TEXAS ACCESS to JUSTICE FOUNDATION

Legal Aid in Texas- 2009

In 2009, the Texas Access to Justice Foundation awarded civil legal aid grants to legal aid and pro bono programs in regions throughout the state. Each pin below represents a Foundation grantee office location, and many grantees have branch and satellite offices and clinics throughout Texas.



Grant awards by the Texas Access to Justice Foundation served many populations including: the elderly, veterans, low-income, children, abuse victims, persons with disabilities, public assistance recipients, migrant workers, immigrants and refugees, low-wage workers, and children with special educational needs, among others. Every population group and geographic region was touched by grant awards to TAJF grantees. 104,939 clients' cases were closed by TAJF grantees in 2009 and 234,713 individuals benefited from civil legal aid in Texas in 2009 with real measurable results, improving their lives and providing them with safety and protection, and affording them the dignity and respect they are entitled to.

Legal aid was provided by a variety of delivery models, traditional legal aid programs, pro bono programs associated with local bar associations, law school clinical programs, domestic violence shelters with a legal component, as well as by social service organizations with a legal aid component, such as Catholic Charities and the YMCA. Grantees provided outstanding legal services, and the level of service varied from advice and counsel, to negotiation, to full representation in court, as well as representing parties in appeals and administrative tribunals.

Counsel-Advice	67,686
Limited Action	14,816
Negotiated Settlement	1,553
(Without litigation)	
Negotiated Settlement	1,555
(With litigation)	
Administrative Agency Decision	3,966
Court Decision Uncontested	5,883
Court Decision Contested	3,661
Court Decision Appeals	192
Other	1,149
Extensive Legal Service	4,478

Legal Advocacy Provided by a few of the 2009 TAJF Grantees

Texas Rio Grande Legal Aid

"Jose" was a longtime cook at local chain restaurant. During his 10 years with the restaurant, Jose worked 58-70 hours a week but was only paid \$7 an hour. He filed a lawsuit against the restaurant's owners for failing to pay him overtime and firing him after he demanded to be paid the correct wages. Jose testified that the employer used multiple time cards and paid workers their extra hours in cash to avoid the appearance of overtime. A jury found that the owners willfully failed to pay overtime wages and fired Jose as a result of his wage demands, and awarded him more than \$84,000. However, the defendant wouldn't pay and the Court delayed in entering judgment on the verdict. In June 2009, Jose and his wife and 11-year-old daughter were tragically killed in a car accident. Their three other children sustained various injuries, but

survived. After repeated efforts by TRLA, the court finally entered judgment in the case and TRLA has collected most of the judgment for the estate. TRLA also helped represent the surviving children's uncle in the subsequent custody case, and the children are now making their home with their uncle and aunt.

Lone Star Legal Aid

"Louise" came to LSLA for advice to avoid foreclosure of her home. She recently lost her job and separated from her husband. LSLA's home protection experts quickly spotted multiple questionable terms in her contract. The mortgage was for more than \$175,000 on a home valued for substantially less, including more than 10 percent, or \$17,654, in points and fees and a \$103,000 balloon payment due in 30 years. LSLA filed suit in federal court, citing the Federal Home Ownership and Equity Protection Act and the Texas Constitution, which bar lenders from excessive points and fees (more than 8 percent) and from certain changes in loan terms at closing.

LSLA also contended that the mortgage company engaged in the racially-motivated predatory lending practice referred to as "reverse redlining." Similar lawsuits have been filed by the Attorney General of Massachusetts and by the city of Baltimore accusing lenders of "reverse redlining" targeting minority loan applicants for the worst possible mortgage deals. Predatory lenders exploit low-income homeowners via high-cost, dubious loan agreements with complicated lender-financed credit insurance, refinanced loans with no benefits borrowers and balloon payments hidden in the fine print.

Lone Star Legal Aid's suit was the first of its kind in Texas. In the end, the mortgage company agreed to a settlement in favor of Louise.

