



The Supreme Court of Texas

CHIEF JUSTICE
WALLACE B. JEFFERSON

201 West 14th Street Post Office Box 12248 Austin TX 78711
Telephone: 512/463-1312 Facsimile: 512/463-1365

CLERK
BLAKE A. HAWTHORNE

JUSTICES
NATHAN L. HECHT
DALE WAINWRIGHT
DAVID M. MEDINA
PAUL W. GREEN
PHIL JOHNSON
DON R. WILLETT
EVA M. GUZMAN
DEBRA H. LEHRMANN

GENERAL COUNSEL
ALICE McAFEE

ADMINISTRATIVE ASSISTANT
NADINE SCHNEIDER

PUBLIC INFORMATION OFFICER
OSLER McCARTHY

Dear Texas Attorney:


Last year, Texas lawyers contributed over \$700,000 to Access to Justice through their State Bar dues statements, helping to provide civil legal services to the very poor. Thanks to your generosity, Texans in critical need were able to free themselves and their children from domestic violence, secure subsistence benefits when age or disabilities prevented them from working, obtain protections for the elderly, and receive other basic legal services.


The economic downturn continues. Interest-rate-dependent IOLTA revenues are a small fraction of former years, and other legal aid funding is shrinking. The number of poor Texans is growing with the State's population. The need for legal services is dire. Our State's legal aid programs are struggling. We encourage your continued generosity by making a \$150 contribution included in your bar dues. The contribution is voluntary. You may choose to give more or not at all.


Texas lawyers have also been generous with their time. A survey prepared last year for the State Bar by the University of North Texas estimated that active in-state lawyers provided some 2.5 million hours of free legal or indirect services to the poor in 2009. We commend you. Still, only a fraction of the legal needs of the poor are being met. We challenge every Texas attorney to contribute 50 hours of pro bono service this year. So that the State Bar may demonstrate the value of your service to the poor, please report your pro bono hours and financial contributions online at www.texasbar.com/probonoreporting, or to the State Bar's Legal Services Support Division.

Assuring access to justice is our professional responsibility. It is critical to the strength of the rule of law.


Sincerely,


Chief Justice Wallace B. Jefferson

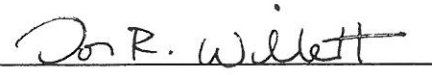

Justice Nathan L. Hecht

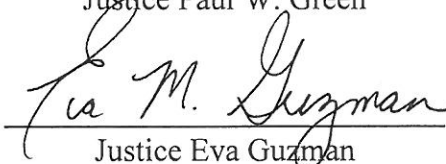

Justice Dale Wainwright

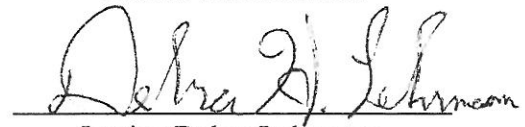

Justice David M. Medina


Justice Paul W. Green


Justice Phil Johnson


Justice Don R. Willett


Justice Eva Guzman


Justice Debra Lehrmann