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Texas Young Lawyers Association

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January 2, 2018

Via email

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Rebecca Simmons
Rebecca Simmons PLLC
241 W. Lynwood
San Antonio, Texas 78212

Re: Request for Permission to File Texas Bar Foundation Grant Application

Dear Ms. Simmons:

On behalf of the Texas Young Lawyers Association, it is my honor to write to you and respectfully request permission to file a grant application with the Texas Bar Foundation for TYLA's newest public service initiative. TYLA has long enjoyed the privilege of partnering with the Texas Bar Foundation to develop programs that serve Texans' real needs.

I am submitting this request so that TYLA and the Texas Bar Foundation may again partner to develop a much-needed program throughout K-12 schools in the great state of Texas: educating students about the rights and responsibilities of being a U.S. citizen. TYLA intends to create a multi-platform project with the following components:

(1) **Video.** TYLA will team with the State Bar's Law Related Education Department ("LRE") to create a video and accompanying curriculum to educate students on Texas Essential Knowledge and Skills topics. The program will highlight the benefits and responsibilities associated with U.S. citizenship, including the freedom to express yourself, the freedom to worship as you wish, the right to a prompt, fair trial by a jury, the right to vote in elections for public officials, the right to apply for federal employment requiring U.S. citizenship, the right to run for public office, the freedom to pursue "life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness," and the responsibilities to support and defend the constitution, stay informed of issues, participate in the democratic process, respect and obey federal, state, and local laws, respect the rights, beliefs, and opinions of others, participate in your local community, pay income taxes, serve on a jury, and defend the country, if the need should arise. A special part of this project will include personalized videos filmed by US citizens who have a long history in the US, citizens who have a short history, and those who are in the process of becoming US citizens.

(2) **Supplemental media.** TYLA will create additional supplemental media including coloring books for primary students, handouts and TEKS-curriculum based activities to complement the video-based curriculum.

(3) **Website.** A website will serve as the centralized “hub” for the project and will host the video, the supplemental media, and links to help unify other TYLA and TBF existing projects that focus on rights of US citizens such as *I Was The First*; *American Juror*, and *They Had a Dream Too*.

Pursuant to Section 3.10 of the State Bar of Texas Bylaws, the particulars of this request are described below in more detail.

1. Name of the program, project, committee, or section seeking funds.

Project Name: Proud to be an American.

Requesting Committee/Section: Texas Young Lawyers Association

2. Name and position of the individual making the request; if a committee or section, then a statement should be included advising whether the project was endorsed by a majority of the committee or section.

Sally Pretorius, President-Elect of the Texas Young Lawyers Association

3. Description of the project and the time frame for its implementation and conclusion.

First things first, this program is not intended to be a political statement in any form or fashion and will not take sides in any current political issues. However, recent events in American history and World history have made it abundantly clear that US citizenship is invaluable and the rights and duties afforded American citizens should not be taken for granted. So, rather than be a political response, this program is intended to help educate students about their rights and duties and help K-12 Texas students understand what it really means to be US citizen.

Proud to be an American will help K-12 students identify characteristics of good citizenship, including truthfulness, justice, equality, respect for oneself and others, responsibility in daily life, and participation in government by educating oneself about the issues, respectfully holding public officials to their word, and voting. It will also explain the importance of individual acts of civic responsibility, including obeying laws, serving the community, serving on a jury, and voting.

This program will also help students understand the fundamental rights of American citizens guaranteed in the Bill of Rights and other amendments to the U.S. Constitution including freedom of religion, speech, and press; the right to assemble and petition the government; the right to keep and bear arms; the right to trial by jury; and the right to an attorney. The program will also discuss various amendments to the U.S. Constitution such as those that extended voting rights of U.S. citizens.

It is TYLA’s hope to bring a personal approach to this program and to feature small vignettes from Texans in all phases of citizenship – applying for citizenship, just granted citizenship and born citizens – and what it means to them to be a US citizen.

Specific Components of TYLA's Project

Video. The main component of this project will be a 20- to 35-minute video that can be distributed to teachers in hard copy format and will also be available on a custom project website. This video will meet TEKS standards so that we can partner with local school districts to get this program distributed and incorporated into lesson plans.

