



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: November 7, 2018
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Texas Veterans Legal Aid Week Is November 11-17

Free legal help available for eligible veterans across Texas

AUSTIN, TX – Texas veterans are invited to participate in [Texas Veterans Legal Aid Week \(TVLAW\)](#), a statewide effort in honor of Veterans Day coordinated by the Texas Access to Justice Foundation (TAJF). Throughout the week of Nov. 11-17, legal aid programs, local bar associations, law schools and pro bono private lawyers will provide free civil legal services to qualified Texas veterans in locations throughout the state.

Texas has the second-highest population of veterans in the nation. Obtaining access to free legal services can be critical for veterans to get the benefits and support they need for themselves and their families. According to the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs, legal issues account for four of the top 10 unmet needs of veterans who are homeless.

The Texas Access to Justice Foundation provided \$1.87 million in grants last year to 14 nonprofit organizations that provided free legal services to more than 8,800 veterans throughout the year. Legal aid organizations and pro bono lawyers are able to provide legal representation to veterans with civil legal problems, including:

- Denial of critical medical care
- Problems receiving benefits
- Legal issues related to disabilities
- Family law matters arising from deployment
- Other issues that may arise due to a veteran's absence from home during military service

In 2017, TAJF announced the *Remembering Our Heroes* campaign to benefit the Joe Jamail Endowment for Veteran Legal Services, an endowment fund created by Houston lawyer Richard Mithoff to ensure that the justice system is fairly and equitably accessible to Texas veterans. *Remembering Our Heroes* allows individuals to donate to the endowment in honor of a specific person, living or deceased, who has served or is currently serving in the U.S. military. This year, *Remembering Our Heroes* will be featured before the start of TVLAW at halftime of the University of Texas vs. Texas Tech football game in Lubbock on Nov. 10.

Additional events are scheduled a few days before and after Texas Veterans Legal Aid Week. For a complete list of events, visit <https://texaslawhelp.org/tvlaw-2018>

NOTE: For veterans unable to attend a TVLAW event, Texas Legal Services Center (TLSC) will host a live online 'chat' Nov. 12-16, 9 a.m.–5 p.m. to assist Texas veterans with legal questions. Assistance is also provided at 1-800-622-2520, option 2. For more information, visit: www.texaslawhelp.org.

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*The **Texas Access to Justice Foundation**, created by the Supreme Court of Texas in 1984, is the largest state-based funding source for the provision of civil legal aid in Texas. The organization is committed to the vision that all Texans will have equal access to justice, regardless of their income. The Foundation administers a variety of funding sources, which are earmarked to assist nonprofit organizations in providing legal aid to more than 150,000 Texas families each year. For more information, please visit: www.teajf.org.*