

A Message from Your Fellows Chair

\$1,529,051 - 2022-2023

\$1,667,163 - 2023-2024

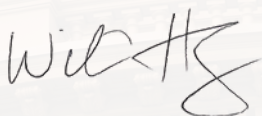
\$1,743,985 - 2024-2025

That's how much, over the last three years, your Bar Foundation has given in grants to Texas charities: funding programs that help fellow Texans. You probably already know we are the largest charitably funded bar foundation in the nation. But what you may not know—what I didn't know—is just how many groups there are across our state that need our grants, that will use our grants in tremendous ways, and who embody our mission of enhancing the rule of law and the system of justice in Texas. While the work of the Texas Bar Foundation is incredible, we aren't able to fully fund all the grant requests.

That is where you, our Fellows, come in. The year-after-year numbers keep increasing, but so do the needs of Texans. Becoming a Fellow was one of the highlights of my career. Now, becoming Fellows Chair, I know I join a long list of esteemed leaders who made those numbers what they are today. I hope you, our Fellows, all know how important your support is to our mission. The Board will continue to be good stewards of your donations, but more is needed.

I encourage **Fellows** to become **Life Fellows** and **Life Fellows** to become **Sustaining Life Fellows**. Let me or your district's nominating chair know about your colleagues that deserve a new Fellow nomination. Encourage local charities to request a grant.

I look forward to celebrating, with you all, another increase in our grant total and welcoming 500 new Fellows in Houston, **June 12, 2026**, at our Annual Dinner. My wife even gave me permission to wear my wedding tuxedo jacket to the Annual Dinner if we hit our new Fellows goal.



William G. Hagans, Fellows Chair, Sustaining Life Fellow



Congratulations to our 2025 Texas Bar Foundation Award Recipients!



Standing: Carlos Eduardo Cárdenas, Jeffrey S. Levinger, Amy M. Stewart, William H. Ford,
Gus G. Tamborello, Andrew S. Murr, Senior Justice Debra Lehrmann, Sara E. Dysart.
Seated: Andrew L. Kerr, Hon. Diane DeVasto, Luther H. 'Luke' Soules III, Hon. Ruby Kless Sondock,
Barbara K. Runge.

Sara E. Dysart and
Georganna L. Simpson

Outstanding 50 Year Lawyer Award

Hon. Diane DeVasto, Tyler
Andrew L. Kerr, San Antonio
Barbara K. Runge, Houston
Hon. Ruby Kless Sondock, Houston
Luther H. 'Luke' Soules III, San Antonio

Dan Rugeley Price Memorial Award

Georganna L. Simpson, Dallas

Lola Wright Foundation Award

Andrew S. Murr, Junction

Ronald D. Secrest Outstanding Trial Lawyer Award

William H. Ford, San Antonio

Outstanding Law Review Article Award

Gus G. Tamborello, Houston

Samuel Pessarra Outstanding Jurist Award

Senior Justice Debra Lehrmann, Supreme Court of
Texas, Austin

Gregory S. Coleman Outstanding Appellate Lawyer Award

Jeffrey S. Levinger, Dallas

Terry Lee Grantham Memorial Award

Amy M. Stewart, Dallas

2025 ANNUAL DINNER

On June 20, 2025, in San Antonio, Fellows from across Texas, along with their families and friends, gathered for a special evening with the Texas Bar Foundation. Together, we celebrated an incredible year of impact, the Foundation's ongoing commitment to justice and service, and the outstanding individuals honored with our annual legal awards. The event was a meaningful tribute to their achievements and a moment to reflect on all we've accomplished as a Foundation. Thank you for being part of this memorable evening. We look forward to another year of growth, service, and shared success!

A SPECIAL THANK YOU TO OUR SPONSORS



Judy Barton, MLS
&
BNY | WEALTH

Sara E. Dysart
&
Diana M. Geis

Beck | Redden LLP
The Trial and Appellate Law Firm

Luther H. 'Luke' Soules III

Tito's
HANDMADE VODKA

Bradley
HAGANS

SCHLANGER
SILVER

T SCHOOL
OF LAW
TEXAS TECH

UNDERWOOD
UWLAW.COM

CentralMarket

Jim S. Adler & Associates
Kastl Law, P.C.

