Grant Descriptions
Fall 2009 – Spring 2010

For 45 years, the Texas Bar Foundation has relied on the generosity of its Fellows to improve the lives of the people of Texas. Beginning with a $5,000 grant, the combined efforts of the Fellows over the years has resulted in the distribution of more than 850 grants throughout Texas totaling $12,210,195. The financial support has grown, and the Foundation currently has six program areas:

- Legal Aid for the Underserved
- Education of the Public
- Victim Services or Service for Moderate Income
- Professionalism/Research/Publications/Forums
- Legal Services for the Underprivileged
- Administration of Justice

During 2009-2010, the Texas Bar Foundation approved 56 grants for organizations totaling $724,665. For a more detailed description of each grant, refer to the Texas Bar Foundation website at www.txbf.org.

**Legal Services for the Underprivileged $205,667**

Texas Bar Foundation grants provided to the civil legal services for the underserved and the poor in fiscal year 2009-2010 were as follows:

**American Bar Association Fund for Justice and Education $50,000**

“South Texas Pro Bono Asylum Project”

**American Gateways $5,000**

“Immigration Pro-Bono Representation Expansion Project (I PREP)”

Increase efforts to recruit, train and support volunteer attorneys to assist with pro bono immigration cases by providing technological and other support services.

**Catholic Charities of Southeast Texas $8,774**

“Immigration Services - LawLogix Client Fees”

Provide a fee waiver, on a sliding scale, for low income families and offset labor costs when the web-based case management LawLogix is used.

**Earl Carl Institute for Legal and Social Policy, Inc. $20,000**

“Earl Carl Institute Juvenile Justice Project”

To provide direct representation to juvenile students faced with Class C Misdemeanors in Justice of the Peace courts due to school ticketing for in-school behaviors.
Houston Volunteer Lawyers Program, Inc. $23,143
“2009 Telephone System Upgrade”
Upgrade the current 1980s era telephone system to a hybrid Voice-Over-Internet-Protocol (VOIP)/ISDN system.

Las Americas Immigrant Advocacy Center $27,500
“Mexican Asylum Representation and Pro Bono Project”
Fund a year-long attorney position to handle the rise in asylum claims, as well as people seeking immigration counseling, due to the flood of refugees fleeing the violence in Northern Mexico, esp. Cuidad Juarez, across the border from El Paso.

Legal Aid Society of Lubbock $10,000
“Elder Law Community Education Division”
To license, copy and distribute basic information about legal issues of particular concern to the elderly.

Oficina Legal del Pueblo Unido., D.B.A. Texas Civil Rights Project $5,250
“The VAWA (Violence Against Women Act) Circuit Rider Program”
To provide laptops to Circuit Rider Program using advocates who travel to rural Texas to help abused immigrants who qualify under the federal Violence Against Women Act to file the necessary documentation to separate from their abusive spouses, secure legal status in the US, and find gainful employment to support themselves and their children.

State Bar of Texas $20,000
“Texas Lawyers for Texas Veterans”
Program to offer a coordinated network of volunteer lawyers to assist veterans who do not have access to or cannot afford legal counsel.

