

PRO BONO SERVICE AWARD

The Supreme Court
of Texas



The Supreme Court Task Force to Expand Legal Services Delivery will offer a \$1,000 prize to the three State Bar sections or bar organization with the best statewide pro bono projects. The Pro Bono Service Award was established to encourage State Bar of Texas sections and bar organizations to create self-sustaining pro bono projects that motivate lawyers from specialized practice areas to provide pro bono legal assistance directly to poor Texans.

As identified by the State Bar, large-sized, medium-sized, and small-sized sections and bar organizations will be recognized for having developed and implemented statewide pro bono projects that promote legal assistance to underserved populations and encourage private attorneys to provide pro bono legal assistance directly to poor Texans.

Nomination Process:

The Pro Bono Service Award is open to all State Bar of Texas sections and bar organizations. Anyone may nominate a State Bar section or bar organization by submitting a nomination form to the Texas Access to Justice Commission.

The Texas Access to
Justice Commission



Nominations must be received by 5 p.m. on **April 1, 2010**. Fax the completed nomination form to (512) 427-4160, email the completed form to ATJMail@texasbar.com, or mail the completed form to PO Box 12487 Austin, Texas 78711-2487. Nominations will be reviewed by the Texas Access to Justice Commission's Awards Committee. The three award recipients will be honored at the Local Bar Leaders Conference in July.

The **application** must contain the following information:

- 1. Nomination form;** and
- 2. Summary**

This one page summary should clearly identify the services and accomplishments of the nominee in the areas of pro bono and legal service activities that benefit poor Texans.

State Bar of Texas



Nomination Criteria:

The selection committee will review submitted materials and determine the award recipients based on one or more of the following characteristics:

- Demonstrated dedication to the development and delivery of legal services to the poor through a pro bono program
- Contribution of significant work toward developing innovative approaches to the delivery of volunteer legal service
- Participation in an activity that resulted in satisfying previously unmet needs or in extending services to underserved segments of the population

Possible pro bono projects include:

- Providing direct legal services to poor Texans in underserved communities
- Frequently staffing legal clinics for a local legal services provider in multiple cities
- Coordinating with the courts to develop a mechanism for resolving pro bono cases
- Implementing training seminars with the goal of recruiting and retaining pro bono attorneys to provide direct legal assistance in rural areas
- Collaborating with other sections to offer specialized training to legal services providers or to teach poor Texans about their legal rights
- Creating a manual that will benefit pro se litigants in a specific practice area
- Establishing a self-sustaining mentoring program encouraging attorneys to do pro bono

NOMINATION DEADLINE:

Nominations
are due
April 1, 2010.

1. NOMINATION FORM

Section/Bar Organization

Chair of Section/Bar Organization

Primary person(s) coordinating pro bono effort on behalf of section/bar organization

Pro Bono Project Name

Address

Telephone

Email

Person nominating section/bar organization for award

2. SUMMARY

Attach a one page summary explaining why the nominated section or bar organization should be selected to receive the Pro Bono Service Award. This summary must address the questions listed below.

- a. Describe the pro bono projects goal and explain how it directly benefits poor Texans.
- b. When and where did this pro bono project occur? If applicable, please list all dates and locations.
- c. How many members are registered in your section/bar organization?
- d. How many members volunteered on the nominated pro bono project?
- e. How did the section/bar organization publicize the project to its membership?
- f. How did the section/bar organization publicize the project to the targeted community?
- g. How does the section/bar organization plan to sustain this project in future years?
- h. If awarded, how will the section/bar organization reinvest the \$1000 award into the pro bono project?

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PO Box 12487 Austin, Texas 78711-2487.

Nominations will be accepted until **April 1, 2010**.