Legal Aid of NorthWest Texas

"Marisol", a single mother of two, sought legal assistance after receiving a default decision for failure to appear at a food stamp telephone hearing. The default finding, which was based on an allegation of fraud, not only decreased Marisol's monthly food stamp allotment, but also made her ineligible for food stamps for one year.

LANWT successfully appealed the default finding, which was overturned based on two factors: that Marisol misunderstood the hearing process, and that disqualification from assistance for one year without benefit of a hearing was a harsh result. The hearing officer agreed and rescheduled the hearing.

After obtaining copies of Marisol's food stamp history, the attorney discovered that Marisol had an excellent history of reporting changes to the department. In its investigation report, HHSC alleged that Marisol was working and did not report the income. The truth was that Marisol had been in training for a position that she ultimately turned down. She expected the training to be unpaid. She later received a paycheck for the training period, but believed the amount to be below the monthly amount that she was required to report. Her records also showed that she had disclosed the upcoming training to her caseworker.

The hearing officer found Marisol credible and determined that she had not committed fraud. Although Marisol's food stamp benefits were temporarily reduced to satisfy the overpayment, she was happy that the original decision was overturned and that she was found to have not committed fraud.

Advocacy Inc.

A few of the successes achieved for low income clients in the Tarrant County / Ft. Worth area by TAJF Grantee Advocacy Inc.

- Assisted a young woman with cerebral palsy in being re-united with her children after CPS had taken them based on a doctor's suggestion that her disability would not allow her to care for them,
- Worked with a gentleman with mental illness who had been a long-time patient at the state hospital in Wichita Falls and were able to secure his discharge into a nursing home in Tarrant County, where his social interaction and behavior has dramatically improved, and

 Assisted a deaf and blind individual undergoing regular dialysis treatment at a Tarrant County facility in securing an interpreter and appropriate auxiliary aids and services during his medical visits so that he could understand the treatment and his medical condition.



2009 Legal Aid Closed Cases by Category

Closed Cases (2009)	
Consumer Finance	6,528
Employment	2,867
Family	42,016
Juvenile	4,426
Health	3.271
Housing	10,461
Education	1,036
Income Maintenance	6,951
Individual Rights	19,054
Miscellaneous	8,329
	104,939

Health, 3,271, 3.1% Juvenile, 4,426, 4.2%

Dallas Bar Association's Volunteer Attorney Program

Sandy was desperate for legal help and beside herself with anxiety over her missing two-yearold son, Jacob. Jacob and Sandy had been separated for two weeks after the boy's father, Ron refused to return the child to Sandy after a visit. Ron, an Iraqi vet suffering from mental disabilities, had also threatened to hurt Sandy and anyone who helped her if she tried to get Jacob back. Although Sandy believed that Ron was Jacob's biological father, the couple had never married, Ron's name was not on Jacob's birth certificate, and paternity had never been established. Sandy allowed Jacob and Ron to visit, but visitation orders were not in place. Sandy had asked the police to help her, but they turned her away. The volunteer attorneys immediately filed a Petition for Writ of Habeas Corpus with a Writ of Attachment. If approved, this document would allow Jacob to be immediately returned to his mother. While it was denied, the court signed an order setting a hearing on the case and an order requiring Ron to bring Jacob to court for that hearing. Ron's attorney appeared at the hearing on time, but tensions rose when Ron and Jacob did not show up. Finally, after two hours, Ron brought Jacob to court.



When little Jacob spied his mother in the court room, he ran into her arms. Their reunion spoke volumes of the love and strong bond between this mother and child. There was not a dry eye in the court room. After a full hearing, Sandy and Jacob were reunited. Attorney began working to help Sandy obtain a protective order and establish paternity of the child.

Earl Carl Institute for Legal and Social Policy, Inc.

The Opal Mitchell Lee Property Preservation Project was contacted by a single mother with a six person household. Juanita was living in a house that her father had deeded to her.

