



TEXAS

ACCESS *to* JUSTICE
FOUNDATION

Demand Outweighs Supply

- In Texas, approximately **5.3 million people** qualify for legal aid.
- **19.5% poverty rate**
- Legal Aid can help **only 10%** of the civil legal needs for eligible Texans.





The Faces of Poverty





Legal Services in Texas

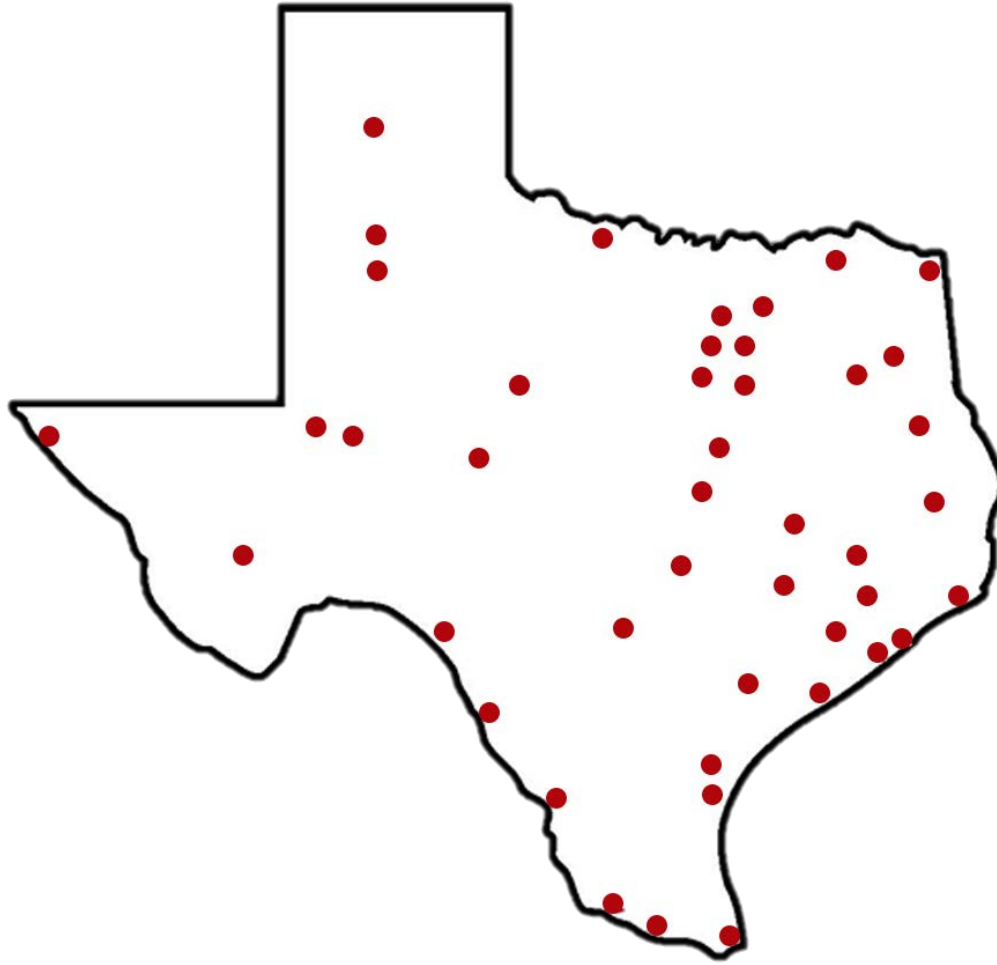
Programs funded by the Legal Services Corporation (LSC)

- Legal Aid of NorthWest Texas
- Lone Star Legal Aid
- Texas RioGrande Legal Aid





Legal Aid Across Texas

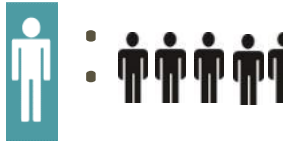


To find the legal aid provider in your area, visit:

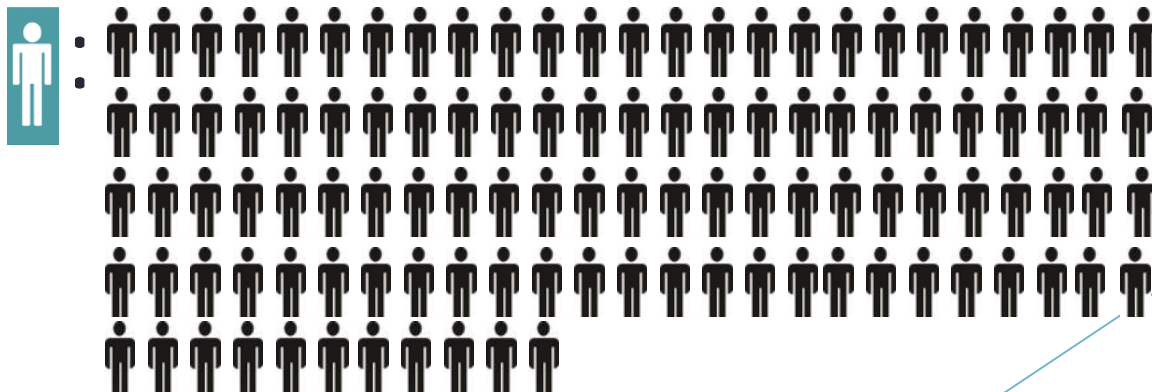
www.TexasLawHelp.org

Lawyers in Texas

There is one Texas attorney in *private practice* for every 450 Texans above legal aid eligibility



There is approximately one Texas *legal aid* attorney for every 9,800 poor Texans



How is Poverty Defined?

