

TEXAS ACCESS TO JUSTICE – 2010

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Chair Emeritus

Texas Access to Justice Commission

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26th Annual Litigation Update Institute

January 21-22, 2010

Austin, Texas

CHAPTER 17

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BIOGRAPHICAL INFORMATION

EDUCATION

B.S. – University of Texas – 1956
J.D.(with Honors) University of Texas 1960
(Associate Editor of Texas Law Review and Member Order of the Coif)

PROFESSIONAL ACTIVITIES

Of Counsel – Fulbright & Jaworski L.L.P. (Head of Litigation Dept. and Member of Executive Committee 1979-2000)
Past President – State Bar of Texas 1988-89
Past President – Houston Bar Association 1980-81
Chair – Texas Access to Justice Commission – 2004-2009 (Chair Emeritus 2009-)
Past Chair – Texas Bar Foundation – 1993-94
ABA – House of Delegates – 1984-2003
Fellow – American College of Trial Lawyers – 1978 to present
Fellow – International Academy of Trial Lawyers – 1977 to present
Charter Advocate – ABOTA – 1977 to present
Founding Chair – Houston Bar Foundation – 1983
National Conference of Bar Presidents – Executive Council 1989-92

PUBLICATIONS, ACADEMIC APPOINTMENTS & HONORS

American Bar Foundation 2009 Outstanding Service Award
National Conference of Bar Presidents – 2007 Fellows Award
State Bar of Texas Presidents Award – 2005
Texas Association of Civil Trial and Appellate Specialists – Lifetime of Excellence in Advocacy Award – 2009
South Texas College of Law Legacy Honors Award – 2008
Judge Sam Williams Award for Leadership – 1995
Gene Cavin Award for Excellence in Continuing Legal Education – 1990
Texas Bar Foundation Wright Award for Legal Ethics – 1998
Best Lawyers in America – 1989-present
Texas Monthly Super Lawyer – 1995-2005
Edgar & Sales, Texas Torts & Remedies, 6 Volume (Matthew Bender 1986) (and supplements)
Sales, Product Liability in Texas (1st ed. 1985)
Sales & Perdue, The Law of Strict Tort Liability in Texas (1st ed. 1977)
Law review and journal articles on a variety of Trial Practice & Advocacy

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TEXAS ACCESS TO JUSTICE – 2010

I. INTRODUCTION

As lawyers, we learned early on about the defining role of the rule of law in our society. The rule of law represents the quintessential foundation from which our society developed and upon which it currently rests. Society, and particularly lawyers, necessarily are burdened with the obligation to ensure that this legal principle is transformed into a reality and not just a promise.

Our society created the system of justice as the mechanism through and by which the rule of law is affirmed and applied to all legal issues on an ongoing basis throughout the country. Adhering to this fundamental principle, every citizen, regardless of status or economic circumstance, as a matter of absolute right, should be afforded unimpeded access to that system. Otherwise, the supremacy and majesty of the rule of law, translates into little more than a disappointing abstraction to those who cannot afford legal representation and who, as a consequence, are effectively barred from the courthouse. Reduced to its essence, denial of access to justice because a citizen simply cannot afford legal representation violates society's most primitive sense of fairness, decency and simple morality.

Under our structure, society confers the privilege to practice law on lawyers who are properly educated, trained and duly licensed by the highest court of the state to practice law in Texas. Licensed lawyers alone are authorized to represent citizens in addressing their legal issues – a fortiori, lawyers hold the keys to the courthouse door.

II. TEXAS ACCESS TO JUSTICE COMMISSION

A. Background of the Commission

The Supreme Court of Texas formed the Texas Access to Justice Commission in 2001. The creation of the Commission was a visionary and bold decision by the Court to address what had evolved into a significant and rapidly developing societal problem. In establishing the Commission, the Court directed it to pursue two correlative but equally compelling mandates. First, the Court directed the Commission to determine and assess the magnitude of the need for civil legal representation among the low-income and poor Texans. Secondly, the Court directed that the Commission coordinate the delivery of legal services to low-income and poor Texans on a statewide basis and to evaluate, formulate and implement remedies and initiatives that would address the identified needs.

