



## 2026 Deborah G. Hankinson Awards

The Deborah G. Hankinson Awards honors local bar associations and young lawyer affiliates that demonstrate a commitment to access to justice in their communities and to raising financial support for legal service providers on a local and statewide basis. There will be only one recipient for each of four award categories.

There are four Deborah G. Hankinson Awards:

1. **Division I:** local and district bar associations with a membership of 500 or less
2. **Division II:** local and district bar associations with a membership of 501 to 1,999
3. **Division III:** local and district bar associations with a membership of 2,000+
4. **Young Lawyer Affiliate:** each young lawyer affiliate also has an opportunity to receive this award. There is one separate division for the young lawyer affiliate.

### Award Criteria:

#### **Financial Support for Access to Justice (50%)**

- Rate of voluntary ATJ contributions made at the suggested \$150 level or more through State Bar dues statement (15 points). This information will be determined by the State Bar Membership Department.
- Local bar fundraising and donation efforts; examples include: bike ride, gala, golf tournament, pro bono prom, etc., with proceeds benefitting local legal aid organizations (15 points)
- Number of first time donors (15 points)
- Largest donation contributed (5 points)

#### **Access to Justice – Initiatives and Awareness (50%)**

- Specific efforts to increase access to legal aid services: Examples include hosting free legal advice clinic, creating a local lawyer referral service or reduced fee panel on the local lawyer referral service, and efforts to increase pro bono participation. (25 points)
- Specific efforts to increase awareness of access to justice issues on a local or statewide basis: Examples include inviting speakers to give presentations on access to justice, limited scope representation or other related topics; developing and providing presentations on topics related to access to justice and pro bono work; and visiting local legislators to educate them about the importance of legal services to the poor. (25 points)

The nomination period runs from May to June of each year, with the awards presented at the annual State Bar of Texas Local Bar Leaders Conference in July.



## 2026 Deborah G. Hankinson Award Nomination Form

**Deadline for submission is June 12, 2026, at 4 pm.**

### Award Division (Check One):

- Division I:** local and district bar associations with a membership of 500 or less
- Division II:** local and district bar associations with a membership of 501 to 1,999
- Division III:** local and district bar associations with a membership of 2,000+
- Young Lawyer Affiliate:** each young lawyer affiliate also has an opportunity to receive this award. There is one separate division for the young lawyer affiliate.

### Nominee information

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Name of Bar Association

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Membership Size

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Name of Bar President

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Address

City

Zip Code

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Phone Number(s)

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Email

### A. Financial Support for Access to Justice

1) Please provide the following (the time period is June 1 of last year through May 31 of this year):

- a. Number of first-time individual donors: \_\_\_\_\_ (15 points)
- b. Largest donation amount contributed by an individual: \_\_\_\_\_ (5 points)
- c. Rate of voluntary ATJ contribution made at the suggested \$150 level or more through State Bar dues statement: (Information will be provided by the State Bar Membership Dept.) (15 points)



**NOTE: If more space is needed for any question(s) on this page, please supplement with attachments and label appropriately.**

2) Please describe the bar association's/young affiliate's fundraising and donation efforts. Examples include bike rides, galas, and golf tournaments. (15 points)

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**B. Initiative and Awareness**

1) Please list specific efforts to increase access to legal aid services. Examples include hosting free legal advice clinics, creating local lawyer referral service/reduced fee panels, and efforts to increase pro bono participation. (25 points)

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2) Please list specific efforts to increase awareness of access to justice issues on a local or statewide basis. Examples include inviting speakers to give presentations on access to justice, limited scope representation, or other related topics; developing and providing presentations on topics related to access to justice and pro bono work; and visiting legislators to educate them about the importance of legal services to the poor. (25 points)

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