Because of her lack of familiarity with the homeownership process, she did not immediately record the deed to the property. Subsequently, her brother was able to convince her father to give him a Power of Attorney and thereafter transferred the house to another person and him by executing a new deed using the Power of Attorney. Juanita ultimately filed her deed but since it was recorded later, the title still showed up in the name of the other transferees.

The title holder, in addition to Juanita's brother, was a plumber who had done extensive work on the house and had paid the property taxes for approximately two years. He filed suit against our client seeking to quiet title, future monthly rents of \$600/month, and past monthly rents in the total amount of \$15,000. That is when Juanita came to us with a pending trial date that was less than three weeks away. The staff attorney, with the assistance of Thurgood Marshall School of Law students, was able to get a continuance, respond to and initiate discovery, and ultimately, was able to structure an agreement where our client could repay the plumber for his expenses. Juanita was able to pay a \$5,000 settlement to the plumber in installments and retain her property while doing so. The settlement was secured by a Note and Deed of Trust and Juanita was able to keep her home.

Houston Volunteer Lawyers Program

Daniel lived with his wife and children in a modest home in a coastal Texas town for nearly 15 years. The house belonged to his mother, who died in 1993 without leaving a will. This had never caused a problem until September 2008, when the storm surge from Hurricane Ike destroyed the home, leaving only the foundation. Daniel's homeowner insurance paid only a small amount – not nearly enough to rebuild or relocate his family in a comparable home. Furthermore, FEMA turned down Daniel's claim because Daniel's name was not on the deed, which was still in his mother's name. More than a month after the hurricane, Daniel and his family were staying with friends, not sure of where to turn. He spoke to a volunteer attorney working with HVLP at a Disaster Recovery Center office. The volunteer attorney was able to research Daniel's family tree and determine that the Texas Property Code would have given Daniel a 100% interest in the land. The volunteer attorney was able to execute a simple Affidavit of Facts Concerning Identity of Heirs, get the property records to reflect Daniel's ownership, and satisfy FEMA's requirements for assistance.



Legal Hospice of Texas

James was diagnosed with colon cancer less than a year before he contacted our office for help. After several unsuccessful rounds of chemotherapy, he was told he had only weeks to live. As he was home-bound, we traveled to his house for the appointment. James was devastated, not simply because of his grim prognosis, but because of the short time he had to set his affairs in order. He had a six-year-old son. The child's mother, addicted to drugs and in trouble with the law, had not been heard from in years. James worried constantly about what would happen to his son after his death. He also feared what would happen if he was in a coma or too weak to manage his own matters. At first, he couldn't understand why he would need estate planning documents because he was living in poverty and owned very little. We explained that he could name an agent to act on his behalf in regards to his social security check or the payment of bills. When we then discussed how he could declare his choice for his son's guardian, James was visibly relieved and emotional. James asked me to meet with his sister - his only choice for agent. The three of us discussed James's options and his sister's responsibilities and executed his documents at his bedside. Both James and his sister expressed their gratitude for the "incredible peace-of-mind and clarity" the documents and our organization provided.

Volunteer Legal Services of Central Texas

Jose, a kind, older Spanish-speaker, came to Volunteer Legal Services of Central Texas looking for help with an eviction hearing. It became immediately clear that the eviction was actually a part of a much larger real estate scam. Jose had lived in his home on the east side for 17 years. Because property values had increased, he decided to see if it would be a good time to sell. He came into contact with Mr. Smith, who had distributed flyers in Spanish in his neighborhood saying that he was an honest Christian broker. Mr. Smith offered to help Jose sell the home and asked him to sign a document that would allow him to do that. The document was in English, which Jose could not read. Jose thought he was signing a contract for Mr. Smith to help him sell his home. In actuality, he was signing over the deed to his house to Mr. Smith. Mr. Smith then sold the house to Anthony. Anthony had no knowledge of the transaction between Jose and Mr. Smith and served Jose with a notice of eviction when Jose didn't moved out of the house. Jose tried to explain the situation, but Anthony considered himself the rightful owner and would not stop the eviction process. Jose came to VLS the day before the eviction hearing was scheduled. VLS was able to find an attorney who stopped the eviction and move the case from JP Court to District Court. The case was highly contested, but ultimately the VLS attorney got Jose a \$25,000 lump sum settlement with additional \$20,000 periodic payments until the fair market value of the home is repaid.