In 2001 when the Commission was formed, the census had established that there were approximately three million Texas citizens who could not afford basic

civil legal services. A mere eight years later, in 2009, the low-income and poor population in Texas had increased to approximately 5.1 million. Presently, nearly a fifth of the population of Texas cannot afford basic civil legal services. The number of low-income and poor Texans who cannot afford basic civil legal services far exceeds all initial assessments of the expected statewide need.

B. Realities of Access to the Justice System

1. The Realities

The realities the justice system confronts today are indeed startling. Currently, the collective effort of all legal aid providers serving the low-income and poor population, both pro bono and legal aid, are able to serve approximately twenty-five percent of the basic civil legal needs of low-income and poor Texans. There are really only two solutions to the enormous problem that now confronts the justice system of our state: (1) the provision of additional financial resources; and (2) the recruitment of more individual lawyers willing to provide pro bono help.

Unfortunately, resources continue to decrease at an alarming rate even as the need for substantial additional funding increases at an equally astonishing rate. As a result of the enormous size of the State of Texas geographically and the dispersion of its population, the rural areas, which contain large numbers of low-income and poor citizens, are noticeably underserved.

Fundamentally, all civil legal service providers are being called upon to do more and more with less and less i.e., represent an increasing number of citizens with either a static or decreased legal staff. Even before the economic tsunami of 2008-2009, pro bono and legal aid providers were capable of providing legal help to only approximately twenty-five percent of the qualifying low-income and poor population of the state.

The primary source of funds critical to support civil legal assistance has been dependent, in significant measure, on funds generated by the IOLTA program, especially as supplemented by the comparability rule adopted by the Texas Supreme Court in 2007. In May 2008, the income produced through the IOLTA program, as bolstered by the comparability rule, was projected to generate approximately twenty-eight million dollars for the fiscal year. Suddenly, when the Federal Reserve lowered its benchmark interest rate to 0-.25 percent in December 2008, the twenty-eight million dollar projection of available financial resources suddenly vanished. The economic collapse produced an immediate shortfall in the already overextended funding apparatus. Essentially, the IOLTA funds sustaining pro bono and legal aid organizations was reduced to a relatively paltry amount barely sufficient to cover administrative costs. This

collapse in baseline funding, in turn, posed a serious risk of collapse of the entire legal aid delivery system which had been painstakingly developed over 25 years to handle the legal problems of low-income and poor Texans. The threat to the legal delivery system was averted, at least temporarily, by the success of the Commission's legislative effort to secure emergency funding in the 2009 legislative session.

The Commission's effort to solicit funding from state general appropriations to bridge the huge gap caused by the collapse of the IOTLA funding was remarkably successful. The Legislature appropriated, on a one-time basis only a twenty million dollar biennium appropriation to ensure that the resources essential to support existing pro bono and legal aid efforts were available.

The reality in 2009 is rather stunning: resources essential to sustain delivery of civil legal services to low-income and poor Texans continue to teeter even as the demand for legal services has accelerated. Fundamentally, legal aid lawyers are striving to do more with less resources. This clearly is not sustainable when gauged on a long term basis.

2. The Solution

The existing situation provides one of those unique moments in time when the profession of the law and those who shoulder the profession's responsibilities are receiving a clarion call to duty. A meaningful solution is achievable only if lawyers individually are willing to participate in the process of providing civil legal help to those citizens in need. This approach reflects Roscoe Pound's well stated declaration that "public service is the primary purpose of pursuing the learned art of the law." If it were otherwise, the practice of the art of law would be little more than a business pursuit; and a dedicated pursuit of the law solely to secure financial reward is nothing less than the transformation of the legal profession into just another business, like making shoes or selling cars.

In October of 2004, the Texas Access to Justice Commission formulated an ambitious and far reaching five-year strategic plan. The specific intent of that plan was to structure statewide programs and initiatives achievable within the five year timeframe that would create a sustainable foundation for the expansion of the delivery of civil legal services to the low-income and poor Texans. At the conclusion of 2009, all of the Commission programs and initiatives outlined in the strategic plan had been formulated and each has been implemented and deployed on every front to the extent permitted by available resources. The ultimate success of these initiatives and programs, of course, continues to depend on the participation of all members of the legal profession – not just the passionate few who labor day to day on the front lines.

