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Dear Bert,

On behalf of the Mississippi Center for Justice and the Mississippi Volunteer Lawyer's Project, I write to express our heartfelt gratitude for all that you've done to help Mississippi recover from Hurricane Katrina. DLA Piper responded in the early months and never quit. More recently, thanks to your exceptional commitment to help Mississippians more than 75 individuals and families have benefited from the vast legal talent at your firm, getting invaluable pro bono assistance to those most in need.

Many leading firms agreed to take FEMA appeals. However, DLA Piper has managed to take about twice the number of Katrina clients of any other pro bono firm, recently branching out beyond FEMA matters and into the emerging need for help with the state's Homeowner Grant process. Because of your firm, many Mississippians are Katrina survivors not victims. We are deeply grateful for your latest offer to send lawyers and summer associates in the coming months to staff our free legal clinics.

You and DLA Piper are a model for the profession, locally and across the country. We hope your spirit of generosity and sense of responsibility to help will inspire many more to rise to your high standards. More personally, we appreciate the friendship that has formed, and the wonderful morale boost your unbending support infuses into our collective work.

You play a critical role in the effort to advance racial and economic justice in Mississippi. For this we simply want to say "thanks," many times over. We look forward to continuing to work with you.

With admiration and respect.

Kind Personal Regards,

Shirley Williams
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