Texas Legal Services Center $16,000
“Disaster Assistance - Technology Support Project”
To purchase/configure three new servers to improve collaboration and communications, enhance basic networks and computing capabilities and provide enhanced disaster recovery.
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<tr>
<th>Organization</th>
<th>Amount</th>
<th>Project Description</th>
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<tr>
<td>Texas Access to Justice Commission</td>
<td>$20,000</td>
<td>“Access to Justice Summer Internship Program”</td>
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<tr>
<td>Education of the Public</td>
<td>$184,289</td>
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<tr>
<td>Amarillo Area Bar Foundation</td>
<td>$12,000</td>
<td>“Centennial Historical Minute”</td>
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<td>To celebrate the 100th anniversary of the Amarillo Area Bar Association and to highlight and preserve the legal, political, educational and civic contributions of Texas Panhandle lawyers by producing and broadcasting a series of one minute &quot;spots&quot; on the area PBS affiliate.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Bexar County Women's Bar Foundation</td>
<td>$9,500</td>
<td>“Elder Law Handbook Project”</td>
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<td>Print and distribute to the general public, in particular targeting the senior population in the San Antonio area, an updated Elder Law Handbook which will include changes or additions to the law made by the Legislature.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Communities in Schools Houston, Inc.</td>
<td>$10,500</td>
<td>“Legal Internship Program”</td>
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<td>Summer Employment program designed to provide at-risk students with fulfilling positions over their summer break in a variety of Houston area public legal offices, as well as law firms and corporate legal institutions.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Foundation of the American Board of Trial Advocates</td>
<td>$5,000</td>
<td>“Justice by the People”</td>
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<td>Support of Constitutional website for middle school teachers and their students, promoted to teachers by word of mouth by ABOTA members in their home states and email promotions.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Houston Urban Debate League</td>
<td>$12,500</td>
<td>“2010 HUDL Summer Workshop”</td>
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<td>To expand a weeklong summer program at the University of Houston for students from traditionally underserved communities to teach interscholastic debate.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Houston Young Lawyers Association</td>
<td>$14,615</td>
<td>“Law-Related Education Awareness Programs for Texas Teens”</td>
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<td>Programs promoting awareness to middle and high school students on important legal topics potentially impacting their lives and how to have a voice in democracy to help improve their world.</td>
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Lambda Legal Defense and Education Fund, Inc.  
“Promoting LGBT Rights Within Texas' Black Legal Community”  
Engage in regionally focused outreach to Texas' black legal community to better inform them about the unique legal issues impacting their lesbian, gay, bisexual, and transgender clients.

$1,500  

National Alliance for the Mentally Ill (NAMI)- Texas  
“Criminal Justice Resources Project”  
A pilot project to develop comprehensive written resources for families of individuals with mental illness who become involved with the criminal and juvenile justice system.

$15,000  

State Bar of Texas Committee on Law Focused Education  
“Play by the Rules ...Texas Law for Youth Workshops”  
To provide one-day workshops for teachers in El Paso, Houston, Richardson, San Antonio, Edinburg, and Beaumont who agree to implement a new curriculum designed to teach Texas students about the laws to which our state holds them accountable.

$11,814  

Texas Center for Legal Ethics and Professionalism  
“Enhancing Access to Ethics-based Continuing Legal Education”  
To provide for videographer, creation & duplication of tapes, postage, printing and other supplies to produce a series of short DVD programs, approved for MCLE ethics credit, on various ethics topics that will be made available to local bar associations at no charge.

$6,500  

Texas Young Lawyers Association  
“Cyber Safety and Kids”  
A DVD project to educate children and their parents about online dangers and give them the tools needed to be safe and protected while online.

$42,750  

Dallas Urban Debate Alliance  
“Dallas Urban Debate”  
To recruit, train, support and professionalize teachers at participating high schools in Dallas ISD as their school's debate coach.

$30,000  

Workers Defense Project  
“Workers Rights Education Project”  
To expand the current Workers' Rights and Responsibilities Education Project to include training designed for contractors who have become small business owners.

$12,610
**Victim Services $243,209**

**Alliance for Children, Inc.**  
$15,000  
“Group Counseling Program”  
Group counseling program salaries, for client counseling and client screening.

**Better Business Bureau Foundation of El Paso, Inc.**  
$3,000  
“BBBF/El Paso County Arbitration Program”  
To provide arbitrator training for a program with the El Paso County Attorney's office for a special arbitration process in local contractor cases.

**Bluebonnet Court Appointed Special Advocates (CASA) of Central Texas, Inc.**  
$935  
“Justice for Children”  
To improve volunteer recruitment.

**Casa de Esperanza**  
$30,000  
“Adoption Program”  
To cover all legal expenses associated with relinquishment, termination of parental rights and the consummation of an adoption for children in crisis due to abuse, neglect, or the effects of HIV.