An overview of the Commission's initiatives and proposals is essential to an understanding of the Commission's vision for addressing the basic civil legal needs of more than five million low-income and poor Texans. Only if these initiatives and programs continue to thrive and expand to all geographic regions of the state will the promise of access to the justice system for all Texans, regardless of economic circumstance, be finally realized.

III. GENERAL CORPORATE COUNSEL PROGRAM

A. General

One of the first programs initiated by the Commission in 2004 was establishment of the Commission's General Corporate Counsel Committee. Almost ten percent of the lawyers practicing in the State of Texas are employed in some capacity as counsel for the many corporate entities that populate this state. Recognizing that there are in excess of 72,000 licensed lawyers (over 82,000, if non-Texas lawyers are included), in-house counsel represent a significant group of the practicing bar. Although many in-house corporate counsel have previously engaged in pro bono efforts, in-house corporate counsel constitute a generally under-utilized source of pro bono attorney help to address the legal needs of low-income and poor Texans.

B. Corporate Counsel Programs

As a result of the efforts of the Corporate Counsel Committee which has been chaired by Charles Matthews, general counsel of Exxon Mobil Corporation, an aggressive campaign has been launched to engage these lawyers in pro bono efforts throughout the state. In many instances, in-house corporate counsel have worked in concert with established legal aid providers and pro bono organizations across the state. Other corporate counsel have undertaken to partner with local bar associations and with private law firms as part of a joint venture to handle pro bono cases within a designated area or community. Increasingly, in-house corporate counsel exercise individual initiative to construct and promote individual programs for pro bono assistance in particular specialty areas of need.

C. Recognition Awards

The Commission established the Magna Stella Award which is presented through the Texas General Counsel Forum to recognize a legal department whose collective pro bono efforts and contributions during the prior year have been outstanding and especially effective in advancing access to the justice system for poor and low-income Texans. Likewise, an annual award is presented to an individual in-house corporate

counsel to recognize his or her extraordinary contributions to pro bono efforts in the state.

IV. SUPREME COURT'S TASK FORCE TO EXPANDED LEGAL SERVICES DELIVERY IN UNDERSERVED AREAS

A. General

Another program proposed by the Commission involves the Supreme Court Task Force to Expand Legal Services Delivery to Underserved Areas. The Commission requested the Supreme Court to establish this task force of disparate practice sections and organizations to create a more expansive inventory of statewide legal practice expertise. This task force is represented by the Chairs and/or Presidents of organizations such as the Appellate Section, Labor and Employment Section, Litigation Section, Administrative Public Law Section, Government Lawyers Section, Corporate Counsel Section, Consumer and Commercial Law Section, Bankruptcy Law Section, Family Law Section, Poverty Law Section, Real Estate, Probate and Trust Section, Military Law Section, Immigration & Nationality Law Section, Texas Young Lawyers Association, Texas Trial Lawyers Association, Texas Association of Defense Counsel, Paralegal Association and Court Reporter Association and the Paralegal Division. The task force is charged with mobilizing areas of legal specialization represented within this group to provide legal assistance to low-income and poor citizens located primarily in the numerous underserved areas of the state. The concept of the task force is premised on the underlying theory that each section and/or organization has member lawyers who are located and practicing in every geographic area of the state and are, therefore, capable of providing legal help in areas that established legal aid groups are unable to service. Local bar associations simply do not possess the advantage of having access to the variety of legal specialties represented on the task force.

B. Long Range Program

Additionally, the task force is engaged in formulating mobilization plans to address catastrophic events that occur in the state. Catastrophes, such as Hurricanes Katrina, Rita and Ike as well as the unusual situation posed by the recent events in El Dorado require a rapid response for various specialties of lawyers to provide legal help to countless thousands of victims generated by these disasters. Each section currently is designing a pro bono program to capitalize on the resource of personnel represented by this task force.