Texas Attorneys Providing Free Legal Aid to the Poor		
Staff Attorneys with Non Profit Legal Aid Programs and or Law School Clinics	Volunteer Attorneys working with Pro Bono Programs or Legal Aid Programs	Reduced Fee Attorneys working with Pro Bono Programs or Legal Aid Programs
87,591	17,175	173



Innovative Legal Aid Projects in Texas -2009-

In 2009, the Texas Access to Justice Foundation (TAJF) funded special impact initiative grants designed to strategically address broad issues of access to the justice system that can

positively impact the Texas legal delivery system for low-income citizens. Three nonprofit legal aid organizations and two bar associations developed pilot projects in underserved, remote or rural communities. It is projected an additional 10,500 low-income individuals who would be served by these projects allowing them access to legal relief and providing them legal assistance at critical times in their lives such as foreclosure and eviction defense, access and visitation to children, consumer protection, probate, and health care.

The two new categories of special impact initiatives were: 1) "Expanding the Right to Civil Counsel "Civil Gideon" Pilot Projects", which includes collaborative programs with courts for the delivery of legal services where basic human needs are at risk; such as shelter, sustenance, safety, health, or child custody; and 2) "Self-Represented Litigation Pilot Projects" designed to help the ever-increasing number of low-income litigants representing themselves "pro se" in Texas courts.

The special impact initiative grantees and their pilot projects are:

Expanding the Right to Civil Counsel "Civil Gideon" Pilot Project Grant Awards

• Lone Star Legal Aid – "Tenant Defense Project,"

To create a project that appoints counsel for persons involved in eviction appeals in Harris, Fort Bend, and Montgomery counties.

• Texas RioGrande Legal Aid – "Border Foreclosure Defense Project,"

A project partnering with the courts in Webb, Zapata, Starr, Cameron, Hidalgo, and Willacy counties to represent low-income clients in defense of foreclosures.

Self-Represented Litigation Pilot Projects Grant Awards

• Lone Star Legal Aid – "Rural Pro Se Litigation Project,"

Creating court-based self-help centers, web kiosks, standardized forms, and pro se clinics in Nacogdoches and Angelina counties.

• Lubbock County Bar Association – "Pro Se Programs,"

Developing online document assembly stations and an informational video in Lubbock County.

• Smith County Bar Foundation – "Self-Help Center,"

Creating a self-help center in the Smith County Law Library.

• Texas Legal Services Center – "Self-Represented Litigation Project,"

Developing easily accessible legal information, such as court procedures, standard litigation forms, and individualized advice and brief services from licensed attorneys through a statewide web site, <u>www.texaslawhelp.org</u>.

As the legal needs of poor and low-income Texans continue to increase in number, TAJF encourages providers of legal aid services to think strategically, and collaboratively, in creative projects that will have a long-term and future impact on the delivery of legal services. These pilot projects are designed to help low-income Texans obtain the access to the court system they so desperately need and are often unable to afford.



Additional Innovative Legal Aid Programs by TAJF Grantees in 2009

The Street Youth Project is a new project in the San Antonio area of Texas RioGrande Legal Aid aimed at serving the more than 25,000 homeless youth in Bexar County. Staffed by a TRLA attorney and social worker, the goal of the project is to empower youth by educating them on their legal rights through outreach, mentoring, and partnerships with social service agencies.