Kelly Hart & Hallman LLP
Lighthouse Legal Services, PLLC
University of Houston Law Center
The University of Texas School of Law
Chad Baruch & Veronica Gutierrez
Carlos Cárdenas Attorney / Mediator
Cindy & Roland K. Johnson
Patrick Keel, Mediator-Arbitrator
Koehler Law Firm Mediation
Carmen I. Perez
Texas Lawyers' Insurance Exchange
Hon. Carolyn Wright-Sanders



1. Wes Palmer, Karen Palmer, Laura Gibson, Barbara K. Runge, Steve Box, Hon. Ruby Kless Sondock, John Uri, Susan Myres
2. Sara E. Dysart and Dean Patricia Roberts
3. Claude E. Ducloux and Mark G. Sessions
4. TYLA Past-Presidents: Berry P. Crowley, James W. Wester, William B. Mateja, Judge Melody Wilkinson, Judge Bill Miller, Sylvia A. Cardona, Cori A. Harbour, Natalie Koehler Denbow, C. Barrett Thomas, Samuel V. Houston III, Baili B. Rhodes, Sally L. Pretorius, Britney E. Harrison, Michael J. Ritter, Laura W. Pratt
5. Deborah L. Cordova, Carlos Eduardo Cárdenas, Sylvia A. Cardona and Patrick Keel
6. Valerie and James W. Huggler
7. Dr. Tim Matis and Wendy A. Humphrey
8. Samantha Felicien, Lance Felicien, Judge Elisabeth Earle, Justice Gina M. Benavides, and Judge Rebecca Palomo
9. Patrick Aana, Harlan Jones, Ruby Boone, Anietie Akpan, Gabrielle Smith and Parth S. Geji

IMPACT ACROSS TEXAS

AUSTIN CLASSICAL GUITAR *Guitar Education in the Texas Juvenile Justice System*

"We at Austin Classical Guitar are deeply grateful for the ongoing support of our evolving work in the Texas Juvenile Justice System. We are very proud to have developed Texas' first and only daily, for-credit performing arts courses for incarcerated youth in state history, and thankful for the fifteen years and thousands of hours we have been able to work in this space. Our work is designed to bring caring and compassion through music to young people struggling through profound difficulty. Over time this has turned into friendship, dedication, artistry, and courageous triumph. It's all possible thanks to supporters like the Texas Bar Foundation."

Dr. Matthew Hinsley, Executive Director, Austin Classical Guitar



On the left corner is Francisco de la Rosa, ACG Teaching Artist, and on the right corner is Hector Aguilar, ACG Director of Juvenile Justice Services



Dr. Matthew Hinsley, Executive Director, Austin Classical Guitar accompanied by TXBF Trustee Judge Elisabeth Earle



2023-2024 Texas Bar Foundation Chair Geoffrey W. Anderson



2025 Texas Elder Justice Coalition Summit Attendees

GUARDIANSHIP SERVICES

2025 Texas Elder Justice Coalition Summit

"The Texas Bar Foundation's support was instrumental to the Summit's success and underscored the urgency of our shared mission to protect vulnerable Texans. Together, we convened elder justice advocates from across the state—including professionals from Adult Protective Services, law enforcement, the legal field, social services, financial institutions, higher education, and other sectors. Participants shared valuable insights on current financial exploitation trends, new tools to combat abuse, and the persistent challenges of prevention and prosecution. The response to the Summit has been overwhelmingly positive—and we've already begun planning for next year."

Dana Hoffman, Coordinator of the Texas Elder Justice Coalition

IMPACTFUL GIVING: GRANTEE HIGHLIGHTS AND APPRECIATION



1. Niki McCuistion, Co-founder-Executive Producer of Perspectives Matter, and Baillie Milliken, TXBF Executive Director
2. Dr. Mary Jane Hetrick, Board President of Foster Village Inc.
3. Ola Campbell, with Tarrant County Young Lawyers Association
4. Natalie Koehler Denbow, Justin Wood, Caleb Alford, Director of Community Services, The ARC of the Capital Area, and Judge Elisabeth Earle

Each bar year, the Texas Bar Foundation hosts Fellows Appreciation Receptions throughout Texas to recognize and celebrate the generosity of our Fellows. These events often include local grant recipients who share how Foundation funding has helped advance their mission and serve their communities in meaningful ways.

