

Access *to* Justice *for* **TEXAS VETERANS**



Texas veterans deserve fair and equitable access to the justice system.

Legal aid programs, local bar associations, law schools and pro bono lawyers are part of the fabric of providing civil legal aid in Texas. Funds are being sought to help the Texas Access to Justice Foundation provide additional much-needed funding to help serve Texas veterans facing difficult legal issues upon return from war.

Texas has the **second-highest population of veterans** in the nation. Sadly, a significant number of Texas veterans are poor and/or homeless. According to the Department of Veterans Affairs' annual survey of homeless and formerly homeless veterans, **legal issues account for three of the top ten unmet needs** of homeless veterans.

Legal aid services can help qualified veterans achieve economic security, avoid homelessness and promote stability within their family relationships.

Last year, legal aid programs helped more than **8,800 veterans** obtain access to the justice system for civil legal aid problems such as:

- Denial of critical medical care
- Problems receiving benefits
- Legal issues related to disabilities
- Family law matters arising from deployment, and
- Other issues that may arise due to a veteran's absence from home during military service



With an additional \$4 million a biennium, legal aid programs will be able to serve an additional 2,500-3,000 veterans.