



PRO BONO SERVICE AWARD

The Texas Access to Justice Commission will offer a \$1,000 prize to the three State Bar sections or bar organizations with the best 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, medium and small sized sections and bar organizations (large = 2000+ members, medium = 501-2000 members; small = up to 500 members) will compete against other similarly sized groups to develop and implement pro bono projects that promote legal assistance to underserved populations and encourage private attorneys to provide pro bono legal assistance directly to poor Texans. Only one section or organization will be selected for each similarly sized group. The winning recipient must not have received this award for the same program within the last three years.

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. **Submit nominations before 5PM on Monday, May 15, 2017.** Fax the completed nomination form to (512) 427-4160, email the completed form to atjmail@texasbar.com or mail form to PO Box 1248 Austin, Texas 78711-2487. Nominations will be reviewed by the Texas Access to Justice Commission's Awards Committee.

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

1. Nomination Form; and
2. Summary

Nomination Criteria:

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

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;
- Contributed significant work toward developing innovative approaches to the delivery of volunteer legal service; and
- Participated 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; and
- Establishing a self-sustaining mentoring program encouraging attorneys to do pro bono.

Send completed form by fax (512) 427-4160 or email atjmail@texasbar.com.

Submit nominations before 5PM Monday, May 15, 2017.



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/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 project's 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 section/bar organization 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?