

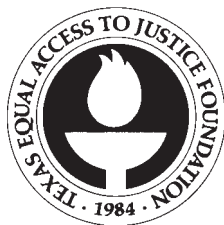
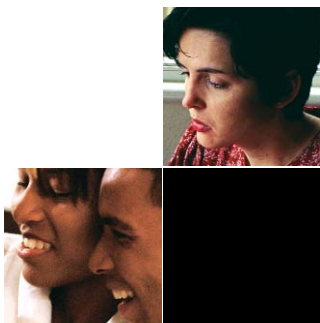
LEGAL AID IN TEXAS

What happens when an elderly man on a fixed income is wrongfully evicted from his home? When a victim of a violent crime cannot afford mounting medical bills for her injuries? Or when a child is barred from a public education because he has a physical disability?

Most people would seek recourse in the legal system. But many Texans cannot afford to hire an attorney when faced with legal problems such as those mentioned above. And unlike the criminal justice system, Texans with civil legal problems are not guaranteed legal representation.

All Texans, regardless of income, deserve access to our civil justice system. So what can Texans of limited means do to ensure that their rights are protected?

They can find help at Legal Aid.



Texas Equal Access to Justice Foundation

P.O. Box 12886
Austin, Texas 78711
Phone: (512) 320-0099, or (800) 252-3401
Fax: (512) 469-0112

www.teajf.org

TO HELP MORE LOW-INCOME TEXANS
OBTAIN JUSTICE AND FAIRNESS IN CIVIL LEGAL MATTERS,
PLEASE DONATE TO THE
TEXAS EQUAL ACCESS TO JUSTICE FOUNDATION AT

WWW.TEAJF.ORG.



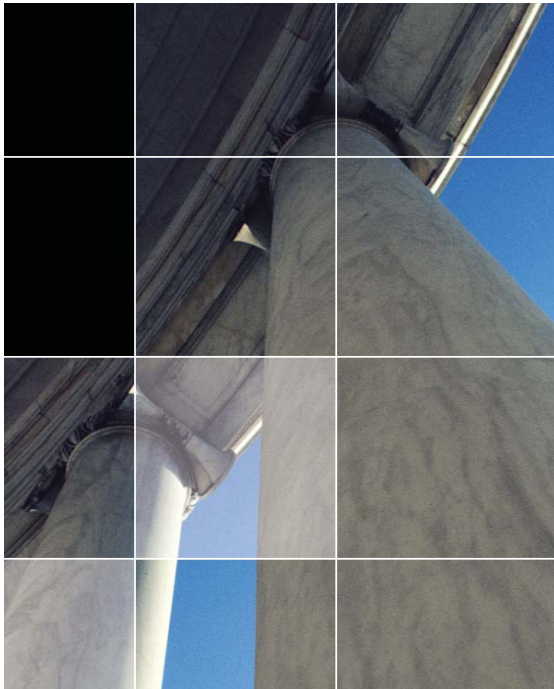
**Texas Equal Access
to Justice Foundation**

Funding civil legal services for low-income Texans

TEXAS EQUAL ACCESS to JUSTICE FOUNDATION

In 1984, the Supreme Court of Texas created the Texas Equal Access to Justice Foundation, a 501(c)(3) nonprofit corporation, to administer funding for civil Legal Aid for poor and low-income Texans. The Foundation is committed to the vision that all Texans will have equal access to justice, regardless of their income.

In its first grant year, 1987-1988, the Foundation granted approximately \$500,000 to nonprofit organizations that provide free civil legal assistance to those who cannot afford it. Today, the Texas Equal Access to Justice Foundation is the largest Texas-based funding source for civil Legal Aid in the state, granting approximately \$10 million each year to nonprofit Legal Aid organizations throughout Texas.



HOW WE ARE FUNDED

On behalf of the Supreme Court of Texas, the Foundation administers funds from three sources:

INTEREST ON LAWYERS' TRUST ACCOUNTS (IOLTA) PROGRAM

The IOLTA Program, established in 1984 by the Supreme Court of Texas, requires attorneys to pool short-term or nominal deposits made on behalf of clients or third parties into one account. Interest generated by these accounts is designated for nonprofit organizations that provide free civil legal services. IOLTA funds are largely dependent on interest rates paid by Texas banks and fees incurred on the accounts. Approximately 300 banks in Texas waive service charges on IOLTA accounts. For a list of IOLTA-friendly banks, please visit www.teajf.org.

BASIC CIVIL LEGAL SERVICES (BCLS) PROGRAM

The Texas Legislature enacted the BCLS Program in 1997, to supplement existing funding for Legal Aid. People who file lawsuits must pay a small additional fee to the court, ranging from \$2 in the lower courts to \$25 for suits taken to the Supreme Court of Texas. These fees are designated to assist nonprofit organizations in providing free civil legal services to low-income Texans.

CRIME VICTIMS CIVIL LEGAL SERVICES (CVCLS) PROGRAM

In 2001, the Texas Legislature appropriated \$5 million to the Texas Office of the Attorney General to create a program to provide free civil legal services to low-income victims of crime and their immediate family. The OAG entered into an agreement with the Supreme Court of Texas to administer the Crime Victims Civil Legal Services fund. The Foundation handles the administrative responsibilities of the fund on behalf of the Court. In 2003, the \$5 million funding was renewed for the 2004-2005 biennium.

The Foundation also manages the following funds, which support legal services to the poor.

ACCESS TO JUSTICE FEE

The 78th Texas Legislature mandated that beginning in 2004, Texas attorneys will pay an annual \$65 Access to Justice Fee, which will be designated to fund civil Legal Aid and defense of indigents in criminal matters. The Texas Equal Access to Justice Foundation will administer the funds designated for civil Legal Aid.

PRIVATE DONATIONS

The Texas Equal Access to Justice Foundation receives private donations from individuals and organizations that support access to justice for all Texans, regardless of income. To donate, please visit www.teajf.org, or call 512.320.0099.

GRANTS

To be eligible for a grant from the Texas Equal Access to Justice Foundation, an organization must have 501(c)(3) status with the Internal Revenue Service and have as a primary purpose the delivery of civil legal services to low-income Texans. The Foundation does not grant funds to individuals.

The Foundation's Board of Directors makes grant decisions based on reviews of administrative and programmatic aspects of applicant organizations. In allocating funds, the Board considers the scope of legal services provided, the geographic area served, the poverty population of the organization's service area, and whether funds would be used to duplicate a service already offered by another entity or in a place where other funds are available for the same purpose.

Each funding source administered by the Foundation has requirements that grantees must meet. Foundation staff manage the grants process and ensure the integrity of fund usage and compliance with grant requirements.

Grant applications and deadlines are posted at www.teajf.org.



THE WORK OF OUR GRANTEES

The Texas Equal Access to Justice Foundation grants millions of dollars to Legal Aid organizations statewide for their day-to-day operations. Legal Aid providers rely on grants and donations to maintain staff and facilities, conduct legal clinics, and improve technology to assist additional clients.

Foundation grantees endeavor, on limited budgets, to effectively and efficiently guide low-income Texans through the complicated legal system. They assist abused women in obtaining protective orders against their abusers; they help the elderly gain access to public benefits rightfully due them to pay for food and medication; and they help families live in safe and affordable housing.

Safety, shelter, peace of mind...everyone deserves these things. Legal Aid makes them happen, giving hope to tens of thousands of Texans each year who had nowhere else to turn.