V. LAW SCHOOL DEAN'S ADVISORY COMMITTEE

A. General

Building on the philosophy that every segment of the legal profession has a proprietary responsibility to assist in helping to solve the access to justice system issue, the Commission assembled an advisory group of the Deans of the nine law schools in Texas. Representing the institutions that educate and shape the value system of future lawyers, the law schools represent institutions which are extraordinarily important in addressing the access to justice issue. After all, law schools educate and help develop and shape the values and attitudes of the future lawyers of our profession.

Occupying the revered status of teachers of the law, the law school is incredibly important in developing the leadership potential of its students and, therefore, exerts an inordinately powerful influence on students who aspire to be lawyers. This authority and influence directly invests the law school with a serious responsibility to educate lawyers about the ethical and moral obligation of lawyers to serve the public good. At the time of their graduation, the vast majority of lawyers already have woven into their persona the attitudes, values, philosophy and influences instilled during their law school years.

In the process of educating the lawyers, law school also inspires a profound sense of loyalty in its students. It is widely recognized that lawyers are greatly influenced by the examples of their law school alma mater. The law school, both by teaching and by example, has the stature to instill the strong and unwavering commitment that every lawyer, as part of his or her professional responsibility, has an ethical and moral duty to serve the public good. When distilled to its essence, service in the public interest represents another facet of the overarching principle of professionalism.

B. Programs of Service

In 2005, the Law School Committee forged a collaborative internship program pursuant to which students from each law school are assigned during the summer months to work with existing legal service providers throughout the state. Under this program, the law students provide civil legal services to poor and low-income clients represented by their assigned service provider, particularly in the underserved areas of the state. In turn, these law students are exposed to the reality of the plight of the less fortunate members of our society as they help their clients gain access to the justice system to solve their most fundamental legal problems. The law students are supervised by professors from the law schools who contribute their time, talent and effort to provide important supervision and teaching to these interns. In the course of the

internship, the law interns provide actual legal help, under supervision, to many low-income and poor citizens. In addition, the law school professors who participate in the program provide course level teaching to these interns as well as supervisory oversight of their legal work.

The collaborative internship effort encourages all Texas law schools to assume a more prominent and aggressive leadership role in the statewide effort to make access to the justice system a reality for all Texans. As a result of this program, many law schools have either adopted or expanded their individual school pro bono efforts in the last four years. Several law schools now offer annually to a qualified applicant a tuition-free scholarship in return for a commitment to work at a legal aid office for three years after graduation. Several law schools have developed Fellowships that provide supplemental funding for their graduates who accept employment with a legal service provider. In addition, other law schools offer programs to reduce the student loan repayments of their graduates for each year they work for a legal service provider. Particularly important, most law schools have significantly expanded their legal clinics to provide broader and more comprehensive legal services to low-income and poor Texans residing within their geographical area and to provide training for their students in the area of poverty law.

C. Recognition Awards

The Commission recently instituted awards to acknowledge and recognize both the law schools and the law students who have performed at the highest level in developing and expanding pro bono programs and clinics. Each year at the November swearing-in ceremony, the Supreme Court of Texas presents an appropriate plaque to a law school selected for the most significant contributions to pro bono during the immediate past year. A similar award, accompanied by a monetary award, is presented to a law student selected by the Commission from nominations proposals submitted by each of the nine law schools.

VI. TECHNOLOGY COMMITTEE

A. General

An area that has proven to be extremely important in serving the less fortunate of our state has been technology. The Commission's Technology Committee is comprised of (1) lawyers with advanced technological knowledge and (2) the Chief Information Technology Officers of five of the largest law firms in Texas. For the past three years, this Committee has dedicated its rather formidable expertise and efforts to accelerating the development and improvement of technology for all legal service providers in the state. The Commission has determined that both the legal staff and legal aid lawyers on the front lines are better

able to handle the representation of poor and low-income Texans when their offices are properly equipped with state-of-the-art technology and when staff and attorneys possess the requisite knowledge and skill to utilize that equipment efficiently and effectively.

