

Adopted: September 22, 2000, State Bar of Texas Board of Directors

## STATE BAR OF TEXAS RESOLUTION

BE IT RESOLVED, that each Texas attorney should aspire to render at least 50 hours of legal services to the poor each year, or make an equivalent financial contribution to an organization that provides direct legal services to the poor. Legal services and support to the poor include the following:

- (a) The direct provision of legal services to the poor without an expectation of compensation, or at a substantially reduced fee, whether civil or criminal;
- (b) Services without a fee, or at a substantially reduced fee, related to simplifying the legal process for, or increasing the availability and quality of, legal services to poor persons;
- (c) Legal services without a fee, or at a substantially reduced fee, rendered to charitable, public interest organizations with respect to matters or projects designed predominantly to address the needs of poor persons;
- (d) Legislative, administrative or systems advocacy services without a fee, or at a substantially reduced fee, provided on behalf of poor persons; or
- (e) Unsolicited, involuntary appointed representation of indigents in criminal and civil matters.

Financial contributions to organizations that provide legal services to the poor, as well as out-of-pocket, non-reimbursed expenses incurred by a lawyer (handling a matter that qualifies under the definition of Legal Services to the Poor outlined above) are included, and may be considered as legal services to the poor. Also included are all legal services to the poor in Section 6 of the Preamble to the Texas Disciplinary Rules of Professional Conduct.

### **Section 6 of the Preamble to the Texas Disciplinary Rules of Professional Conduct, 1995 revision:**

A lawyer should render public interest legal service. The basic responsibility for providing legal services for those unable to pay ultimately rests upon the individual lawyer, and personal involvement in the problems of the disadvantaged can be one of the most rewarding experiences in the life of a lawyer. Every lawyer, regardless of professional prominence or professional workload, should find time to participate in or otherwise support the provision of legal services to the disadvantaged. The provision of free legal services to those unable to pay reasonable fees is a moral obligation of each lawyer as well as the profession generally. A lawyer may discharge this basic responsibility by providing public interest legal services without fee, or at a substantially reduced fee, in one or more of the following areas: poverty law, civil rights law, public rights law, charitable organization representation, the administration of justice, and by financial support for organizations that provide legal services to persons of limited means.