

# Help TAJF Write New Success Stories

**75-80%** Estimate of the legal needs of Texans currently NOT being met by legal aid.  
Unmet Legal Needs

**5.8** Texans who qualify for legal aid  
Million

**\$7.4** Loss in federal funding for legal aid from the Legal Services Corporation  
Million

**75%** Decrease in IOLTA funding from 2007 to 2012  
Drop

TAJF is a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization created in 1984 by the Supreme Court to administer the Interest on Lawyers' Trust Accounts (IOLTA) program.



## Donation Form

I want to help disadvantaged Texans have access to basic civil legal services!

My contribution \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Firm/Company \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Phone \_\_\_\_\_

Email \_\_\_\_\_

My gift is in honor of:

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

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Please mail this card, along with your contribution to:

**Texas Access to Justice Foundation – Donations • P. O. Box 12886 • Austin, TX 78711-2886**

**Contribute online at [www.teajf.org](http://www.teajf.org)**

# SUCCESS STORIES

“Many times, **access to a lawyer can be a lifesaver** to disadvantaged families facing challenging times. The **Texas Access to Justice Foundation** is committed to the vision that all Texans will have access to the civil justice system.”

– Richard L. Tate, Chair, Texas Access to Justice Foundation



“**Had I not been given a free attorney, I have no idea if I would be here today.**”

– Margarita Sanchez, a domestic violence survivor who received legal services at Family Violence and Prevention Services, a Texas Access to Justice Foundation grantee



“I Bank on Justice at a Texas **IOLTA Prime Partner Bank.**”

– Sarah R. Duff, a McKinney attorney who banks at LegacyTexas Bank, is one of more than 1300 lawyers who support legal aid by banking at a Prime Partner Bank.



## Our Story

The Texas Access to Justice Foundation (TAJF) is the leading state-based funding source of legal aid in Texas. The Foundation was created in 1984 to administer the Interest on Lawyers' Trust Accounts (IOLTA) Program. Since then, TAJF has diversified its funding sources to include public and private funding.



## Success Stories Facts 2013

**104,000**  
Legal Aid Cases  
Closed

Covering all 254 counties; benefiting spouses and children dealing with domestic violence, families facing wrongful foreclosures, seniors in need of medical care, and veterans deserving of pensions and benefits.



**30**  
Million

Granted by TAJF in 2013 to 30 legal aid providers across the state.

**17.56**  
Million

Appropriated for the biennium by the 83rd Texas Legislature for basic civil legal services.

**22**  
Million

Amount of back awards secured by legal aid for their clients, and more than \$1 million in monthly benefits.

**205**  
Thousand

Donated to the Foundation by the Construction Law Section of the State Bar of Texas since 2007.

**May 28**  
2013



Chief Justice Jack Pope Act signed into law. This legislation removed the cap on fees received from the Office of the Attorney General and will eventually bring more money to legal aid.



Texas Governor's Office Photo by Stephen Stephanian



**119**  
Legal aid  
Lawyers

Received assistance through the Student Loan Repayment Assistance Program (SLRAP) graciously funded by the State Bar of Texas.



**70**  
Banks

Participate in the Texas IOLTA Prime Partner Bank Program. Prime Partner Banks pay one percent on IOLTA accounts; generating more revenue for legal services.



**4**  
Equal Justice  
Works Fellows

Supported this year by TAJF and its partners, Greenberg Traurig LLP and The John M. O'Quinn Foundation.



## Success Stories People 2013



Victor's mother had been in a coma for several months. He was using his own money to pay for household expenses and take care of his disabled siblings, but he desperately needed access to his mother's accounts to help with the bills. In addition, the doctors told Victor that his mother was not mentally competent and needed a legal guardian. Victor wasn't sure how to proceed, so he turned to legal aid for help.

Texas RioGrande Legal Aid (TRLA) helped Victor file the applications to be appointed his mother's permanent guardian, a process that allowed him to take care of both her and the rest of the family. Shortly after the filings, Victor's mother regained her health and her mental capacity. Victor then worked with TRLA to dismiss the applications and get his mother back home. Today, Victor's mother continues to be in good health.



A Vietnam Veteran who was exposed to Agent Orange was suffering from prostate cancer. At the onset of his cancer, he was designated with a 100% service connected disability. However, after surgery resolved the medical issue, he was dropped back to a 20% rating of disability by the VA. Sadly, the surgery, while eliminating the cancer, created many other medical disabilities for this client. Legal aid appealed the rating and after extensive review of his medical record, was able to get his rating up to 60%. Increasing his rating, allowed him to receive \$1026 monthly rather than the \$255 he received with the 20% rating. This increase aided him immensely in getting off the streets.

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new success stories.

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