B. Technology Projects

1. Updating and Standardizing Technology

The Committee inventoried and analyzed the technology available to each of the service providers within the State. Following a comprehensive and detailed study, the Committee developed a paradigm for baseline technology critical for each legal service provider. Essentially, the Committee sought to eliminate existing technology that was outdated, malfunctioning, inappropriate to the task or just not available. Armed with a proposal that would provide every service provider in the state with a baseline technology, the Commission approached the Texas Access to Justice Foundation for funding to purchase this equipment. After an extensive review and study, the Foundation authorized a grant sufficient for the Commission, using the expertise of the Chief Information Technology experts, to select and purchase the most technologically appropriate equipment at the most competitive price. As a result, all service providers were provided a base line level of technology which was installed and became operational in December 2008.

2. Teaching and Mentoring Legal Aid Staff

As a corollary project, the Technology Committee developed a state of the art technology training program designed to teach and mentor legal aid staff and legal aid lawyers in procedures that promote more effective and more efficient use of Microsoft Word, Excel, and PowerPoint software computer programs. These training programs are conducted two days each month from May through August at the training facilities of the respective law firms. The respective firms use their firm trainers and training equipment in Houston, Dallas, Austin, San Antonio, Lubbock and El Paso to teach and mentor the legal aid staff and attorneys. These technology skills courses are provided at no expense to the legal aid groups.

3. Current Projects

Currently the Technology Committee is exploring other areas in need of attention. In particular, the Committee is considering an array of programs for the service providers that would address needs engendered by the constantly evolving technology. These are ongoing efforts which continue to evolve and develop in consonance with the changing technology landscape. The Committee is also exploring efforts to provide

access to a help desk to assist service providers who do not have in-house capability in this area.

VII. TRIAL TRAINING ACADEMY FOR LEGAL AID LAWYERS

A. General

1. Introduction To The Course

The Commission concluded that access to justice effort would profit from a well-developed trial advocacy training program that would enhance the skills and techniques of legal aid attorneys. As a consequence, the Commission established a Trial Training Academy. Each year the Commission, in conjunction with the Texas Fellows of the American College of Trial Lawyers, present a Trial Advocacy Training Academy at the University of Texas Law School utilizing the schools courtroom and video equipment to support the program.

Legal aid lawyers from the various legal service providers in the state are afforded the opportunity, at no expense, to travel to Austin to attend and participate in a week long program. The program is specifically designed to enhance the trial skills of legal aid lawyers and to increase their efficiency and effectiveness in representing clients in court.

2. Trial Advocacy Program

This trial advocacy program is an intensive course conducted each year and is limited to legal aid lawyers. The course is under the supervision of a Course Director selected from the ranks of the Texas Fellows of the American College of Trial Lawyers. The course Director works with the Commission in developing the training problem and the syllabus for the program. Generally, the program requires the participation of a minimum of 26 Texas Fellows of the American College of Trial Lawyers to teach, demonstrate, and critique the actual participation of each attending legal aid lawyer in each phase of the trial. Each legal aid lawyer is videotaped during his or her voir dire, opening statement, direct and cross-examination and closing argument. The instructor provides each lawyer with a comprehensive critique following his or her exercise. The program is an extremely intense course conducted over a full week of work.

The training program is provided to the legal aid lawyers at no expense to ensure that legal aid resources available to help the low-income and poor Texans are not affected. The Fellows of the American College of Trial Lawyers volunteer their time, talent and expenses free of charge to the Commission. Attending the legal aid lawyers affirm the effectiveness and importance of this training to the attorneys on the front lines.

VIII. LEGISLATIVE COMMITTEE

A. General

1. Introduction

A critically important program of the Commission is its legislative Committee effort. In 2006, the Commission established a structured program to more effectively inform and educate the members of the Texas Legislature on the important issues that directly and indirectly impact access to the justice system in Texas. A special team of Commissioners and selected lawyers develop a program that effectively provides the legislators with important information relevant to access to justice issues. In 2007, the Commission's legislative team spent a full day and several other days at the Capitol meeting with the Chairs of various committees, various Senators and Representatives, and the leaders of the House of Representatives and the Senate to discuss issues directly impacting access to the justice system in Texas. The result of this effort and the ongoing effort of Commission members in providing testimony to the Senate and House Committees during the session resulted in the enactment of a number of important legislative measures that directly impacted low-income and poor Texans.

