

The Interest on Lawyers Trust

Accounts (IOLTA) is an innovative way to increase access to justice and to improve the justice system. In 1990, the Michigan Supreme Court created Michigan's IOLTA program. Under Michigan Rules of Professional Conduct Rule 1.15, Michigan lawyers are required to deposit short-term or nominal funds of clients and third persons into IOLTA accounts.



Attorneys can make a significant impact by choosing a financial institution that pays a higher interest rate. **Your choice can help provide justice for more people .**

IOLTA funding supports civil legal aid for low-income people and work that helps improve the justice system.

Interest generated on IOLTA accounts is administered by the Michigan State Bar Foundation and is an important source of funding for civil legal aid to low-income individuals and families.

Northern Region

- Legal Services of Northern Michigan

Western Region

- Legal Aid of Western Michigan

Eastern Region

- Legal Services of Eastern Michigan
- Center for Civil Justice

Metro Region

- Lakeshore Legal Aid
- Michigan Legal Services

South Central Region

- Michigan Advocacy Program/Legal Services of South Central Michigan



Statewide Services

- Counsel and Advocacy Law Line
- Michigan Immigrant Rights Center
- Michigan Indian Legal Services
- Michigan Poverty Law Program

For a listing of organizations funded by IOLTA, visit www.msbf.org/what-we-fund.

An IOLTA checklist for attorneys

- ☐ **We encourage you to bank with institutions that participate in the Banking on Justice Campaign.** These banks have demonstrated an exemplary commitment to supporting civil legal justice by waiving all fees and paying a minimum net yield of either a flat rate of .5% or 75% of the Federal Funds Target Rate, whichever is higher.

**Bank of America | CIBC | Citizens National Bank | Community Unity Bank
DR Bank | Encore Bank | First Federal Bank | First National Bank of America
Hingham Institution for Savings | Huntington | Isabella Bank | KeyBank
Northern Trust | Merchants Bank of Indiana | Servbank | UMB Bank | West Shore Bank**

- ☐ **Your IOLTA account must be placed at an eligible Financial Institution.** Most, but not all, waive fees.
- ☐ **Be sure to ask about your institution's current interest rate on IOLTA accounts.** Higher rates provide greater funding to ensure access to justice for all.
- ☐ **Submit the IOLTA Notice to Eligible Financial Institution form to MSBF.** This form must be completed by you and your financial institution when opening your IOLTA account. You should keep a copy of this form for your records. Download a copy of the form [here](#).
- ☐ **The Tax Identification Number on all IOLTA accounts** should be the Michigan State Bar Foundation's tax ID, which is also located on the Notice to Eligible Financial Institution Form.
- ☐ **For more about IOLTA, visit the specially-designated page on our website.** You'll find:
- Michigan Supreme Court IOLTA provisions ([here](#))
 - FAQs and the Attorney IOLTA Guidelines Brochure ([here](#))
 - Information about Banking on Justice ([here](#))
- ☐ **Learn how grantees put IOLTA dollars to work.**

Questions about IOLTA or the Michigan State Bar Foundation?

Call (517) 346-6400 or email us at IOLTA@msbf.org.

www.msbf.org