



September 8, 2005

Dear Judges and UCS employees:

We have all been moved by the devastation that Hurricane Katrina has inflicted on millions of Americans in the Gulf Coast region. Over the past days we have been speaking with court officials in the affected states and have heard firsthand of the impact of this disaster on the court community. Countless court employees and their families have been dislocated from their homes. Some court personnel are reported missing. The court system itself has been devastated, with many courthouses destroyed or flooded.

To assist the court community in these states, the Unified Court System has established the UCS Katrina Courts and Families Recovery Fund. As you may recall, we established a similar fund to assist UCS employees and their families who were victims of the attack on the World Trade Center. Generous contributions were received from court employees and court-related organizations from around the nation. We now have an opportunity to help our colleagues in other states.

Donations to the Recovery Fund will be used to assist court personnel and their families in obtaining food, clothing, shelter, and medical care, and to help restore the court system in the devastated areas. We will work closely with court administrative offices in the affected states to determine how best to distribute the funds raised.

The Recovery Fund was established in cooperation with the Fund for the City of New York, which is a 501(c)(3) organization. This means that all donations are tax deductible. You may contribute to the Recovery Fund by making a check payable to the "UCS Katrina Recovery Fund/FCNY" and mailing it to:

UCS Katrina Courts and Families Recovery Fund
Office of Court Administration
25 Beaver Street, 11th floor
New York, NY 10004

If you would like additional information about the Recovery Fund, please contact Barry Clarke at 212-428-2127 or by e-mail at bclarke@courts.state.ny.us.