Legal Aid eligibility

125% of Federal poverty level



= \$15,075 per year

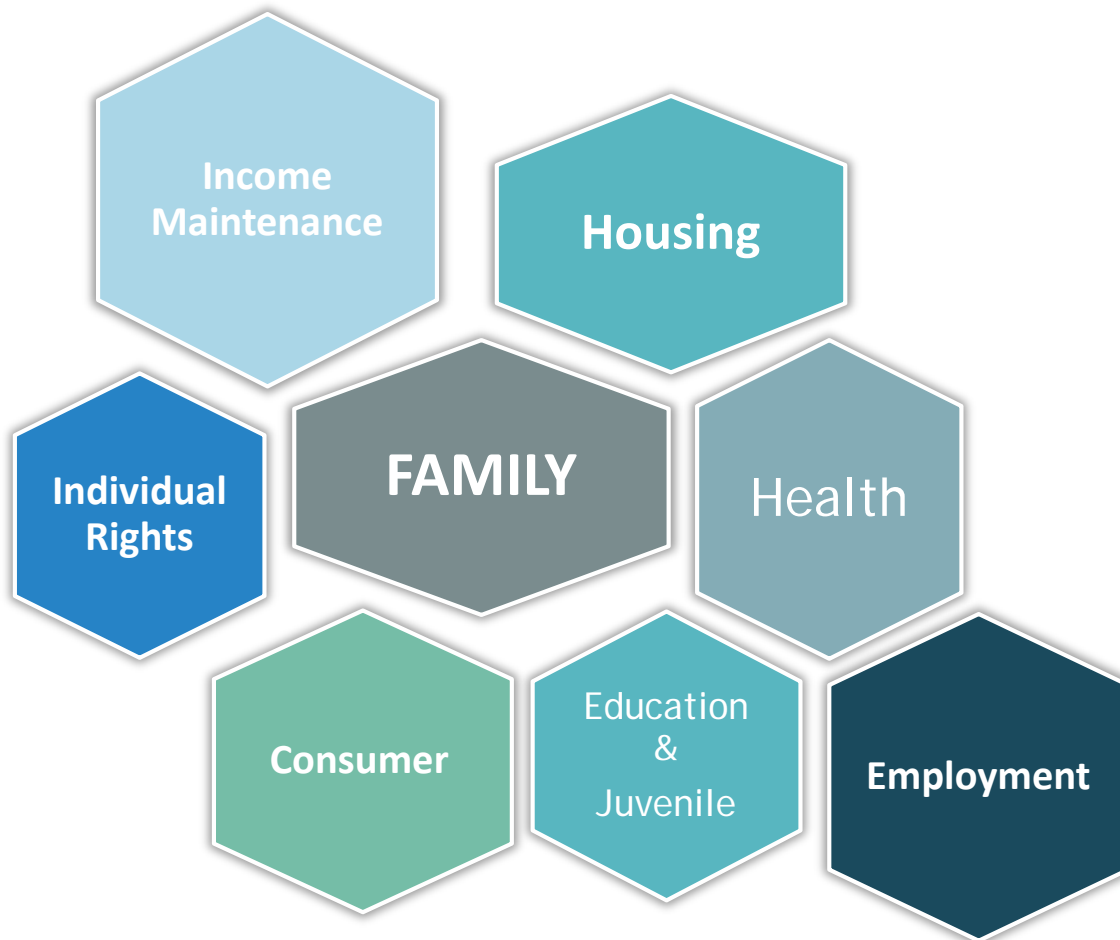


= \$30,750 per year OR a little
over \$2,500 gross income
per month

A minimum wage worker earns
\$15,080 per year.