Texas RioGrande Legal Aid has created the Bi-National Project on Human Trafficking. The project uses a "train-the-trainers" model to provide training and technical assistance to non-governmental organizations in Mexico on human trafficking outreach and victim identification. TRLA will be working with partner agencies in Reynosa who in turn will be training non-governmental organizations in Nuevo Laredo, Matamoros, and Monterrey.

Legal Aid of NorthWest Texas is working on an employment-focused program where, in conjunction with a state agency geared to help people find work, LANWT will assist in removing legal barriers to employment, such as lack of a driver's license or inaccuracies on one's criminal history.

LANWT is also beginning a medical-legal partnership (MLP) program. Modeled on successful partnerships in operation nationwide, the MLP will help doctors identify social determinants of health that give rise to patients' legal issues. LANWT will provide direct legal services for patients, support training of resident doctors and jointly advocate with the medical partner on systemic issues, all of which satisfy the core components of the MLP model.



2009 Legal Aid Closed Cases-Ethnic Breakdown



2009 Legal Aid Closed Cases-Special Populations

Parenting Order Legal Clinics

In 2008, the Parenting Order Legal Clinics (POLC) project started as a statewide initiative designed to expand the access parents have to legal resources for resolving parenting order conflicts, improve parents' understanding of legal processes and their rights, increase the compliance of parents in the IV-D system with court-ordered possession/access, and to gauge the impact of that compliance on child support collections. It's success mandated that it continue in 2009 and has been a tremendous success in helping non-custodial parents maintain access and visitation with their children.

Collaborative primary partners include: Office of Attorney General, Texas Access to Justice Foundation, Legal Aid of NorthWest Texas, Lone Star Legal Aid and the Texas Civil Rights Project. Nightly clinics were launched across the state in **28 cities** and towns helping **non-custodial parents** with crucial legal information.



2009 Closed Cases (Dollar Outcome) Monetary Benefits

In 2009, legal aid organizations secured significant monetary benefits for their clients, including **\$15,977,177** in back awards and **\$1,403,608** in monthly benefits. Categories include child support, unpaid wages, and disability.

	Back Awards Lump-Sum Settlements	Monthly Benefits	
Social Security, SSI	\$3,503,738	\$273,447	
Other Federal Benefits	\$436,113	\$35,737	
Unemployment Compensation	\$51,124	\$9,499	
Food Stamp	\$227,091	\$72,240	

Family LawChild Support	\$2,295,279	\$846,607
Family LawAlimony	\$236,075	\$65,349
Affirmative landlord/tenant judgments	\$554,304	\$18,476
Affirmative employment judgments	\$621,181	\$14,825
Affirmative consumer judgments	\$2,135,335	\$14,260
Other Individual Rights	\$100,000	\$0
Other Worker Comp, taxes	\$1,126,720	\$45,656
Other Torts	\$11,900	\$162
Other Disability Discrimination	\$9,875	\$0
Other Long Term Disability	\$89,578	\$2,638
Other Tax Benefits	\$2,219	\$1,229
Other Property Settlement	\$20,000	\$0
Probate	\$17,700	\$0
Other - CVC Claims	\$433,566	\$0
State and Local Income Maintenance	\$4,849	\$2,314
Employment Judgment	\$11,284	\$0
Wills and Estates	\$152,976	\$1,019
Lump Sum Property	\$862,041	\$0
Lump Sum Retirement	\$756,012	\$0
Guardianship	\$0	\$150
Other - QDROs/Pensions	\$55,637	\$0
Other- Misc. Judgments	\$159,666	\$0
Civil Rights	\$81,074	\$0
ADA	\$250	\$0
Health/Nursing Home	\$540,166	\$0
Other Income Maintenance	\$1,183,309	\$0
Other Employment – Pension	\$223,197	\$0
Other – Housing	\$74,918	\$0
Total	\$15,977,177	\$1,403,608

The **Texas Access to Justice Foundation** (<u>www.teajf.org</u>), created by the Supreme Court of Texas in 1984, is the primary state-based funding source for the provision of civil legal aid in Texas. The organization is committed to the vision that all Texans will have equal access to justice, regardless of their income. The Foundation administers a variety of funding sources, which are earmarked to assist nonprofit organizations in providing legal aid to approximately 100,000 Texans each year.

