Every day, working Texans struggle with legal challenges—denial of medical and veteran’s benefits, wrongful eviction, domestic violence, family conflict, assistance for the elderly, identity theft—the list is long. And last year, Harvey, an unprecedented natural disaster, gave rise to unprecedented needs. Now, more than ever, your $150 Access to Justice Contribution on your annual State Bar dues statement is critical.

The number of Texans in legal crisis grew exponentially in Harvey’s aftermath. Legal aid providers were among the first responders at shelters and Disaster Recovery Centers, and in the past five months, civil legal aid attorneys have helped more than 4,000 hurricane survivors trying to find order in the chaos. But these impressive efforts barely scratch the surface. With over 890,000 FEMA registrations filed in Texas, an extraordinary number of people need legal assistance to access federal benefits and to resolve other disaster-related legal matters.

Lawyers deeply value justice and fair access to the legal system. The ability to navigate the judicial system and to obtain legal representation are critical to ensuring justice for all. Without these core components of our justice system, it can be nearly impossible for low-income Texans to adequately protect their rights, their homes, and even their livelihoods.

By making a $150 Access to Justice Contribution on your annual State Bar dues statement—less than 50 cents a day—you can provide life-changing assistance to those Texans who can’t afford an attorney in their time of need.

Last year, Texas attorneys gave $1,481,048.23 to the Justice for All Campaign. For the 5.3 million Texans who qualify for basic civil legal services, your generosity has the power to make a positive, lasting impact in their lives. If you gave last year, please give again. If you didn’t, your support is desperately needed this year.
You can also help by giving your time pro bono. The State Bar encourages attorneys to meet a benchmark goal of 50 hours of pro bono service each year. Help us keep track of your pro bono efforts by reporting your time and monetary contributions to the State Bar online at www.texasbar.com/probonoreporting.

Thank you for donating your time, money, and energy to make justice real for all Texans.

Sincerely,

Nathan L. Hecht, Chief Justice
Paul W. Green, Justice
Phil Johnson, Justice

Eva M. Guzman, Justice
Debra H. Lehrmann
Jeffrey S. Boyd, Justice

John P. Devine, Justice
Jeffrey V. Brown, Justice
James D. Blacklock, Justice