Spectrum of Legal Aid Cases





1995

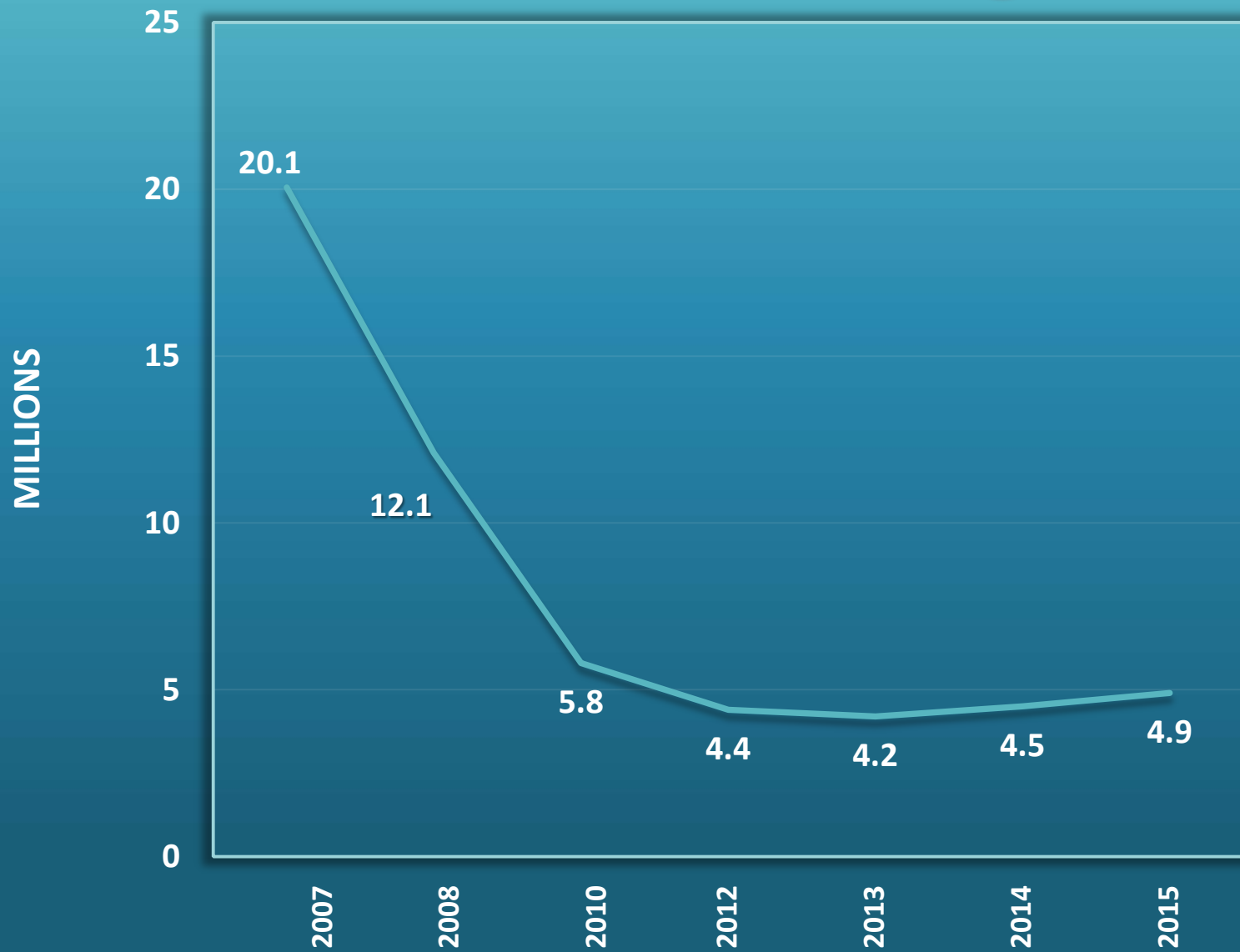
- \$400 million in LSC funding

2016

- \$385 million in LSC funding



IOLTA Funding





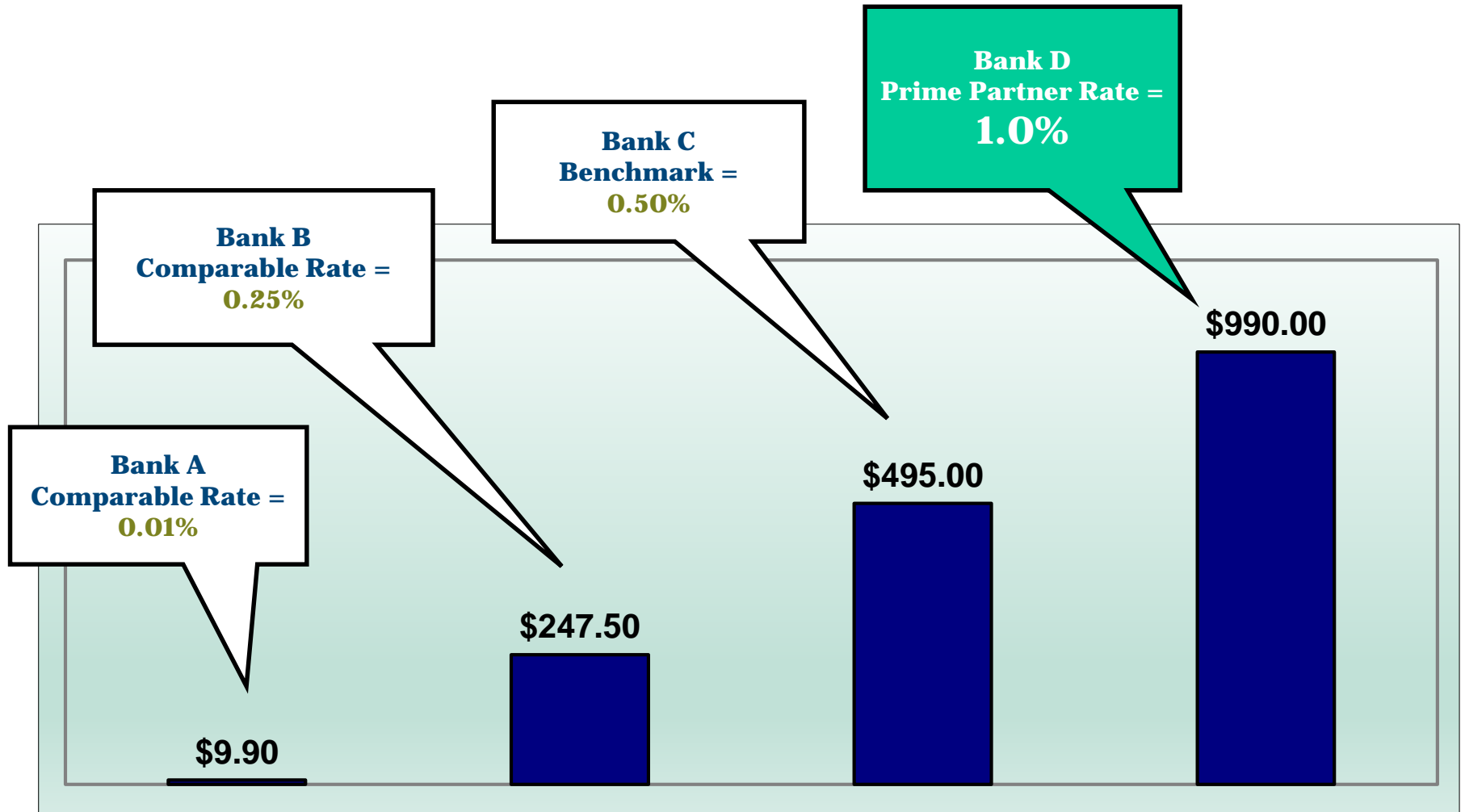
Prime Partners

Prime Partners - Banks that go beyond eligibility requirements to foster the IOLTA Program

