

EXCEPTIONAL PRO BONO SERVICE AWARD

The Paralegal Division (PD) of the State Bar of Texas is proud to sponsor an Exceptional Pro Bono Service Award. Its purpose is to promote the awareness of pro bono activities such as those defined by the State Bar of Texas, and to encourage PD members to volunteer their time and specialty skills to pro bono projects within their community by recognizing a PD member who demonstrates exceptional dedication to pro bono service. Paralegals are invited to foster the development of pro bono projects, to provide assistance to established pro bono programs, and work closely with attorneys to provide unmet legal services to people with low incomes. This annual award will go to an individual PD member, who performed the pro bono service(s) in the State of Texas and has volunteered his or her time and special skills in providing uncompensated services in pro bono assistance to their community. The recipient of the award will be announced at the Paralegal Division Annual Meeting Luncheon, his/her expenses to attend the Annual Meeting Luncheon will be incurred by the Division, and a profile of the individual will be published in the Winter issue of the *Texas Paralegal Journal*.

Definition of Paralegal Pro Bono Service (Adopted June 2013)

Providing legal assistance, without remuneration or compensation to the paralegal, that requires specific legal skills, knowledge or training, under the supervision of a licensed attorney or qualified organizations, whether individually, or through non-profit charitable, religious, civic, community, or governmental organizations, and serving as an advocate for those with limited means or that are unable to speak for themselves.

1. Providing legal support services for persons of limited means, either through qualified legal services/legal aid programs.
1. Providing legal support services at community legal clinics; and
3. Providing assistance for, working directly with attorneys on cases, or providing direct client advocacy, under legal services/advocacy programs that are sponsored by a bar association, court, governmental agency or non-profit agency.

Please complete the attached nomination form, and return it **NO LATER THAN MARCH 31, 2023** to the following:

Monty Mayes
O'Neil Wysocki, PLLC
2630 West Freeway, Suite 218
Fort Worth, Texas 76102
Cell: (817) 966-1783
ProBonoChair@txpd.org

EXCEPTIONAL PRO BONO SERVICE AWARD NOMINATION FORM

Individual's Name: _____

PD Member Number: _____

Firm: _____ Job Title: _____

Address: _____

Phone: _____ Fax: _____ Yrs. in Practice: _____

Work Experience: _____

Give a statement (on a separate sheet using "Nominee" rather than the individual's name) using the above definition and following guidelines as to how the above-named individual qualifies as rendering Exceptional Pro Bono Service by a Paralegal Division Member:

1. Renders service without expectation of compensation.
2. Renders service that simplifies the legal process for (or increases the availability) and quality of legal services to those in need of such services but who are without the means to afford such service.
3. Renders to charitable or public interest organizations with respect to matters or projects designed predominantly to address the needs of poor or elderly person(s).
4. Renders legislative, administrative, political or systems advocacy services on behalf of those in need of such services but who do not have the means to afford such service.
5. Assist an attorney in his/her representation of indigents in criminal and civil matters.

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