PAUL FURRH, JR. Attorney at Law Chief Executive Officer

DWAYNE BILTONAttorney at Law
Chief Operating Officer

SAUNDRA BROWN Managing Attorney Disaster Response Unit



Mailing Address: 1415 Fannin, CIU Houston, Texas 77002

713-652-0077 Telephone 800-733-8394 Toll free 713-658-9278 Fax

CONTACT: Saundra Brown

Lone Star Legal Aid 713-982-1980

Saundra.brown@lonestarlegal.org

FREE LEGAL AID TO WILDFIRE VICTIMS

73% OF TEXAS WILDFIRES HAVE OCCURRED IN LONE STAR LEGAL AID'S SERVICE AREA

Houston, Texas – September 13, 2011 – Lone Star Legal Aid (LSLA) is responding to the needs of residents of East Texas counties affected by wildfires. With offices throughout East Texas, LSLA offers free legal assistance to help families with legal issues related to their losses such as replacing important papers, filing insurance claims, dealing with mortgage companies and landlords and avoiding problems with contractors.

"Our staff is working to contact every shelter and victims' services center across the region," said attorney Saundra Brown, who manages LSLA's Disaster Response Unit. "Lone Star serves 76 counties from Matagorda into southwest Arkansas, including the counties with over 73% of the fires since November 2010. We are working in partnership with the American Red Cross and have people out in the field in Grimes, Waller, Montgomery, Gregg, Smith, Polk and several other counties to make sure everyone knows how we can help."

Brown said that Lone Star Legal Aid is prepared to be involved for some time to come. "We are here for the long haul," she said. "We will remain available to help as many people as we can, whether it is related to getting emergency food stamps or helping people avoid repair and rebuilding scam artists."

LSLA, with its strong disaster relief expertise, has offices in Tyler, Nacogdoches, Longview, Bryan, Conroe and eight other cities across the eastern portion of the state. The nonprofit firm works directly with eligible victims as well as with other groups who provide services after disasters. Residents who need assistance can call their local Lone Star Legal Aid office or the state-wide toll-free hotline at (800) 504-7030.

Helpful information has been updated by several organizations in the <u>Disaster Relief</u> section of <u>www.TexasLawHelp.org</u>, and LSLA will continue to post updates via Facebook and Twitter (@LStarLegal) as more information becomes available about resources and responses to the fires.

Lone Star Legal Aid (www.LoneStarLegal.org) is the fourth largest service provider of free legal aid in the United States. LSLA serves an area that covers one-third of the state Texas, including over 63,000 square miles across 72 counties from Texarkana, to the Louisiana-Texas Gulf Coast state-line, down to Matagorda Bay, and four counties of southwest Arkansas. LSLA is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization dedicated to protecting and advancing the civil legal rights of low-income Texans by providing advocacy, legal representation and community education that ensures equal access to justice.

MEDIA CONTACT:

Lewis Kinard

lkinard@lonestarlegal.org

713-652-0077 ext. 1208