



June 2009

For more information, visit us on-line at www.mscenterforjustice.org.

Advocacy, litigation result in successful cottage outcome for Waveland, Miss. residents

An agreement reached June 2 by the Waveland Board of Alderman and clients of the Mississippi Center for Justice and Kirkland & Ellis LLP, provides a permanent housing solution for Waveland residents still recovering from Hurricanes Katrina and Gustav. The Waveland Board of Aldermen approved a new ordinance relieving many of the zoning barriers that threatened to derail recovery efforts for hundreds of Waveland residents.

"This agreement provides a permanent housing solution for cottage residents in Waveland," said Andrew Canter, Equal Justice Works Fellow with the Mississippi Center for Justice. "Our clients have been fighting for housing rights in the recovery effort since 2005. This agreement allows them to move toward the closure they have been seeking for the past four years."

Read more about the [cottage agreement here](#).

Photo: Cottages are modular homes, built to withstand 150-MPH winds and can be elevated up to 10 feet.



On-line petition seeks 1,000 signatures



The Mississippi Center for Justice recently launched www.standingwithmississippi.com, an interactive campaign designed to inform Mississippians - and other

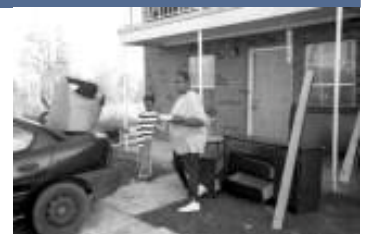
friends around the country - about Governor Haley Barbour's intended rejection of nearly \$60 million in Unemployment Insurance benefits provided to Mississippi as part of the Federal stimulus package. The campaign encourages people to voice their support for providing every available dollar to Mississippians who have lost their employment through no fault of their own.

Please check out the campaign at www.standingwithmississippi.com, and join the more than 700 people who have already signed on! An immediate goal is to surpass the 1,000 signature mark so that we can begin to tout this response level in our advocacy work. The program is funded in part by a grant from the Public Welfare Foundation.

Morse provides Congressional testimony to improve federal disaster response

Reilly Morse, senior attorney, was invited by Sens. Mary Landrieu and Lindsey Graham to provide testimony before the Senate Ad Hoc Subcommittee on Disaster Recovery. The hearing, titled "The Role of the Community Development Block Grant Program in Disaster Recovery", was held May 20 and examined the use of CDBG funds to support disaster recovery along the Gulf Coast following the 2005 and 2008 hurricane season.

Morse provided testimony on behalf of the low-income clients served by the Mississippi



Center for Justice and its *pro bono* partners, including the Lawyers' Committee for Civil Rights Under Law. In his testimony, Morse asked the committee to accomplish two goals: First, to support efforts to accomplish the important and still unfinished task of restoring safe, decent, and affordable housing to thousands of residents who deserve, but have been denied, the benefit of Mississippi's CDBG-funded disaster recovery programs. Second, to enact reforms in disaster CDBG legislation so that future disaster victims will experience a more prompt, fair, and consistent recovery response. You can [view the video](#) of the hearing, or [read Morse's written remarks](#). This was the fourth time Morse has been invited to provide disaster recovery testimony before a Congressional committee.

Mississippi on the Potomac Reception honors Rep. Clyburn, DLA Piper

The Mississippi Center for Justice took its show on the road to Washington, DC for the 2009 Mississippi on the Potomac Reception. This year, the Center honored Rep. James E. Clyburn, House Majority Whip, for his steadfast support of legislation to advance racial and economic justice, and DLA Piper, whose visionary and successful title clearance project is providing hope and opportunity to families on the post-Katrina Gulf Coast.

As the Center shared stories from clients who are still fighting for equity in the Hurricane Katrina recovery process, as well as those struggling to access justice in the areas of healthcare for children, education, foreclosure prevention and more, Rep. Clyburn reminded the audience that now more than ever, an organization like the Mississippi Center for Justice is needed. Read more about the [2009 Reception](#), and view photos on our [Facebook](#) page.



Photo (L-R): Fred Banks, Mississippi Center for Justice board chair, Hon. James E. Clyburn, Hon. Bennie Thompson, and Martha Bergmark, Mississippi Center for Justice president.

[Visit Our Website](#) | [Donate](#) | [Email Us](#)

Mississippi Center for Justice
5 Old River Place, Ste. 203
Jackson, Mississippi 39202
(601) 352-2269 fax (601) 352-4769