

## Law Focused Education, Inc.



December 29, 2021

Andy Almanzan  
Mounce, Green, Myers, Safi, Paxson & Galatzan  
100 N. Stanton St., Ste 1000  
El Paso, TX 79901

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

Dear Mr. Almanzan:

Law Focused Education, Inc. would like to request permission to file a grant application with the Texas Bar Foundation for LRE's newest State Bar of Texas project.

We are submitting this request so that Law Focused Education, Inc., State Bar of Texas Law Focused Education Committee, State Bar of Texas Jury Services Committee may once again collaborate to develop a much-needed program to benefit both students and adults throughout the state of Texas.

We are requesting funding to support the creation of whiteboard style videos to help educate students and the public about the importance of jury service.

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

Project Name: Jury Service: Your Call to Duty

Requesting Committee/Section: Law Focused Education, Inc., and Law-Related Education Department

**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.**

Jan Miller, Director of Law-Related Education

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

Law Focused Education, Inc., the Jury Selection Committee, and the Law Focused Education Committee are working together to create a webpage and two whiteboard videos to help educate students and the public about the role of jury service in our democracy. Helping members of the public understand their rights and responsibilities under the law would be a critical component of this project.

When we receive a jury summons for the first time, we wonder “What is next?” The project would help answer this question and provide individuals with real world examples of what the role and responsibilities of citizens on a jury will be. To meet our goals we are proposing to create videos that would include answers to the following questions:

- How did the jury system develop and why is it important?
- What do you do when you receive a jury summons?
- What can one expect from the voir dire process?
- What are a citizen’s responsibilities once selected for a jury?

For students, these videos would support the Texas Essential Knowledge and Skills (TEKS), which begin the introduction of civic responsibilities, the importance of good citizenship, and participation in the government process as early as the second grade. The standards ask students to understand that serving on a jury is an individual act of civic responsibility (TEKS 3.9C, 8.19C, Govt 13B). Additionally, the videos would serve to educate about these responsibilities. Finally, the videos will address the fundamental rights of American citizens as guaranteed in the Bill of Rights, specifically the right to trial by jury (TEKS 5.19A, 7.13B and 7.15A).

The videos would be located on a page linked to the [www.texaslre.org](http://www.texaslre.org) site. They will be accessible on all platforms, closed captioned, and available in Spanish. While the videos will address the educational standards, the focus will be broader and designed to educate the public about civic rights and responsibilities. Similar projects funded by the Texas Bar Foundation, such as the Texas Civics: A Student Guide videos will be linked here as well.

Listed below are previous website sessions for the projects that the Texas Bar Foundation has sponsored during the 2020 Bar Year:

- 66,500 visits to Oyez, Oyez, OH YAY!
- 25,700 visits to I Was the First...Vote for Me!
- 5,900 visits to Justiceville, USA
- 34,700 visits to Liam Learns About the Seven Principles of the U.S. Constitution
- 1557 visits to Texas Civics: A Student’s guide (June 2020 to December 2020)

The following is a general **timeline** for the project:

June 2021:

Submit Requests for Proposals (RFPs) to numerous video production companies

July 2021:

Select video production company

July - August 2021:

Research and draft informational content for the video and supplemental content

Submit prepared outline for website content to production company

September- November 2021:

Approve and finalize content for videos

January 2022:

Videos should be ready for field-testing

February 2022-March 2022:

Finalize supplemental curriculum materials, which will be posted with videos on [www.texaslre.org](http://www.texaslre.org) website

April 2022:

Create webpage for project and post videos. Plan to promote videos during the 2022 summer trainings

**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.**

Video Production (including script development and video production) \$25,000.00

**Total Anticipated Cost: \$25,000.00**

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

At this time, funding will come solely from 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:

- to educate the public about the Rule of Law and the role of judges, lawyers, and the public in the justice system;
- to aid the courts in carrying on and improving the administration of justice;
- to advance the quality of legal services to the public and to foster the role of the legal profession in serving the public;
- to encourage the formation of and activities of local bar associations;
- to provide forums for the discussion of subjects pertaining to the practice of law, the science of jurisprudence and law reform, and the relationship of the state bar to the public.

**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?**

We did find the following links but they are not similar to our project.

The Texas Courts has a website with a PDF that explains elements of the Judicial Branch but no videos. <https://www.txcourts.gov/about-texas-courts/juror-information/jury-service-in-texas/>

Travis County Courts has a video PSA <https://www.traviscountytexas.gov/district-clerk/jury-duty/psa-video>

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

No

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

Since the TEKS include these grades, the project would reach an estimated two million public school students. We are unable to estimate the number of charter/private schools or the general public that would access the project.

2nd grade	388,375
3rd grade	392,795
5th grade	417,444
7th grade	423,545
8th grade	411,272
HS US History	377,208
HS Government	354,312
<b>Total Students</b>	<b>2,341,406</b>

**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.

Thank you for your time and consideration of this request. Please do reach out and contact me with any questions about this project or this request.

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Jan L. Miller". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, looping initial "J".

Jan Miller, Executive Director  
Law-Focused Education, Inc.

cc: Trey Apffel (via e-mail)  
Ray Cantu (via e-mail)  
KaLyn Laney (via e-mail)  
Daniel Hu, President Law Focused Education, Inc.