Legal Aid Programs Funded by the Texas Access to Justice Foundation

<u>\$1,503,443</u> - **ADVOCACY, INCORPORATED** provides civil legal services to low-income persons with disabilities and mental illness.

<u>\$420,886</u> - AID TO VICTIMS OF DOMESTIC ABUSE provides civil legal services to victims of domestic violence in Harris County.

<u>\$292,419</u> - **AMERICAN GATEWAY** (formerly Political Asylum Project of Austin) provides a range of immigration representation to low-income persons seeking assistance in Central Texas.

<u>\$167,838</u> - BOAT PEOPLE SOS, INC. provides civil legal services to low-income Asian immigrant community in Harris County.

<u>\$309,599</u> - CABRINI CENTER FOR IMMIGRATION LEGAL SERVICES provides civil legal services to lowincome immigrants who are seeking assistance with asylum and residency issues in Harris County

<u>\$299,734</u> - CASA DE PROYECTO LIBERTAD provides a range of immigration representation to low-income seeking assistance in Harlingen and the South Texas area

<u>\$151,750</u> - CATHEDRAL JUSTICE PROJECT provides a range of civil legal service to the homeless population of Houston.

<u>\$56,191</u> - CATHOLIC CHARITIES OF SOUTHEAST TEXAS provides a range of immigration representation to low-income persons seeking assistance in the Beaumont area.

<u>\$80,297</u> - CATHOLIC CHARITIES OF CENTRAL TEXAS provides a range of immigration representation to persons seeking assistance in the Waco area.

<u>\$399,174</u> CATHOLIC CHARITIES OF DALLAS, INC. provides a range of immigration representation to lowincome persons seeking assistance in Dallas and adjacent counties to the north and east.

<u>\$274,293</u> - CATHOLIC CHARITIES OF SAN ANTONIO provides a range of immigration representation to lowincome persons seeking assistance in Bexar and Webb counties.

<u>\$268,168</u> - DALLAS BAR ASSOCIATION COMMUNITY SERVICE FUND/DALLAS VOLUNTEER ATTORNEY PROGRAM provides civil legal services via volunteer attorneys to low-income persons in Dallas.

<u>\$322,711</u> - DIOCESAN MIGRANT AND REFUGEE provides a range of immigration representation to low-income persons seeking assistance in El Paso, Brewster, Culberson, Jeff Davis, Loving, Hudspeth, Presidio, Pecos, Reeves, Ward, and Winkler Counties.

<u>\$326,607</u> - **EQUAL JUSTICE CENTER** provides civil legal services to low-income workers in wage claims in Central Texas.

<u>\$205,065</u> - FAMILY VIOLENCE PREVENTION SERVICES provides civil legal services to low-income victims of domestic violence in Bexar County.

<u>\$56,098</u> - FORT BEND LAWYERS CARE provides civil legal services via volunteer attorneys to low-income persons in Fort Bend County.

<u>\$577,901</u> - HOUSTON VOLUNTEER LAWYERS PROGRAM provides civil legal services via volunteer and staff attorneys to low-income persons in Harris County. This includes funding for the SOUTHEAST TEXAS LEGAL CLINIC program which provides legal representation to low-income persons in Harris and surrounding rural

counties who are HIV+ or have AIDS.

<u>\$100,307</u> - LAS AMERICAS REFUGEE ASYLUM PROJECT provides a range of immigration representation to low-income persons and, particularly juveniles in detention seeking assistance in the El Paso area.

<u>\$6,910,203</u> - **LEGAL AID OF NORTHWEST TEXAS** provides civil legal services to low-income persons in 106 North and West Texas counties.

