



## Annual Attorney IOLTA Compliance

All attorneys' **Interest on Lawyers' Trust Account** ("IOLTA") compliance must be certified by the attorney or law firm when their bar dues are paid. This is done online on the Texas Access to Justice Foundation's (TAJF) website, [www.teajf.org](http://www.teajf.org). You must verify the information and make any of the below changes:

- Closing your IOLTA account
- Opening a new IOLTA account (a notice form is required when opening a new account)
- Indicate that the attorney is no longer with the firm listed
- Indicate that the attorney is with a different firm listed

All attorneys must verify that their IOLTA information online is correct and up-to-date before certifying their compliance. To verify or change your IOLTA account information, go to [www.teajf.org](http://www.teajf.org) click on "**Attorneys**" then "**IOLTA Compliance**". The membership dues statements are used to confirm your compliance with IOLTA. When you pay your Bar dues, you certify you are in compliance with IOLTA. If you are not currently in compliance (or have changes in your IOLTA status), check the box on the enclosed dues remittance coupon or online, certifying that you have or will update your IOLTA compliance information online.

Attorneys that enter the private practice of law and receive or handle client funds, must deposit those funds in a separate bank account designated as "trust" or "escrow". See *Rule 1.14 of the Texas Disciplinary Rules of Professional Conduct*.

If the client funds received are nominal in amount or short term, they must be deposited in an IOLTA at an eligible financial institution.

TAJF is a 501 (c)(3) nonprofit organization created by the Supreme Court of Texas in 1984

to administer the IOLTA program. These funds are used to provide civil legal aid for poor Texans.

The Rules Governing the Operation of the Foundation states in section 23 "Compliance" that each year all attorneys licensed by the Supreme Court of Texas shall report annually IOLTA compliance in a manner to be prescribed by the Foundation and the State Bar of Texas. An attorney's refusal to comply may result in their suspension. The complete rules can be found at:

[http://www.teajf.org/about\\_tajf/governing\\_rules.aspx](http://www.teajf.org/about_tajf/governing_rules.aspx)

For questions or more information, visit our website [www.teajf.org](http://www.teajf.org). You can also email at [compliance@teajf.org](mailto:compliance@teajf.org) or call 800-252-3401 ext.108.

## Helping Support Civil Legal Aid

You can effortlessly support civil legal aid to the poor in Texas by selecting to open your IOLTA account with a financial institution that is a **Prime Partners** -- banks that go above and beyond eligibility requirements to foster the IOLTA Program. These institutions agree to pay a higher interest rate on the IOLTA accounts. Visit [www.teajf.org](http://www.teajf.org) for a list of Prime Partners.

## Report Your Pro Bono Hours

It is important that both the Texas Legislature and the public recognize that lawyers give back to the community through pro bono work.

Pro bono reporting has been made easy for attorneys simply by going to the State Bar's website called "**My Pro Bono**" page, which is part of an attorney's "**My Bar Page**". Attorneys simply log onto "**My Bar Page**" [www.texasbar.com](http://www.texasbar.com) using their bar number and password to report their pro bono hours.

Attorneys who report 75 hours or more of pro bono service a year will be invited to join the State Bar's Pro Bono College, which is an honorary society for legal professionals committed to pro bono.