

Subject: Local Bar Resolutions Supporting Legal Aid  
From: ATJMail <ATJMail@TEXASBAR.COM>

Date: Thu, Mar 03, 2011 9:59 am

To:

"bgodbey@gardere.com" <bgodbey@gardere.com>, "cardenas@sibabrahamlaw.com" <cardenas@sibabrahamlaw.com>, "chavez@lanwt.org" <chavez@lanwt.org>, "andy.kerr@strasburger.com" <andy.kerr@strasburger.com>, "john@millard-law.com" <john@millard-law.com>, "john@millard-law.com" <john@millard-law.com>, "Trish McAllister" <Trish.McAllister@TEXASBAR.COM>, Catherine Barrett <Catherine.Barrett@TEXASBAR.COM>, Betty Torres <btorres@teaif.org>, Benet Magnuson <BenetMagnuson@TEXASBAR.COM>

Attach: 2011 Sample Resolution in Support of Funding for Texas Legal Aid.doc

Dear Local Bar Leader,

As you know, legal aid services in Texas are facing a crisis: While the number of low-income families in need of legal representation continues to skyrocket (a record 5.7 million Texans now qualify for legal aid), the resources available to legal aid offices have vanished with the crash of IOLTA funding. Without support from the state legislature, Texas faces the very real possibility that the fragile legal aid infrastructure that supports its most vulnerable citizens will collapse.

We are writing to request your bar association's support for state funding for legal aid in Texas. Attached to this email you will find a sample resolution prepared by the Texas Access to Justice Foundation. We hope that your bar association will consider adopting this resolution. Your voice on this issue is critically important as your legislators consider the funding requests, and we are deeply grateful to those of you who have already adopted supportive resolutions.

If your association adopts a resolution, please inform Benet Magnuson (Benet.Magnuson@texasbar.com or 512.427.1859), so that we may publicize your commitment to legal aid. Please also do not hesitate to be in touch with any questions or concerns.

With deep gratitude,

The Bar Leaders for Justice Committee of the Texas Access to Justice Commission

Beverly Godbey, Chair  
Carlos Cardenas, member  
Sylvia Chavez, member  
Andy Kerr, member  
John Millard, member

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RESOLUTION SUPPORTING FUNDING FOR CIVIL LEGAL AID IN TEXAS

WHEREAS, \_\_\_\_\_, embraces the principles that our nation promises justice for all, not just for those who can afford to pay for it and subscribes to the values Judge Learned Hand espoused when he said "If we are to keep our democracy, there must be one commandment; Thou shalt not ration justice"

WHEREAS, the Preamble to the Texas Disciplinary Rules of Professional Conduct states that "...a lawyer should be mindful of deficiencies in the administration of justice and of the fact that the poor, and sometimes persons who are not poor, cannot afford adequate legal assistance"; and that "Every lawyer, regardless of professional prominence or professional workload, should find time to participate in or otherwise support the provision of legal services to the disadvantaged. The provision of free legal services to those unable to pay reasonable fees is a moral obligation of each lawyer as well as the profession generally;"

WHEREAS, the most recent U.S. Census reports that more than 4.2 million people live below the poverty level in Texas, and more than 5.7 million qualify for civil legal aid to the poor

WHEREAS, low-income Texans are often the most vulnerable in our communities, including the elderly, persons with disabilities, veterans, and victims of domestic abuse; and for many poor Texans access to legal help might be all that stands between them and homelessness, safety and income providing food on their table and shelter for their children

WHEREAS, the Texas Access to Justice Foundation was created by Supreme Court Order in 1984 to administer the Interest on Lawyers' Trust Accounts (IOLTA) program to fund nonprofit organizations that provide free civil legal aid to low-income Texans and is the leading state funder for civil legal aid in Texas

WHEREAS, historically low interest rates has dramatically reduced funding for the IOLTA program from \$20.1 million in 2007 to \$5.5 million in 2009, and has created a 73 percent loss in funding for civil legal services since 2007

WHEREAS, Texas Supreme Court Chief Justice Wallace B. Jefferson has made a request to the Texas Legislature for \$20 million from general revenue to offset the loss of IOLTA funds

WHEREAS, the Texas Judicial Council has endorsed recommendations of the Texas Access to Justice Commission for additional funding for basic civil legal services

WHEREAS, BE IT RESOLVED that the \_\_\_\_\_ supports Chief Justice Jefferson's request to the Texas Legislature for \$20 million from general revenue to bridge the loss of IOLTA funding and supports the Texas Access to Justice Commission proposals for additional funding for basic civil legal services.

