

# THE TEXAS OPPORTUNITY & JUSTICE INCUBATOR

To expand access to justice for low- and moderate-income Texans and to train new lawyers, the State Bar of Texas has pledged a substantial organizational and financial commitment for 2016-2017 to create the Texas Opportunity & Justice Incubator (TOJI). The goals: (1) to match beginning lawyers who want to build their own practices with Texans' unmet legal needs, and (2) to establish a model for similar incubator projects throughout the state.

## Why is it needed?

Only one in five low-income Americans with civil legal needs finds help; for middle-income Americans, only two in five. Also, 10 months after graduation, only 60 percent of law school graduates hold jobs requiring a J.D. The Texas Opportunity & Justice Incubator addresses both of these needs.

## How does it work?

TOJI will provide office space and training for a select group of new attorneys who want to build their own practices. In the 18 months they participate in the incubator, attorneys agree to represent low- and modest-income clients while learning how to run a law office with a focus on technology. A learning lab will also coordinate pro bono opportunities for participants, oversee and track pro bono cases and outcomes, and coordinate training and mentoring of incubator attorneys.

## How can I get involved?

We are working with law schools, local bars, legal aid groups, and other organizations to optimize the benefit provided by our incubator. For more information on how to get involved, call (512) 427-6821 or email [paul.rogers@texasbar.com](mailto:paul.rogers@texasbar.com).

**Law Firm Incubators** Helping New Lawyers Start Sustainable Practices and Bridge the Justice Gap

The first law firm incubator launched in 2007. Today, there are over 60 programs spanning 32 states and 4 countries.

They are operated by law schools, bar associations, bar foundations, private firms, legal aid organizations, nonprofits and increasingly collaborations among many different entities.

Legend:  
■ Has an incubator  
■ Has an incubator in the works

Locations: Pune, India; Islamabad, Pakistan; Dominican Republic

*“We want to fill that gap between the citizens’ need for justice and our profession’s need for employment opportunity—in brief, to meet the need for justice with the need for opportunity.”*

— 2016-2017 State Bar President Frank Stevenson, Texas Lawyer, June 2016