2. Legislative Efforts in 2009

The Commission once again developed a legislative agenda for the 2009 legislative session. This was a particularly critical legislative session for the access to justice effort in Texas because of the collapse of the economy and the loss of approximately twenty million dollars per year from the IOLTA program. As a result, the Commission's legislative committee and its special team spent numerous days at the Capitol meeting with members of the House of Representatives and the Senate to discuss legislation that affected both the substantive programs for the less fortunate of the State, but equally important, addressing the appropriations needed to bridge the twenty million dollar gap caused by the collapse of IOLTA funding.

The focused effort of the Commission, the Foundation and the leadership of the State Bar proved to be a commendable success. As a result of these efforts, the Legislature authorized a twenty million dollar biennium grant from general appropriations to help bridge the gap. The legislature also provided an additional \$4.8 million annually by enacting filing fee adjustments. Although the biennium funding was designated as a one time effort especially designed to avert collapse of the civil legal service delivery programs, it represented the first ever authorization of funding for legal aid from general appropriations of the state.

3. Legislative Efforts for 2011

At this juncture, the Commission is once again preparing its legislative agenda for the 2011 legislative session. It is apparent that appropriations may well constitute a more critical issue in the Commission's legislative program than existed in the 2009 session. It is important to understand that even under the level of funding that existed before the economic crisis arose, the collective effort of all statewide pro bono and legal aid was capable of handling only twenty-five percent of the legal needs of those citizens who qualified for and needed legal help.

4. Congressional Legislative Efforts

The Commission also participates in legislative efforts at the federal level designed to increase federal funds for legal services to the poor. The Commission, in conjunction with State Bar leadership, traveled to Washington, D.C. in April 2009 to visit with each member of the Texas congressional delegation and the two Texas senators. The purpose of these visits was to discuss the state of civil legal representation for the low-income and poor citizens of Texas and to request the state's elected representative to support an increase in legal service corporation funding. The State of Texas is allocated a percentage of any appropriation provided for the Legal Service Corporation. Consequently, the meetings with the congressional delegation of Texas are immensely important to the overall effort in maintaining the current level of civil legal service delivery in Texas. Until just recently, funding for the Legal Services Corporation has been essentially static.

IX. COMMUNICATIONS COMMITTEE

A. General

1. Background

Early on, the Commission established a Communications Committee. The Committee is comprised of various commissioners, selected communications directors from the local bar associations and communications directors from six Texas law firms who provide a special expertise in this area. This effort has produced a comprehensive long range marketing plan designed to utilize communications to properly educate and inform both the members of the profession and the general public about access to justice issues. A lack of information about the enormous depth and the extent of the legal need of low-income and poor families has masked the profession and the public's perception of the seriousness of the problem.

2. Specific projects

During this past legislative session in 2009, the Communications Committee's effort was indispensable to informing the public about the serious problem of funding

confronting legal aid in Texas. This communication effort prompted media throughout the state to prepare editorials that informed the public about the issues and the widespread need for significant basic civil service funding. Undoubtedly, the statewide discussion of the funding crisis in the media played an important role in the Commission's legislative effort seeking significant additional appropriations from the legislature.

3. Newsletter

The Commission also initiated a quarterly news letter called the *Update*. This news letter has been supported by grants from various foundations, such as the M.D. Anderson Foundation, and is mailed to each licensed lawyer in the State of Texas. The news letter is designed to keep the members of the profession fully informed of the issues affecting access to justice, the overwhelming need for resources and lawyers and the specific opportunities for the lawyers to participate in providing legal help to the less fortunate.

X. CONCLUSION

It appears that the present represents one of those unique moments in time when our profession has a special responsibility to respond. Access to the justice system for those who cannot gain access because they cannot afford to engage a lawyer is achievable only if all members of the profession are willing to make a commitment to volunteer and participate in the process. Unquestionably, providing legal help to the less fortunate of our state is consistent with the ultimate purpose of the legal profession which is the practice of the learned art of the law in pursuit of the public good.

The challenge to the legal profession and to our system of justice has never been greater nor has it ever demanded more from lawyers. Yet, those privileged to practice law are presented with an incredible opportunity to perform noble deeds that will transform an almost impossible and unacceptable adversity into real hope for members of society who currently have no hope and who have nowhere to turn. It is beyond peradventure that the privilege of being a licensed officer of the court imposes a heavy burden. That burden of service to the public can be neither dismissed nor ignored.