We extend our sincere thanks to this year's participating organizations: Foundation for Responsible Television, Tarrant County Young Lawyers Association, Foster Village Inc., The ARC of the Capital Area, Proyecto Azteca, Better at Last, El Paso County, Children's Advocacy Center of Smith County, and Guardian House. Their powerful stories highlighted the real-world impact of our Fellows support.

All Fellows are welcome to attend any reception, and we'd love to see you at one soon. Visit our website to view upcoming dates and locations.

HELP US SPREAD THE WORD



Please encourage non-profit organizations in your area whose work aligns with our mission to apply for a grant. Requirements and applications can be found online on our website txbf.org.

**Next Grant Deadline: January 15, 2026
at 5 PM central time.**



Want to learn more?
Scan the QR code to check out our Grant history or visit www.txbf.org

DO YOU KNOW AN OUTSTANDING ATTORNEY?

Help us recognize your esteemed colleagues and mentors in the legal profession. Each year, the Texas Bar Foundation honors those who exemplify the highest standards of legal practice. The 2026 award recipients will be celebrated at our Annual Dinner on Friday, June 12, 2026, in Houston. Nominees for these prestigious awards do not need to be Fellows of the Foundation. We welcome all nominations of individuals who have made significant contributions to the legal field.



Nominate Now!
Scan the QR code to submit a nomination

2025-2026 TEXAS BAR FOUNDATION BOARD OF TRUSTEES

BOARD OF TRUSTEES OFFICERS

Chair	Kenda Culpepper
Chair-Elect	Sylvia A. Cardona
Secretary-Treasurer	Deborah J. Race
Past Chair	Carlos Eduardo Cárdenas

FELLOWS OFFICERS

Fellows Chair	William G. Hagans
Fellows Chair-Elect	Diana M. Geis
Fellows Secretary	Christy Amuny
Past Fellows Chair	Sara E. Dysart

TRUSTEES

Teddy Adams	Anne Dobson*	Mike Micallef*	Brandy Wingate Voss - State Bar Liaison
Judy Barton*	Judge Elisabeth Earle	Laura Pratt	Alyson A. Martinez - TYLA Liaison
Chad Baruch	Judge Roy B. Ferguson	Judge Penny Roberts	Judge Victor G. Villarreal - Judicial Liaison
Justice Gina M. Benavides	Sara Foskitt	Jaime A. Saenz	
David N. Calvillo	Laura Gibson	Michael C. Smith	
Kelly-Ann F. Clarke	Cori A. Harbour	Kristal Thomson	
Deborah L. Cordova	Wendy A. Humphrey	Andy Tindel	

*Public Member

THANK YOU TO OUR 2024-2025 BOARD OF TRUSTEES



Top Row: Hisham Masri, Laura Gibson, David Courreges, Andy Tindel, Mike Micallef, James W. Wester, Judge Les Hatch, Teddy Adams, Judge Bill Miller
Middle Row: Jaime A. Saenz, Carmen Huerta-Perez, Judge Roy B. Ferguson, Chad Baruch, David N. Calvillo, Natalie Koehler Denbow, Judge Penny Roberts, Deborah L. Cordova, Cori A. Harbour, Gail Plummer, Judy Barton, Judge Elisabeth Earle
Bottom Row: Patrick Keel, Diana M. Geis, William G. Hagans, Sara E. Dysart, Carlos Eduardo Cárdenas, Kenda Culpepper, Sylvia A. Cardona, Geffrey W. Anderson, Baillie Milliken
Not Pictured: Talmage Boston, Deborah J. Race, Kristal Thomson

2025-2026 NOMINATING CHAIRS

(AS OF AUGUST 15TH)