SIGNED this \_\_\_\_\_ day of \_\_\_\_\_, 2011

# STATE BAR OF TEXAS



## MILITARY LAW SECTION

P.O. BOX 8066, SAN ANTONIO, TX 78208-0066

February 7, 2011

Greetings, Members and Friends of the Military Law Section of the State Bar of Texas:

Join us for the Spring CLE & meeting on April 1-2 at the Hilton Hotel on the seawall in Galveston! We have several speakers who will educate us on a variety of interesting topics, as detailed in the enclosed agenda. There will be approximately 6.5 MCLE credits available. Business attire (coat) is suggested for the luncheon, and casual for the remainder of the event.

In following with tradition, there will be a social after the last part of the event on Friday, followed by a causal group dinner at a nearby restaurant. Dinner is not included in the registration fee and we will be able to order off the menu, however we would like you to indicate on the registration form whether you will attend so we will be able to reserved enough space at the restaurant.

A block of rooms have been reserved at the Hilton for Friday night with a smaller block available also for Thursday and Saturday nights for those who wish to spend the entire weekend in Galveston. Please call the hotel at 877-425-4753 to make reservations and ask for a room in the Military Law Section block. Room rates are \$101 single/\$149 double. Reservations must be made by March 1st.

To register for the program, please return the enclosed registration form by March 20<sup>th</sup> to ensure we have sufficient space and refreshments. You may still register after that date if space is available.

If you have any questions, feel free to contact me at (210) 287-4348 or [perryjk@sbcglobal.net](mailto:perryjk@sbcglobal.net).

Sincerely,

Kay M. Perry

Chair

Military Law Section

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State Bar of Texas

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## COUNCIL MEMBERS

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TERMS EXPIRE 2011

Dawn Laubach

San Antonio

Jefferson Moore

San Antonio

Bernard Shealy

Beaumont

**REGISTRATION FORM  
MILITARY LAW SECTION SPRING 2010 MEETING  
PLEASE SEND REGISTRATION FORMS IN BY MARCH 20th!**

NAME OF ATTENDEE: \_\_\_\_\_

ADDRESS: \_\_\_\_\_

TELEPHONE #: \_\_\_\_\_

E-MAIL ADDRESS: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_  
Registration for Both Days: \$125 per person  
(includes luncheon on Saturday)

\_\_\_\_\_  
Registration for Friday Only: \$60 per person

\_\_\_\_\_  
Registration for Saturday Only: \$75 per person  
(includes luncheon on Saturday)

\_\_\_\_\_  
Extra Luncheon Ticket for Accompanying Guest/Spouse: \$20  
(price includes sales tax)

\_\_\_\_\_  
TOTAL ENCLOSED:

\_\_\_\_\_  
Number Attending Friday Evening Group Dinner:

(Attendance optional and is not included in conference cost)

**PAYMENT CAN BE MADE BY CHECK OR CREDIT CARD**

Make checks payable to "State Bar of Texas Military Law Section"

If paying with a check please enclose with registration form; if paying with a credit card please provide the information below:

Name on Card (print): \_\_\_\_\_

Signature: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_  
Visa \_\_\_\_\_ MasterCard \_\_\_\_\_ AMEX \_\_\_\_\_ Discover \_\_\_\_\_

Acct No. \_\_\_\_\_ Exp. Date: \_\_\_\_\_

**PLEASE SEND TO THE ATTENTION OF MICHELE SCHWEITZER, STATE  
BAR OF TEXAS ACCOUNTING DEPARTMENT DIRECTOR, VIA:**

**MAIL**

P.O. Box 12487

Austin, TX 78711-2487

*Check or credit card*

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