

The Board of Directors of the Fort Worth – Tarrant County
Young Lawyers Association

**RESOLUTION SUPPORTING CONTINUED FUNDING FOR CIVIL LEGAL AID
TO THE POOR**

WHEREAS, The Fort Worth – Tarrant County Young Lawyers Association recognizes and embraces its responsibility as an organization of Texas Lawyers, whose members abide by the Texas Lawyers Creed to, “assure that all persons have access to competent representation regardless of wealth or position in life”;

WHEREAS, more than 5.7 million Texans qualify for Civil Legal Aid to the Poor, yet only 20 percent are afforded representation by Civil Legal Aid Agencies due to their already constrained budgets and limited resources;

WHEREAS, in an effort to stem the tide in reduced Civil Legal Aid funding caused by a dramatic decrease in money received from the Interest on Lawyers Trust Accounts (IOLTA) in recent years, the Texas Legislature appropriated \$20 million dollars to bridge the gap caused by this decrease in IOLTA funds and helped ensure that women and children were safe from abuse and those who were at greatest risk of homelessness were able to obtain legal counsel when appropriate;

WHEREAS, this bridge funding was a one-time appropriation which was greatly needed, even it was not enough to offset IOLTA losses that have resulted in continued low IOLTA rates;

WHEREAS, Texas Supreme Court Justice Nathan L. Hecht, on behalf of the Supreme Court urged the Texas Legislature to “continue providing funding for legal aid providers who are many times the only safety net for poor Texans struggling to survive these difficult times”;

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the Fort Worth – Tarrant County Young Lawyers Association joins others in urging the Texas Legislature to continue providing the funding necessary to offset IOLTA decreases. While the Fort Worth – Tarrant County Young Lawyers Association recognizes that the economic downturn has affected many, a decision not to provide continued funding could effectively close the doors to the courthouses of Texas to those in need of access to our justice system.

**APPROVED BY THE BOARD OF THE FW-TCYLA ON THE 15TH DAY OF
FEBRUARY, 2011**



John Brender, President