DISTRICT 1

Leslie S. Johnson
Plano

Scott Snellings
Frisco

DISTRICT 2

Tamer T. Abouras
Longview

Leigh Hunt Goodson
Tyler

Kristen M. Senkyr
Tyler

DISTRICT 3

Christy Amuny
Beaumont

Judge Courtney Arkeen
Orange

Patrick R. Scott
Conroe

DISTRICT 4

Justice Jennifer Caughey
Houston

Eric Gerard
Houston

Laura Gibson
Houston

Michael K. Oldham
Houston

DISTRICT 5

Jeffery F. Nadalo
Lake Jackson

James L. Ware
Houston

DISTRICT 6

Matthew J. Kolodoski
Dallas

Courtney Perez
Dallas

Gregory W. Sampson
Dallas

DISTRICT 7

Geffrey W. Anderson
Fort Worth

Brian C. Newby
Fort Worth

DISTRICT 8

Judge Roy D. Brantley
Bryan

Angela R. Cruseturner
Waco

Jennifer Richie
Frisco

DISTRICT 9

Ryan Botkin
Austin

Dave Floyd
Austin

Sara M. Foskitt
Austin

DISTRICT 10

Kristal Thomson
San Antonio

Justice Beth Watkins
San Antonio

DISTRICT 11

Judge Deeanne Galvan
Corpus Christi

Kayla McMains
Corpus Christi

Kathy Mills
Corpus Christi

DISTRICT 12

Cynthia L. Benavides
Weslaco

Deborah L. Cordova
Edinburg

DISTRICT 13

J. Shane Brooks
Amarillo

Courtney M. White
Amarillo

DISTRICT 14

Russell Lorfing
Abilene

DISTRICT 15

David H. Brock
Boerne

Daniel O'Brien
Dripping Springs

DISTRICT 16

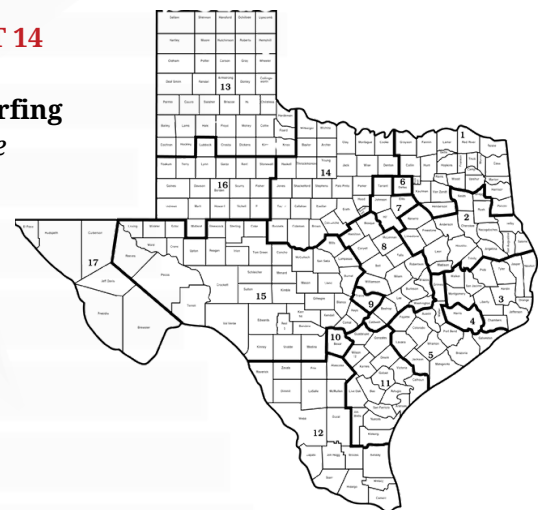
Wendy A. Humphrey
Lubbock

Roger A. Key
Lubbock

DISTRICT 17

Alejandro Acosta III
El Paso

Daniel H. Hernandez
El Paso



NOMINATE A FELLOW:

Do you know an attorney who excels in the legal profession and contributes significantly to the community? Consider nominating them for the 2025-2026 Fellows Class. Contact your district Nominating Chair or visit txbf.org for more information.

QUICK INSIGHTS

\$1,743,985

Grants awarded 2024-2025 grant cycle

135

Non-Profit organizations awarded in 2024-2025

524

New Fellows welcomed in 2024-2025



REMEMBER AND CELEBRATE LEGAL LEADERS WITH HONOR AND MEMORIAL GIFTS

An honor or memorial gift to the Texas Bar Foundation celebrates the legacy of a cherished colleague or mentor.

Mark work anniversaries, milestones or memorialize someone special with a contribution that honors their impact.

To make a gift, call (512) 480-8000 or visit www.txbf.org/donate

**More than \$29,000,000
Awarded in grants
since inception**

Texas Bar Foundation

515 Congress Ave., Ste. 1755
Austin, TX 78701

(512)-480-8000

info@txbf.org

www.txbf.org

Connect With Us:



@Texas Bar Foundation

