



## THE TLTV PROGRAM IS SETTING A FIRM FOUNDATION

BY ALEED RIVERA, Chair, TLTV Committee

At the July 13 CLE Membership Luncheon, State Bar President Terry Tottenham officially launched the Texas Lawyers for Texas Veterans (TLTV) program at the state level. The TCBA committee had already made great strides to get the program set up for Tarrant County.

On July 16, the TCBA Chapter held its clinic orientation. A total of 87 people attended this orientation and heard the following speakers:

**Judge Brent Carr**, Veterans Court Diversion Program;  
**Dan Scott** and **Mike Regitz**, Program Coordinators for TLTV-Dallas;  
**Stevie Hansen**, MHMR Tarrant County;  
**Brooke Knox**, Mental Health Association of Tarrant County;  
**Freida Edwards-King**, LANWT; and  
**Richard H. Ruffert** and **Michael Killam**, U. S. Army veterans.

Participants expressed excitement about the program and have already pledged to take a total of 74 pro-bono cases. This orientation (1.5 hours of MCLE credit) was videotaped, and a DVD is available for check-out through Pat Leake at the TCBA office.

Two pro-bono networks are being set up exclusively for veterans' cases. The main network will be run by

Legal Aid of NorthWest Texas (LANWT). Cases that are conflicted out or that do not meet LANWT's case-acceptance priorities (such as criminal matters) will be referred to an In-House TCBA Veteran Pro-Bono Network. LANWT and TCBA are working together to recruit the attorneys needed to represent the approximately 250-300 veterans expected to need legal representation through this program during the current bar year.

The TCBA committee has already secured commitments from over 55 attorneys in various practice areas to participate in the program. To date, 99 attorneys and 20 non-attorneys have offered to volunteer for the program at different levels. Paralegals and law students are also an integral part of the program, as they will provide assistance both at the clinic and to the attorneys who take pro-bono cases.

The veteran clinics will be held from 2:00 p.m. until 5:00 p.m. on the third Friday of each month, except for December. The dates for clinics are August 20, September 17, October 15, November 19, January 21, February 18, March 18, April 15, May 20, and June 17. The location of the clinics will change, but we will make that information available. If you want to volunteer to serve as an intake

attorney for any one or more of these clinics, we can use the help.



There are still immediate needs to get this program up and running. First, we need to recruit more attorney-volunteers, especially in the area of family law. We expect that close to 80% of the cases will involve issues of family law. Second, we need to obtain sponsors to cover the costs of the program. The sub-committee of Raul Canez, Ed Markey, and Carlos Galliani are contacting local businesses and law firms to request sponsorships. Watch for a letter from this committee.

The committee appreciates the efforts of MHMR of Tarrant County in coordinating this program and in enthusiastically supporting the program. Juris Fabrilis generously donated a website -- check out [www.txltvx.org](http://www.txltvx.org). We are also on Facebook and Twitter, so everyone can keep up with this worthwhile program. To volunteer, download the form from the TCBA website or from the TLTV website and fax it to 817-335-9238. For more information, contact Pat Leake at the TCBA offices (817-338-0492) or email her at [pat@tarrantbar.org](mailto:pat@tarrantbar.org).



## BE READY OCTOBER 11 THROUGH NOVEMBER 12 FOR THE TCBA ANNUAL CANNED FOOD DRIVE

The committee is busy planning this annual community service, so watch for complete details in the October issue.

Did you know that for every dollar donated, there are 4 meals provided?

Did you know the Tarrant Area Food Bank (TAFB) distributes over 1.5 million pounds of food for neighbors in need?

Did you know that TAFB has a program called "BackPacks for Kids" to provide children with nourishment on weekends when the school lunch

programs are not available?

Did you know that TAFB provides a Community Kitchen that serves the hungry AND provides a training program to teach culinary skills to unemployed or under-employed adults?

Did you know that among senior citizens, 18,000 live in poverty and must choose to buy medications or food? TAFB furnishes food for Senior Centers.

Did you know that TAFB provides hunger relief in 13 counties - Cooke,

Denton, Wise, Erath, Bosque, Hamilton, Hill, Hood, Somervell, Palo Pinto, Parker, Johnson, & Tarrant?

You can help this year with a cash donation or packaged-food donation. The committee may focus on cash, tax-deductible donations through the Tarrant County Bar Foundation --they go a long way to help. **Watch for details in October.**

