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## Law Clinic Receives \$40,000 Grant from IOLTA

**FORT WORTH, Texas** – The Law Clinic at Texas Wesleyan University School of Law has received a \$40,000 grant from the Texas Access to Justice Foundation (TAJF) from Interest on Lawyer’s Trust Accounts (IOLTA) funds.

Grant funding for the Law Clinic will start in September. The purpose of the grant is to provide representation to caretakers of children who are at risk of abuse or neglect. Children in these cases have been removed from their homes by Child Protective Services (CPS) due to either actual abuse or neglect or the risk of abuse or neglect by the natural parents. The children are typically placed with a relative such as a grandparent, aunt, or uncle.

“Once these children have been placed in a safe home, CPS does not file a suit in the juvenile court,” Law Clinic director Charlotte Hughart said. “As a result, the new caretaker does not have legal custody, and faces problems in proving their right to enroll the child in school, obtaining medical treatment, or applying for benefits for the child. We assist the caretaker in obtaining a legal custody order or an adoption, depending on the circumstances.”

Funds from United Way allowed the Law Clinic to begin representing these caretakers in 2005. The original grant encouraged the Law Clinic to seek additional funding for the future, as the United Way funds would decrease over time. The IOLTA grant will greatly help sustain the program at its current level.

Operating programs throughout the country, IOLTA generates funds that are used to support legal aid, legal education for the public, and other activities that improve the quality of justice. TAJF is the leading funder of legal aid in Texas. The foundation grants about \$20 million per year to 40 organizations statewide that provide free civil legal assistance to low-income Texans. For more information, visit [www.teajf.org](http://www.teajf.org).

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