**Court Appointed Special Advocates (CASA) for Kids of Austin, Waller and Washington Counties**  
$10,000  
“Program Expansion”  
Hiring a part-time volunteer supervisor to assist the volunteer coordinator in supervising the growing number of volunteers.

**Court Appointed Special Advocates (CASA) of Central Texas, Inc.**  
$12,500  
“Court Program Services/Casework Supervisor to train and support community volunteers”  
Partially fund salary and benefits for a casework supervisor to train and guide community volunteers.

**Court Appointed Special Advocates (CASA) of Grayson County**  
$6,800  
“Casework Management”  
Support current volunteer/program expenses and to solicit, recruit, train and manage new volunteers through a case work supervisor.

**Court Appointed Special Advocates (CASA) of Tarrant County**  
$15,000  
“New Caseworker Supervisor Position”  
To recruit and hire a casework supervisor due to the increased number of abused and neglected children that are in need of advocacy services.
Court Appointed Special Advocates (CASA) of the South Plains, Inc. $2,429
“Eyes for the Children”
Camera and audio equipment for two visitation rooms to provide live surveillance and record one hour visitations between children and parents which will be used to substantiate the written report provided to the state and judge regarding the visits to further promote the best interests of the children.

Center Against Family Violence $13,145
“"Un Camino Sin Violencia"/"A Path Without Violence"”
To fund a translator in an effort to combat the "epidemic" of family violence in the El Paso region by helping all immigrant persons to "self-petition" and gain lawful permanent residency without their abusive spouse's help or knowledge and gain safety and independence from their abuser.

Center for Child Protection $4,600
“Advanced Multidisciplinary Training in Child Abuse Investigations”
To provide two, advanced one-day trainings for the multidisciplinary teams who ensure that the parties responsible for investigating and intervening with child victims and their family members have the knowledge and skills to do their jobs.

Center for Family Relations d/b/a San Antonio Kids Exchange $11,200
“Monitored Exchange Program”
To provide 20 low income families scholarships for a Monitored Exchange Program in order to remove children from direct parental conflict and provide an emotionally and physically safe place where they can be transferred from one parent to the other for visitation.

Centers for Children and Families, Inc. $9,850
“Kids First”
To improve the successful transition for low income client families from monitored to unsupervised visits and exchanges, this new project will incorporate clinical treatment elements into a continuum of services that will effectively address each family's unique circumstance.