Supplemental Content. The second component of this project will be a coloring book and supplemental handouts which will comport with TEKS standards to be distributed and used in conjunction with the video. TYLA hopes to partner with LRE to create meaningful content.

Website. The last major component of this project will be a website that will highlight other related TYLA projects that focus on rights to US citizens such as *I Was The First*; *American Juror*, and *They Had a Dream Too*. *Proud to be an American* will tie together many TYLA projects and serve as a great resource for teachers and students.

The following is a general timeline for the project:

- June 2018: Submit Requests for Proposals (RFPs) to numerous video production and website companies. Coordinate with Jan Miller to determine the full extent of information most often requested by administrators, teachers, and parents so that the website meets the needs of the public.
- Early July 2018: Select video production and website developer.
- July - August 2018: Research and draft informational content for the video, website and supplemental content. Research and contact potential speakers. Submit prepared outline for website content to production company.
- October - November 2018: Finalize content for presentation on the website.
- Early December 2018- January 2019: A prepared video and website should be ready for presentation. The committee hopes to have a completed video, website and supplemental content ready for rollouts by this time.
- February 2019 – May 2018: Promote the project in as many locations as possible and engage in an organized and active social media campaign.

4. Statement of whether funds from outside sources have been previously solicited for the project and the result of that solicitation.

No funds or outside sources have been previously solicited for this project.

5. Detailed budget of expenses.

1. Website & Video Production (including interviews, footage, logo, design, photography)	<u>\$45,000.00</u>
2. Accompanying Publicity/Advertising	<u>\$2,500.00</u>
3. Postage	<u>\$500.00</u>
4. Conference Calls	<u>\$300.00</u>
5. Travel	<u>\$2,000.00</u>
Total Anticipated Cost:	<u>\$50,300.00</u>

6. Disclosure of all sources of funding for the project.

Funding will come solely from existing TYLA budget funds and additional funds that might be received from the Texas Bar Foundation.

7. Statement of whether or not matching funds will be expected from the State Bar.

Matching funds are not expected from the State Bar.

8. Statement of whether or not the project meets a particular need of the State Bar.

This project helps fulfill the State Bar of Texas's mission statement by support[ing] the administration of the legal system, assur[ing] all citizens equal access to justice... and enabl[ing] its members to better serve their clients and the public...and educat[ing] the public about the rule of law."

9. Does the project meet a critical need of the State Bar?

Yes, this project helps the State Bar meet the goal of its mission statement, referenced above, which embodies the essence of our State Bar's existence.

10. Are there other State Bar programs currently providing or implementing a similar project or service?

No. There are other TYLA projects that address specific rights of US citizens. Those include *I Was The First*; *American Juror*, and *They Had a Dream Too*. However, *Proud to be an American* will tie together many TYLA projects and be a comprehensive, educational, and multi-faceted curriculum educating students about all rights and responsibilities of citizenship.

11. Can any portion of the funds being requested be deferred to the next budget year?

TYLA cannot defer this request until next year without drastically reducing TYLA's ability to create and implement the projects scheduled for fiscal year 2019-2020.

12. Identification of the target group that will benefit from the grant.

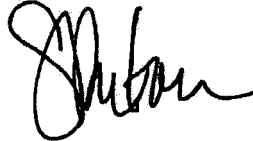
This program will benefit K-12 students, educators, school administrators, parents, and the general public.

13. Confirmation that a copy of the completed application has been forwarded to the Executive Director.

Executive Director, Trey Apffel, is copied on this letter. A copy of the Texas Bar Foundation Grant Application will be forwarded to Mr. Apffel as well.

From the bottom of my heart, I thank you in advance for your time and consideration of this request. Please do reach out and contact me with any questions about this project or this request.

Best,



Sally Pretorius
President-Elect
Texas Young Lawyers Association

cc: Trey Apffel (via e-mail)
Ray Cantu (via e-mail)
KaLyn Laney (via e-mail)
Tracy Brown (via e-mail)
TYLA Executive Committee (via e-mail)