



- There are 5.1 million Texans who qualify for legal aid.
- To qualify for legal aid, an individual must not earn more than \$13,537 per year. A family of four must not earn more than \$27,562 per year.
- Currently, Texas ranks 43rd in the nation in per capita revenue for civil legal aid.
- There is one legal aid lawyer for every 11,512 Texans who qualify for legal aid.
- In Texas, it is estimated that only 20 to 25 percent of the civil legal needs of low-income and poor residents are being met.

**RECRUIT**

**RETAIN**  
**REWARD**

# Ensuring Access to Justice for All Texans

A growing poverty population and the devastating effects of natural disasters have placed an increased burden on the delivery of legal services in Texas.

Without additional resources, even more poor and low-income Texans will be routinely denied desperately needed civil legal services.

Pro bono attorneys can help provide basic, sometimes life-saving, civil legal services, including obtaining protection orders from abusive partners, dealing with unscrupulous landlords, and accessing life-saving benefits.

The Access to Justice Toolkit contains resources and materials to support pro bono programs and volunteers and to help ensure access to justice for all Texans.

# Toolkit Contents

## Recruit

### ATJ FACT SHEET / TALKING POINTS

Statistics demonstrating the increasing need for legal services to the poor in Texas

### ASPIRATIONAL PRO BONO GOALS AND FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

A State Bar of Texas resolution encouraging Texas lawyers to aspire to provide 50 hours of legal services to the poor annually

### PRO BONO SURVEY

Details the pro bono contributions made by Bar members and the role members play in providing access to the justice system for those who cannot afford an attorney

### CLINIC-IN-A-BOX

Resources to help develop and operate a successful legal services clinic

### LIST OF VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES

Find volunteer opportunities in your county

### ACCESS TO JUSTICE CLE

Host an access to justice presentation for your bar association or attorney group

### “PRO BONO: THE DIFFERENCE IS YOU”

A video demonstrating the impact of volunteers

### SAMPLE NEWSLETTER ARTICLES

Sample newsletter articles to highlight your Bar’s pro bono efforts

## Retain

### VOLUNTEER PERKS

Find out about perks for volunteers, including malpractice insurance and free Custom CLE

### PRO BONO MENTOR PROGRAM

Work with a mentor and earn up to 5 hours of MCLE credit, including one hour of ethics

### EMERITUS ATTORNEY PROGRAM

Retired and inactive attorneys may be certified to practice law as a volunteer with an approved organization

### PRO BONO CLIENTS: STRATEGIES FOR SUCCESS

Tips to help attorneys understand and effectively serve their pro bono clients

## Reward

### FREE MEMBERSHIP IN PRO BONO COLLEGE

Recognizes attorneys who contribute at least 75 pro bono hours annually, benefits include a one-year free subscription to the TexasBarCLE Online Library (a \$295 value)

### TUITION SCHOLARSHIPS

Nominate volunteers for tuition scholarships to attend TexasBarCLE courses

### PRO BONO AWARDS

Recognition opportunities for bar associations and attorneys through the awards programs of the State Bar of Texas and the Texas Access to Justice Commission

**FIND THE TOOLKIT ONLINE AT:**

**WWW.TEXASATJ.ORG/TOOLKIT**