Child Advocates San Antonio Court Appointed Special Advocates (CASA) $8,750
“Transitioning Youth Initiative: Working with the Legal System to Help Children in Need”
Transitioning Youth Initiative supervisor to provide life skills training, educational motivation, and job readiness to youth 15-21 preparing to exit state care.
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<tr>
<th>Organization</th>
<th>Amount</th>
<th>Description</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>VSTEP Inc.</td>
<td>$5,000</td>
<td>“Development of Crime Victims' Rights Enforcement Curriculum and Implementation of Education Program”</td>
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<td>Develop a victims' rights enforcement curriculum and an online education program to increase public awareness about victims' rights and compliance.</td>
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<td>Dallas Children's Advocacy Center</td>
<td>$10,000</td>
<td>“22nd Annual Crimes Against Children Conference”</td>
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<td>Crimes Against Children Conference targets law enforcement officers, child protection caseworkers, prosecutors, medical professionals and therapists fighting child abuse on a daily basis.</td>
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<tr>
<td>El Paso ISD Delta Academy</td>
<td>$12,500</td>
<td>“Encouraging and Improving Literacy for El Paso's Detained Youth”</td>
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<td>Create a school library for detained youth.</td>
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<td>Human Rights Initiative of North Texas, Inc.</td>
<td>$10,000</td>
<td>“Women and Children's Program Attorney”</td>
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<td>Partial Salary for Women and Children's Program Attorney.</td>
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<td>Santa Maria Hostel, Inc.</td>
<td>$12,500</td>
<td>“Court Liaison Client Services”</td>
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<td>Partial funding of a court liaison working with pregnant and parenting women in residential treatment.</td>
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<td>Tahirih Justice Center</td>
<td>$10,000</td>
<td>“Reaching New Survivors: Outreach and Representation for Immigrant Women and Girls Fleeing Violence”</td>
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<td>Direct representation through in-house and outside pro bono attorneys for immigrant women who are victims of gender based harm and who are entitled to protection by US law, with targeted outreach to immigrant communities and professionals working with immigrants.</td>
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<td>Texas Council on Family Violence</td>
<td>$2,000</td>
<td>“Limited English Proficiency: From Rights to Reality”</td>
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<td>The project will train legal advocates statewide on current laws, the barriers for limited English proficiency victims and support the development &amp; distribution of a brochure for victims that explains the law and their legal rights.</td>
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<td>The Women's Center of Tarrant County</td>
<td>$15,000</td>
<td>“Rape Crisis &amp; Victims Services”</td>
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<td>To provide crisis counseling, crisis hotline, support and accompaniment for victims and significant others through the criminal justice process.</td>
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<td>Organization</td>
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<td>Project Description</td>
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<tr>
<td>Texas Migrant Council Inc.</td>
<td>$10,000</td>
<td>“Safety First Project”</td>
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<td>Surveillance Equipment to allow secured/detailed supervision of children and parents during an exchange or visitation with non-custodial parent.</td>
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<td>Women's Protective Services of Lubbock, Inc.</td>
<td>$3,500</td>
<td>“Regional Outreach/Community Education Project”</td>
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<td>To purchase laptops to increase the availability of legal advocacy, community education, information and referral for victims of domestic violence in a 12-county service area around Lubbock.</td>
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<td>Youth Conflict Resolution Center</td>
<td>$9,500</td>
<td>“Five Hour Conflict Resolution Training”</td>
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<td>To provide a free five hour conflict resolution workshop for youth in the Dallas Metroplex who have been referred by the Truancy Courts and individuals in the community.</td>
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<td>Legal Services for Low Income Defendants</td>
<td>$22,500</td>
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<td>Criminal District Court No. 7</td>
<td>$15,000</td>
<td>“Specialized Veterans Court for Dallas County”</td>
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<td>Special court to increase access to mental health and addictions treatment for those veterans with felony and misdemeanor offenses.</td>
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<td>Southwest Key Programs</td>
<td>$7,500</td>
<td>“Community Service for Juvenile Offenders: A Pilot Project to Improve Outcomes Utilizing the Cultural Arts”</td>
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<td>To implement and test an innovative program that seeks to improve outcomes for youth assigned community service by the Travis County Juvenile Probation Department.</td>
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<td>Administration of Justice through Research/Publications/Forums</td>
<td>$69,000</td>
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<tr>
<td>Office of Court Administration</td>
<td>$10,000</td>
<td>“Texas Forum on Self-Represented Litigants and the Courts”</td>
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<td>Symposium to address the increasing number of self-represented litigants interacting with Texas courts and to equip courts and other stakeholders in the judicial system with strategies for meeting this challenge.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Texas Center for the Judiciary, Inc.</td>
<td>$25,000</td>
<td>“Annual Judicial Education Conference - Texas Bar Foundation Day”</td>
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<td>Texas Bar Foundation Day during the 12 hour CJE Judicial Section Annual Conference.</td>
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</table>
Free Market Foundation $9,000
“Year-Round Legal Intern Program”
A year round legal intern program to provide students with opportunities to work on actual cases with litigators across the state in defense of Constitutional freedoms.

Texas Appleseed $15,000
“Improving the Lives of Children in Long-Term Foster Care”
To provide printing, publishing and distribution of a major study of the obstacles facing children in long-term foster care, called Permanent Managing Conservatorship, which examines how the courts and the legal system can be improved to better support and serve these children.

Texas Criminal Defense Lawyers Education Institute $10,000
“Annual Forensics Seminar”
To provide travel scholarships for Innocence Project Students to attend the 8th Annual Forensics Seminar which trains defense attorneys, investigators, and their staff in good forensic science by having scientists provide an overview of the possibilities and limits of the field.