Malcolm Harrison Law Firm
Hogan Lovells LLP
Latham & Watkins LLP
Manatt, Phelps & Phillips LLP
Munger, Tolles & Olson LLP
Musgrove Smith Law
Nixon Peabody LLP

O’Melveny & Myers LLP
Patton Boggs LLP
Pigott & Johnson
Richard Law Firm
Stroock & Stroock & Lavan LLP
Thomas Law Firm
Von Ness Fedman
Venable LLP
Tatum and Wade, PLLC

LAW SCHOOLS, COLLEGES AND UNIVERSITIES

Brooklyn Law School
Charlotte School of Law
Columbia University
Columbia Law School
Delta State University Center for Delta Culture and Learning
Duke University School of Law
Georgetown Law
Harvard Law School
Jackson State University
Mississippi College
Mississippi College School of Law
Mississippi Delta Community College
Mississippi State University
Mississippi State University Extension Service
Mississippi Valley State University
Northeastern University School of Law
Northeastern University
The Ohio State University
Parham Hall School
Tougaloo College
University of California, Irvine School of Law
University of California, Berkeley
University of California, Irvine School of Law
University of the District of Columbia, David A. Clarke School of Law
University of Iowa
University of Maryland Francis King Carey School of Law
University of Nevada, Las Vegas School of Law
Vanderbilt Law School
Wake Forest University

We offer our deepest thanks to the many community organizations and advocacy groups who collaborate with us to strengthen our campaigns to advance racial and economic justice throughout Mississippi. We value every hour of support from each volunteer attorney, student, and staff member at the law firms, corporate legal departments, law schools, colleges, and universities who partner with us. Progress would not be possible without you.
Statement of Activities
for the years ended December 31, 2016 and 2015

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
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<th>2016</th>
<th>2015</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
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<td>Gain on Sale of Donated Stock</td>
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<td>Interest and Dividends</td>
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<td>Contract Services</td>
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Statement of Financial Position
for the years ended December 31, 2016 and 2015

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<th>2016</th>
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<td>CURRENT LIABILITIES</td>
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<td>Accounts Payable</td>
<td>13,419</td>
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<td>Accrued Expenses</td>
<td>76,780</td>
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<td>Payroll Liabilities</td>
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<tr>
<td>Note payable, current</td>
<td>35,000</td>
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<td>LONG TERM LIABILITIES</td>
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<td>232,617</td>
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<tr>
<td>Notes Payable</td>
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<tr>
<td>NET ASSETS</td>
<td>$2,971,025</td>
<td>$1,298,437</td>
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The summarized financial data was taken from audited financial statements prepared by Matthews Gustaf & Lindsey PA.

CHAMPIONS OF JUSTICE HONOREES
2003-2016
Henry J. Kirksey and Mike Moore, 2003
Rims Genter and Dr. Helen Barnes, 2004
Dr. L.C. Dorsey and Michael Raff, 2005
John M. McCulloch and Dr. Aaron Shively, 2006
Reuben V. Anderson and Deborah Bell, 2007
Unita Blackwell and Dick Molpus, 2008
Willis O. Gates and John L. Mays, 2009
Meredith and Victor McEachan and Bill Ray, 2010
Robert B. McCull and Constance Slaughter-Harvey, 2011
Myrie Evans and William F. Winter, 2012
Fred L. Banks, Jr. and Jay Lambert Phillips, 2013
Olita Garrett Fitzgerald and Bill Minor, 2014
Dan Jones and Natasha Trefetheway, 2015
Dr. Robert Smith and Barber v. Bryant plaintiffs, 2016

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Martha Bergmark, Founder and Senior Counsel
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Sandra Williams, Testing Coordinator

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Jackson, MS 39202
Jackson Office: 601.352.2259
Indianola Office: 662.887.5570
Biloxi Office: 228-435-7284
mscenterforjustice.org

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When we envisioned creating the Mississippi Center for Justice, we were very conscious of the legacy of the legendary civil rights law offices of the 1960s and 70s in Jackson. We wanted in 2003 to create a non-profit, public-interest law office to resurrect and carry on that legacy in the 21st century. The center has grown and thrived far more than any of us expected. And now, at this somewhat perilous time, I am pleased to report that the Mississippi Center for Justice is stepping up and stepping in and ramping up.

ROB MCDUFF
LAW OFFICE OF ROBERT B. MCDUFF
CO-FOUNDER OF THE MISSISSIPPI CENTER FOR JUSTICE

OUR MISSION
MISSISSIPPI CENTER FOR JUSTICE IS A NONPROFIT, PUBLIC INTEREST LAW FIRM COMMITTED TO ADVANCING RACIAL AND ECONOMIC JUSTICE. SUPPORTED AND STAFFED BY ATTORNEYS AND OTHER PROFESSIONALS, THE CENTER DEVELOPS AND PURSUES STRATEGIES TO COMBAT DISCRIMINATION AND POVERTY STATEWIDE. MISSISSIPPI CENTER FOR JUSTICE WAS ORGANIZED TO ADDRESS THE URGENT NEED TO RE-ESTABLISH IN-STATE ADVOCACY ON BEHALF OF LOW-INCOME PEOPLE AND COMMUNITIES OF COLOR.

Mississippi Center for Justice