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Texas Young Lawyers Association
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January 11, 2020

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Via email

Andy Almanzan

Mounce, Green, Myers, Safi, Paxson & Galatzan

100 N Stanton

El Paso, TX 79901

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

Dear Mr. Almanzan:

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 high schools in the great state of Texas: educating students about fostering civility in government, law and leadership by studying historical examples of the same.

Supreme Court Justices Ruth Bader Ginsburg and Antonin Scalia reminded us how two of the most outspoken and seemingly different people on our Nation's highest court could not only be friends, but disagree agreeably.

As emphasized by Justice Sandra Day O'Connor, "Unfortunately, civility is hard to codify or legislate. Discourtesy is notoriously subjective – you know it when you see it – and assessing blame is somewhat akin to asking a pair of fighting fourth-graders 'who started it.' ... In the end, it is by deed rather than by decree that attorneys teach each other that it is possible to 'disagree without being disagreeable.'"

In addition to studying key leaders in government and law, this project will study cornerstone national events that have provided examples about civility in government, law and leadership, examples could include the National Convention, war efforts (WWI & WWII), and even the Nation's efforts to recover post-9/11.

These, and many other examples, will be used to teach our students about the important of civility, public discourse, and leadership.

Video(s): TYLA will team with the State Bar’s Law Related Education Department (“LRE”) to series of videos and accompanying curriculum to educate students on Texas Essential Knowledge and Skills (TEKS) topics. The program will highlight current leaders, experts, historians, and other historical figures like the late Justices, Ginsburg, Scalia, and O’Connor to teach students the importance of civility, public discourse, and leadership.

Supplemental Content. Another component of this project will be written content in the form of viewing guides, questions and answers, as well as discussion prompts designed to encourage critical thinking, assessment of the current state of civility, as well as an opportunity for students to develop ideas about ways to bring about change. All materials will be available online and will address portions of Texas Essential Knowledge and Skills (TEKS) curriculum.

Website/Mobile Application. The last major component will be a website designed to house the materials and also provide links to other TYLA educational content that focuses on other aspects of legal rights such as *Iconic Women in Legal History*, *Proud to be an American*, *Your Voice Now!*, *I Was the First*, etc. TYLA hopes to partner with a vendor that can provide a mobile application or a user-friendly mobile version of the website.

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: Civility in Government, Law and Leadership.

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.

Jeanine Rispoli, President-Elect of the Texas Young Lawyers Association

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

TYLA plans to develop an educational program that teach our students about the important of civility, public discourse, and leadership. Ultimately, we want to encourage and empower students to become engaged, civil, leaders in government and the practice of law.

This project will feature videos/interviews with current leaders, experts, historians, and other historical figures to teach students the importance of civility, public discourse, and leadership. In addition, the project will provide written curriculum that will satisfy TEKS standards. The project will be web-based and accessible via mobile application.

TYLA plans to target elementary through high school students statewide and potentially homeschool programs. The project will be accessible in classrooms, at home, and/or at teacher conferences. Although this project will be tailored for Texas-based students and educators, the

diverse media platform makes it easy and convenient for anyone to access across the country. Further, the mobile application component will make it easy for millions of people across Texas and the country to carry *Civility in Government, Law and Leadership* on the go.

Specific Components of TYLA's Project

Video. The main component of this project will be a series of videos that will be made available on a standalone website that covers civility in government, law and leadership through the perspective of historical events and leaders (past and present). Many of the leaders and events selected to be featured will be from standards covered by TEKS.

Supplemental Content. The second component of this project will be TEKS-based written content in the form of questions and answers, essay prompts, as well as discussion prompts designed to encourage critical thinking, assessment of the current state of civility in government, law and leadership, TYLA hopes to partner with the LRE division to create meaningful content.

Website/Mobile Application. The last major component will be a website designed to house the materials and also provide links to other TYLA educational content that focuses on other aspects of legal rights such as *Proud to be an American, Your Voice Now!, I Was the First*, etc. TYLA hopes to partner with a vendor that can provide a mobile application or a user-friendly mobile version of the website.

General Timeline

The following is a tentative timeline for this project:

- **June 2021:** Submit Requests for Proposals (RFPs) to numerous video production and website companies. Begin researching and selecting speakers for the video content.
- **Early July 2021:** Select video production and website developer.
- **July 2021 - August 2021:** Research and draft informational content for the video, website and supplemental content. Finalize and contact potential speakers. Submit prepared outline for website content to production company.
- **September 2021 - November 2021:** Finalize content for presentation on the website.
- **December 2021- January 2022:** A prepared video, project trailer, 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 2022:** Promote the project, present “project trailer” and secure rollout presentations and engage in an organized and active social media campaign.

- **March 2022:** Organize as many rollouts and engage in an organized and active social media campaign, including highlights from the program across our TYLA social media platforms.
- **April 2022 – May 2022:** Continue promoting the project and coordinating rollouts.

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>\$2,000.00</u>
3.	Postage	<u>\$500.00</u>
4.	Conference Calls	<u>\$300.00</u>
5.	Travel	<u>\$2,200.00</u>
	Total Anticipated Cost:	<u>\$50,000.00</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 no other State Bar or TYLA projects that specifically address civility in government, law and leadership by studying key public leaders and critical national events.

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 2021-2022.

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

This program will benefit 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 feel free to contact me with any questions about this project or this request.

Sincerely,

Jeanine Rispoli
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)