Prime Partner banks pay a floor of 1% and
Benchmark banks pay a floor of .5%



Prime Partner Impact





Barriers to Civil Legal Services

Not Enough Resources to Meet Demand

- ▶ *Lack of funding for legal services*
- ▶ *Lack of money to hire an attorney*

Geographic limitations

- ▶ *Rural vs. Urban*

Funding Restrictions

- ▶ *Client eligibility*
- ▶ *Resource limit*
- ▶ *Type of legal services provided*

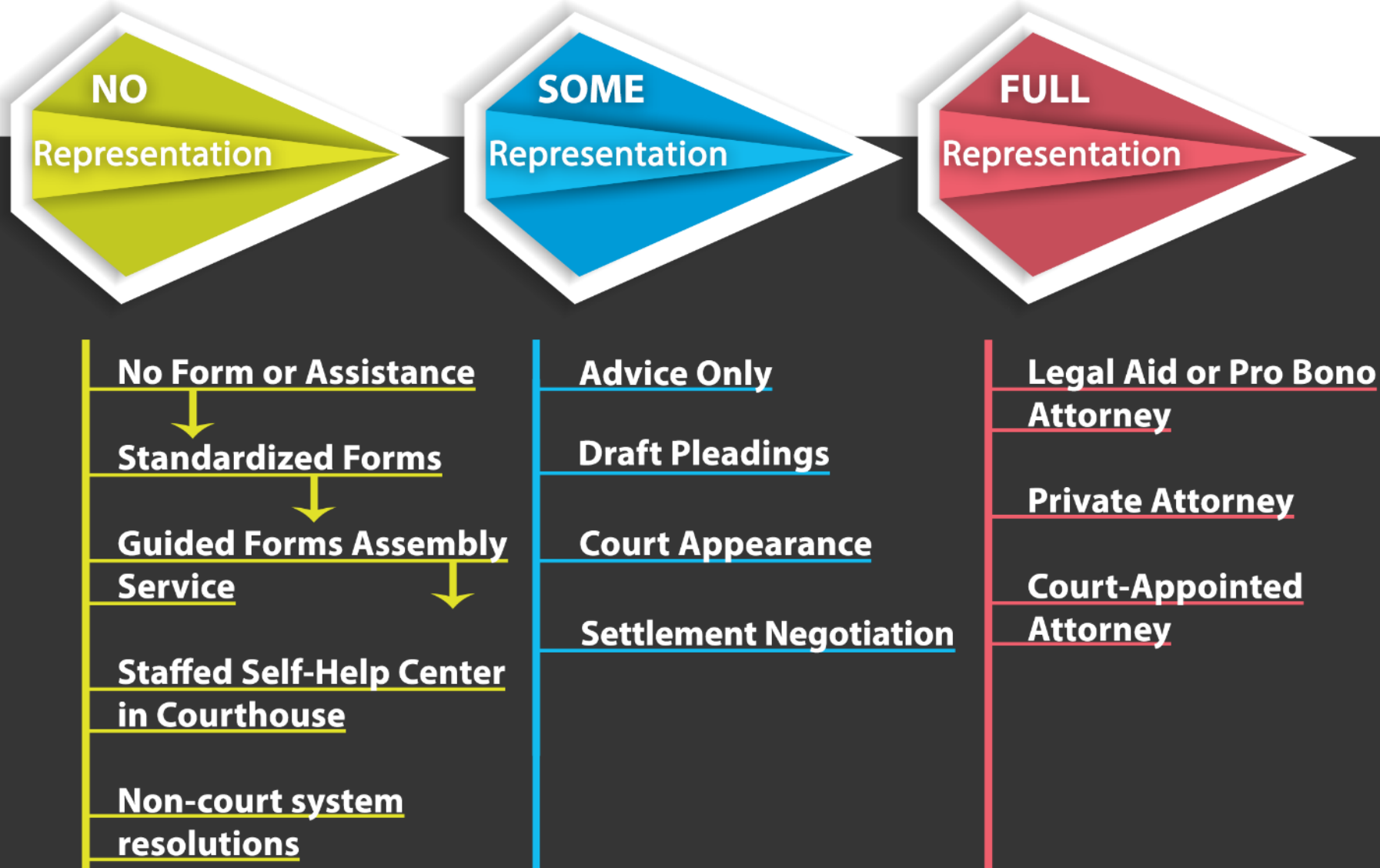


How do we increase legal services to the poor?

