



2025 Deborah G. Hankinson Awards

The Deborah G. Hankinson Awards honor local bar associations and young lawyer organization that demonstrates 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 award recipient for each division. In 2013, the Texas Access to Justice Commission began using an application process to determine local bar associations and young lawyer organization award recipients.

Each bar association has an opportunity to receive this award based on its division. The divisions are:

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+

Each young lawyer organization also has an opportunity to receive this award. There is one division for the young lawyer affiliate.

Award Criteria (Criteria and application can also be found online www.texasatj.org/awards)

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; efforts to increase pro bono participation; etc. (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; visiting local legislators to educate them about the importance of legal services to the poor; encouraging attorneys to bank at a Prime Partner Bank; etc. (25 points)

NOTE: To streamline award applications, you may have the access to justice portion of the State Bar of Texas Award of Merit application or the TYLA Awards of Achievement sent to the Texas Access to Justice Commission to be considered in your application for the Deborah G. Hankinson Award. You will need to check a box on the enclosed Deborah G. Hankinson Award Application to release this information to us.



2025 Deborah G. Hankinson Award Nomination

The award 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 award category. Each category is worth 50 points for a total 100-point judging scale. **Deadline for submission is May 9, 2025, at 4 pm.**

Nominee information

Name of Bar Association

Name of Bar President

Address

City

Zip Code

Phone Number(s)

Email

Bar Association/Young Lawyer Affiliate Division

The State Bar of Texas Award of Merit and the Texas Young Lawyers Association Awards of Achievement have an access to justice component. If you applied for either award and would like the access to justice information to be considered for the Hankinson Award, check here: **Yes** **No**

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)

Please return completed form to the Texas Access to Justice Commission.
Email: atjmail@texasatj.org

www.texasatj.org/awards



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

- 2) Please describe the bar association/young affiliates fundraising and donation efforts. Examples include bike rides, gala, golf tournament, pro bono prom, etc. (15 points)

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, efforts to increase pro bono participation. (25 points)

- 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; visiting legislators to educate them about the importance of legal services to the poor; encouraging attorneys to bank at a Prime Partner Bank; etc. (25 points)