As lawyers we all are heirs to a profoundly unique and proud heritage. As such, we owe much to those legendary giants of our profession who preceded us and who contributed so magnificently to sustaining the rule of law and advancing the cause of justice in our state. Those who contribute their time, talent and effort to provide access to the justice system for the poor and the needy of our state do truly honor that heritage and exalt the majesty of the law.

APPENDIX A

PRO BONO OPPORTUNITIES

CITY	PROGRAM	CONTACT	EMAIL	PHONE	FAX
Amarillo	Legal Aid of NorthWest Texas - Equal Justice Volunteer Program	Luisa Vigil - EJVP Coordinator	vigill@lanwt.org	(806) 373-6808	(806) 376-8056
Austin	Volunteer Legal Services of Central Texas	Anna K. Meyers - Associate Director	akmeyers@vlsoc.org	(512) 476-5550	(512) 322-0764
Austin	Texas Legal Services Center	Monique Gonzalez - Staff Attorney	mgonzalez@tlsc.org	(512) 477-6000	(512) 477-6576
Beaumont	Jefferson County Bar Association Pro Bono Program	Cindy Torrans - Executive Director	probono@jcba.org	(409) 839-2332	(409) 784-5808
Corpus Christi	Texas RioGrande Legal Aid - Volunteer Lawyers Project	Sandra T. Garza - Pro Bono Coordinator	sandra.garza@trla.org	(361) 880-5400	(361) 883-7615
Dallas	Dallas Volunteer Attorney Program	Michelle Alden - Managing Attorney	aldenm@lanwt.org	(214) 748-1234	(214) 698-1106
Edinburg	Rio Grande Valley - Community Justice Program	Martha Hernandez - Legal Clinic Coordinator	mhernandez@trla.org	(956) 393-6240	(956) 383-5322
El Paso	Texas RioGrande Legal Aid Pro Bono Project	Gracie Martinez - Pro Bono Coordinator	gmartinez@trla.org	(915) 585-5100	(915) 533-6826
Fort Worth	Legal Aid of NorthWest Texas - Equal Justice Volunteer Program	Ellena Simmons - EJVP Coordinator	simmonse@lanwt.org	(817) 336-3943	(817) 877-0804
Houston	Houston Volunteer Lawyers Program	Frank Olvera - Pro Bono Coordinator	frank.olvera@hvlp.org	(713) 228-0735	(713) 228-5826
Houston	Lone Star Legal Aid	Harold Desselle - Supervising Attorney	hdeselle@lonestarlegal.org	(713) 652-0077	(713) 652-2709
Lubbock	Legal Aid of NorthWest Texas - Equal Justice Volunteer Program	Nancy Mojica - EJVP Coordinator	mojican@lanwt.org	(806) 763-4557	(806) 765-7201
Midland/Odessa	Legal Aid of NorthWest Texas - Equal Justice Volunteer Program	Pete Fierro - EJVP Coordinator	fierrop@lanwt.org	(915) 686-0647 (432) 332-1207	(915) 682-7907 (432) 334-6848

CITY	PROGRAM	CONTACT	EMAIL	PHONE	FAX
San Antonio	Texas RioGrande Legal Aid - Community Justice Program	Amanda Buckert - Pro Bono Coordinator	abuckert@trla.org	(210) 227-8822	(210) 271-3482
San Antonio	Catholic Charities Archdiocese of San Antonio - Immigration Services Department	Linda A. Brandmiller - Director of Immigration Services	lbrandmiller@ccaosa.org	(210) 433-3256	(210) 433-0851
Statewide	Texas C-BAR	Frances Leos Martinez -Director	fleosmartinez@texascbar.org	(512) 374-2710	(512) 447-3940
Statewide	ProBAR	Meredith Linsky - Director	probar@sbcglobal.net	(956) 425-9231	(956) 425-9233

If you are interested in volunteering for a county that is not listed, please contact Texas Lawyers Care at tlcmail@texasbar.com to locate the local pro bono coordinator in your community. Thank you for your support!