- ▶ Legal Services Programs
- ▶ Private Attorneys – Pro Bono
- ▶ Self Help



CONTINUUM OF LEGAL ASSISTANCE





State Bar of Texas

- ▶ Aspirational standard

- ▶ 50 hours a year

- ▶ What constitutes pro bono?

- ▶ Pro bono policy
 - ▶ FAQs

www.texasbar.com/probono

- ▶ Report your pro bono hours online at:

www.texasbar.com/mybarpage

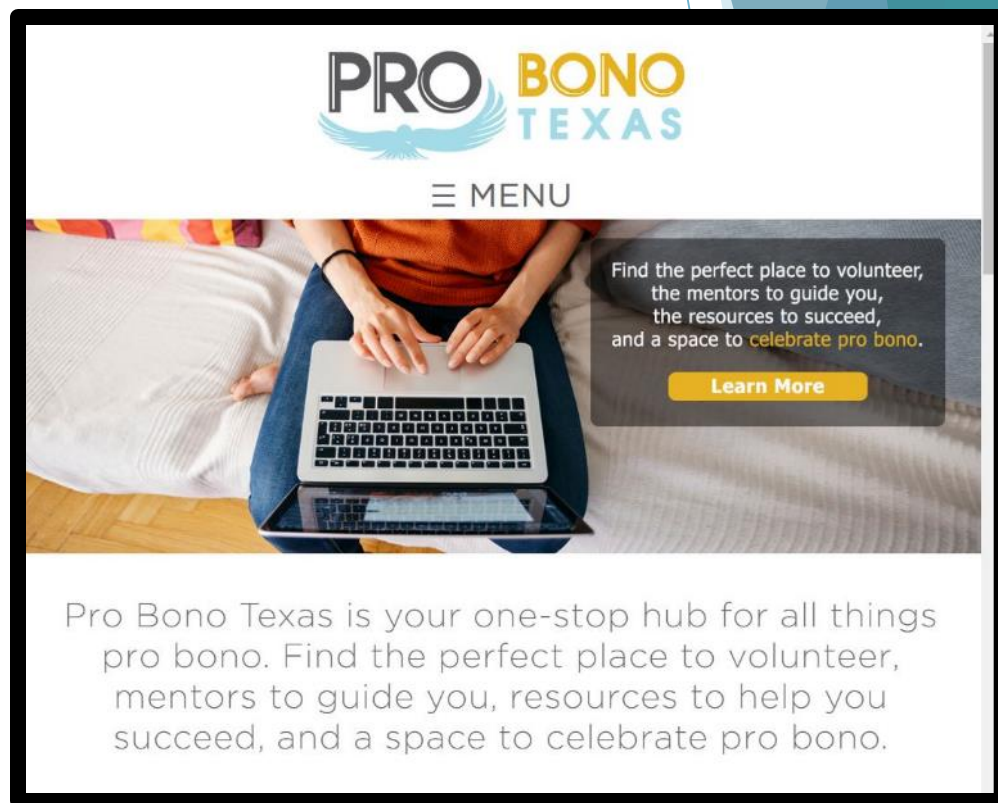


Your **one-stop** hub for all things pro bono

What you can find:

- ▶ The perfect place to volunteer
- ▶ Mentors to guide you
- ▶ Resources to help you succeed
- ▶ A space to celebrate pro bono

www.ProBonoTexas.org



Have you ever wanted to be a super hero?

Now you can! Become a **Super Hero of Justice** by making a **\$150 ATJ Contribution** that will improve thousands of lives, preserve independence, provide hope, and reinstate dignity to all voices fighting to be heard.

Donate \$250 or more to make an even greater impact. Become a *Champion of Justice Society* member. Giving levels include:

- ◆ Guardian (\$1,000 x 5 years)
- ◆ Hero (\$1,000+)
- ◆ Defender (\$500-\$999)
- ◆ Advocate (\$250 -\$499)



www.TexasATJ.org/COJSociety

Contact Us!



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