Many times, access to a lawyer can be a lifesaver to disadvantaged families facing challenging times. The Texas Access to Justice Foundation is committed to the vision that all Texans will have access to the civil justice system.”

– Richard L. Tate, Chair, Texas Access to Justice Foundation

“Had I not been given a free attorney, I have no idea if I would be here today.”

– Margarita Sanchez, a domestic violence survivor who received legal services at Family Violence and Prevention Services, a Texas Access to Justice Foundation grantee

“I Bank on Justice at a Texas IOLTA Prime Partner Bank.”

– Sarah R. Duff, an attorney who banks at LegacyTexas Bank, is one of more than 1300 lawyers who support legal aid by banking at a Prime Partner Bank.

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Our Story

The Texas Access to Justice Foundation (TAJF) is the leading state-based funding source of legal aid in Texas. The Foundation was created in 1984 to administer the Interest on Lawyers’ Trust Accounts (IOLTA) program. Since then, TAJF has diversified its funding sources to include public and private funding.
Success Stories

Facts 2013

Covering all 254 counties; benefiting spouses and children dealing with domestic violence, families facing wrongful foreclosures, seniors in need of medical care, and veterans deserving of pensions and benefits.

$104,000
Legal Aid Cases Closed

$30 Million
Granted by TAJF in 2013 to 30 legal aid providers across the state.

$17.56 Million
Appropriated for the biennium by the 83rd Texas Legislature for basic civil legal services.

$22 Million
Amount of back awards secured by legal aid for their clients, and more than $1 million in monthly benefits.

205 Thousand
Donated to the Foundation by the Construction Law Section of the State Bar of Texas since 2007.

May 28, 2013
Chief Justice Jack Pope Act signed into law. This legislation removed the cap on fees received from the Office of the Attorney General and will eventually bring more money to legal aid.

119
Received assistance through the Student Loan Repayment Assistance Program (SLRAP) graciously funded by the State Bar of Texas.

70
Participate in the Texas IOLTA Prime Partner Bank Program. Prime Partner Banks pay one percent on IOLTA accounts; generating more revenue for legal services.

4
Supported this year by TAJF and its partners, Greenberg Traurig LLP and The John M. O’Quinn Foundation.

Texas Governor’s Office Photo by Stephen Stephanian

Success Stories

People 2013

Victor’s mother had been in a coma for several months. He was using his own money to pay for household expenses and take care of his disabled siblings, but he desperately needed access to his mother’s accounts to help with the bills. In addition, the doctors told Victor that his mother was not mentally competent and needed a legal guardian. Victor wasn’t sure how to proceed, so he turned to legal aid for help.

Texas Rio Grande Legal Aid (TRLA) helped Victor file the applications to be appointed his mother’s permanent guardian, a process that allowed him to take care of both her and the rest of the family. Shortly after the filings, Victor’s mother regained her health and her mental capacity. Victor then worked with TRLA to dismiss the applications and get his mother back home. Today, Victor’s mother continues to be in good health.

A Vietnam Veteran who was exposed to Agent Orange was suffering from prostate cancer. At the onset of his cancer, he was designated with a 100% service connected disability. However, after surgery resolved the medical issue, he was dropped back to a 20% rating of disability by the VA. Sadly, the surgery, while eliminating the cancer, created many other medical disabilities for this client. Legal aid appealed the rating and after extensive review of his medical record, was able to get his rating up to 60%. Increasing his rating, allowed him to receive $1026 monthly rather than the $255 he received with the 20% rating. This increase aided him immensely in getting off the streets.

Texas Governor’s Office Photo by Stephen Stephanian

Help the Foundation write new success stories.

Contribute by mail using the card on the reverse side or online at www.teajf.org

P. O. Box 12886
Austin, TX 78711-2886
Phone 512-320-0099
Toll-free 800-252-3401
Fax 512-469-0112
www.teajf.org

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