<u>\$280,122 -</u> LEGAL AID SOCIETY OF LUBBOCK provides civil legal services to low-income persons in Lubbock

<u>\$237,760</u> - **LEGAL HOSPICE OF TEXAS** provides civil legal services to low-income persons in Dallas who are HIV+, have AIDS or other terminal illness.

<u>\$6,570,866</u> LONE STAR LEGAL AID provides civil legal services to low-income persons in 72 counties in the East Region of Texas. This includes sub-grants to:

BRAZOS COUNTY CIVIL LEGAL AID REFERRAL, INC* provides civil legal services to the community by recruiting pro bono private attorneys in Brazos County: JEFFERSON COUNTY BAR ASSOCIATION FOUNDATION PRO BONO PROGRAM* provides civil legal services to the community by recruiting pro bono private attorneys in Jefferson, Hardin, Orange and Liberty Counties.

<u>\$64,500</u> - MONTGOMERY COUNTY WOMEN'S CENTER provides civil legal service to low-income victims of domestic violence in Montgomery County.

<u>\$226,753</u> - NAACP- HOUSTON provides civil legal services to low-income persons in Harris County.

<u>\$856,518</u> - OFICINA LEGAL DEL PUEBLO UNIDO, INC./TEXAS CIVIL RIGHTS PROJECT provides civil legal services to low-income farm workers and *colonia* residents in the Rio Grande Valley and El Paso and to low-income and minority individuals in civil rights matters.

<u>\$40,121</u> - **PROBAR** – **ABA FUND FOR JUSTICE AND EDUCATION** provides a range of immigration representation to indigent, detained immigrants and asylum seekers in South Texas.

<u>\$229,622</u> - REFUGEE AID IMMIGRATION COUNSELING AND EDUCATION SERVICES provides a range of immigration representation to low-income persons seeking assistance in Bexar County.

<u>\$117,136</u> - SOUTH TEXAS COLLEGE OF LAW, CIVIL CLINIC provides civil legal services in family law cases and Social Security appeals to low-income persons in Harris County.

<u>\$159,142</u> - **SOUTHERN DISABILITY LAW CENTER** provides legal representation to low-income persons with disabilities throughout Texas.

<u>\$160,611</u> - **ST. MARY'S IMMIGRATION CLINIC** provides a range of immigration representation to low-income persons seeking assistance in Bexar County.

<u>\$240,608</u> - TEXAS ADVOCACY PROJECT INC. (formerly Women's Advocacy Project) provides free legal advice and assistance to victims of domestic violence.

<u>\$2,275,560</u> - TEXAS LEGAL SERVICES CENTER provides legal advice and representation to persons 60+, public utilities advocacy on behalf of low-income persons and support the Statewide Website and Earned Income Tax Credit Projects.

<u>\$9,090,351</u> - **TEXAS RIOGRANDE LEGAL AID, INC.** provides civil legal services to low-income persons in 68 counties in Southwest Texas.

<u>\$40,000</u> - **TEXAS WESLEYAN UNIVERSITY SCHOOL OF LAW CLINIC** provides legal services to assist caretakers of children who were victims of abuse or neglect in Tarrant County.

<u>\$134,485</u> - EARL CARL INSTITUTE FOR LEGAL AND SOCIAL POLICY/THURGOOD MARSHALL SCHOOL OF LAW provides civil legal services to low-income residents of Harris County experiencing African-American land loss in Harris County area.

<u>\$152,218</u> - UNIVERSITY OF HOUSTON, IMMIGRATION CLINIC provides and assists other programs with immigration appeals throughout Texas and provides a range of immigration representation to low income persons in Harris County

<u>\$269,132</u> - VOLUNTEER LEGAL SERVICES OF CENTRAL TEXAS provides civil legal services via volunteer attorneys to low-income persons in Travis, Williamson and Lee Counties.

<u>\$223,108</u> - **YMCA INTERNATIONAL SERVICES** provides civil legal services to the immigrant community in Harris County.