



The Supreme Court of Texas

CHIEF JUSTICE
WALLACE B. JEFFERSON

201 West 14th Street Post Office Box 12248 Austin TX 78711
Telephone: 512/463-1312 Facsimile: 512/463-1365

CLERK
BLAKE A. HAWTHORNE

JUSTICES

NATHAN L. HECHT
HARRIET O'NEILL
DALE WAINWRIGHT
DAVID M. MEDINA
PAUL W. GREEN
PHIL JOHNSON
DON R. WILLETT
EVA M. GUZMAN

GENERAL COUNSEL
ALICE McAFEE

ADMINISTRATIVE ASSISTANT
NADINE SCHNEIDER

PUBLIC INFORMATION OFFICER
OSLER MCCARTHY

Dear Texas Attorney:

Last year, Texas attorneys voluntarily gave more than \$618,000 through the Access to Justice contribution on the State Bar of Texas dues statement to provide civil legal services to the poor (those with an annual income of less than \$13,538 for an individual or \$27,563 for a family of four). Thanks to your generosity, Texans in critical need received basic legal help to free themselves and their children from domestic violence, to secure subsistence benefits when age or disabilities prevented them from working, and to secure protections for the elderly.

We are proud that Texas attorneys have contributed so generously for those who desperately need legal aid. However, as the economic downturn continues to drastically affect funding for legal aid, it has also resulted in an increasing number of poor Texans in need of civil legal services. Consequently, legal aid programs continue to struggle with limited resources and an ever increasing demand. We encourage your continued generosity to help ensure all Texans have access to the courthouse.

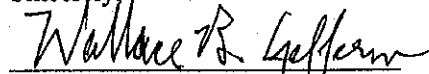
This year, you will notice a change in the format of your dues statement. A suggested voluntary contribution of \$150 has been included in your total amount due. However, the contribution remains voluntary and there is also the option to contribute another amount or to subtract the contribution. Please help by choosing to include the voluntary Access to Justice contribution when paying your dues.

In addition to generous financial contributions, Texas attorneys are also generous with their time. A recent State Bar survey shows that 58 percent of Texas lawyers performed pro bono work in 2007, with an average of 48.5 hours. The Supreme Court commends your contributions of time and talent. We recognize, however, that only a fraction of the legal needs of the poor are being addressed. Therefore, we challenge every Texas attorney to contribute 50 hours of pro bono service this year.

So that the State Bar may demonstrate the value of lawyers' service to the poor, we also encourage you to report your pro bono hours and financial contributions online at www.texasbar.com/reporting. If you do not have internet access or have questions regarding pro bono reporting, please contact Texas Lawyers Care at the State Bar at 800-204-2222, ext. 1855.


It is important for our profession to lead the way in bringing attention to this societal need and to assist in every way we can. We urge each of you to participate by contributing the suggested amount included on the dues statement and by completing the online voluntary reporting so that access to justice for all can become a reality.

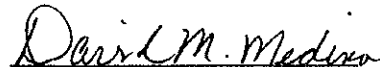
Sincerely,

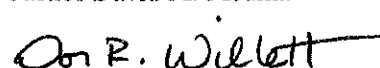

Chief Justice Wallace B. Jefferson

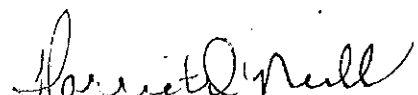

Justice Dale Wainwright


Justice Phil Johnson


Justice Nathan L. Hecht


Justice David M. Medina


Justice Don R. Willett


Justice Harriet O'Neill


Justice Paul W. Green


Justice Eva Guzman