

September 10, 2004

## License Plate Contributes to Legal Aid in Texas

AUSTIN – The Texas Department of Transportation (TxDOT) has designated the And Justice For All specialty license plate as its featured plate for the month in September. A majority of the proceeds from the sale of the license plate supports civil legal services for low-income Texans through the Texas Equal Access to Justice Foundation. The Foundation is the largest state-based funding source for Texas legal aid.

“Legal aid organizations provide assistance to Texas’ most vulnerable residents in civil legal matters concerning basic human needs, such as safety from abuse, affordable housing and access to medical care. Legal aid assists approximately 100,000 Texans a year with their civil legal needs,” Texas Equal Access to Justice Foundation, Executive Director, Betty Torres said.



The initial development of the license plate was sponsored by the Texas Young Lawyers Association in an effort to promote the concept of access to justice for all, regardless of income. In the last year, proceeds from the sale of the plate amounted to more than \$86,221. There are currently about 3,450 vehicles registered in Texas with the plates.

The license plate design features a partial white star within a larger star with the Texas flag imprinted over it, on the left side of the plate. The background is white, and the last line of the pledge of allegiance, And Justice for All runs across the bottom of the plate.

The license plates are available to motorists for a \$30 annual fee, plus \$40 if personalized, in addition to regular vehicle registration fees. Of each fee collected, \$22 goes to a special fund set up to provide basic civil legal services. The remaining \$8 fee is deposited into the state highway fund to cover administrative costs. There are currently about 3,450 vehicles registered in Texas with these plates.

Applications for And Justice For All specialty plates are available at county tax offices, on TxDOT's web site ([www.dot.state.tx.us](http://www.dot.state.tx.us)), by calling the TxDOT Help Desk at (512) 465-7611, or TxDOT's Fax-On-Demand forms line at (888) 232-7033. Customers requesting orders for specialty license plates through the fax service should enter the code 0999 to receive the form for the license plate they are ordering.

TxDOT started its specialty license plate program in 1965. Today, there is a wide variety of different plate designs, many of them benefiting a particular group, organization, college or university. Since 1994, more than \$10 million has been raised for sponsoring organizations, colleges or universities.



### License Plate Contributes to Legal Aid in Texas

The Texas Department of Transportation (TxDOT) and the (COUNTY NAME) County tax assessor-collector's office are featuring the And Justice For All specialty license plate this month. A majority of the proceeds from the sale of this license plate supports civil legal services to the economically disadvantaged through the Texas Equal Access to Justice Foundation. The foundation is the largest state-based funding source for Texas legal aid and assists approximately 100,000 Texans a year with their civil legal needs.

The initial development of the license plate was sponsored by the Texas Young Lawyers Association (TYLA) in an effort to promote the concept of access to justice for all, regardless of income. Proceeds from the sale of the plate contributed more than \$86,221 to the fund. There are currently about 3,450 vehicles registered in Texas with the plates. TYLA is the public service arm of the State Bar of Texas. Over the years, TYLA has educated hundreds of thousands of Texans through its projects including land title counsel, advice to senior citizens on estate planning issues; and youth education on constitutional rights and obligations.

"Legal aid organizations provide valuable assistance to Texas' most vulnerable residents in civil legal matters such as safety from abuse, affordable housing and access to medical care." said (NAME), tax assessor-collector for (COUNTY NAME) County.

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