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Law School Receives \$25,000 Grant from Texas Bar Foundation

FORT WORTH, Texas – The Texas Bar Foundation recently awarded Texas Wesleyan University School of Law a \$25,000 grant to assist in the funding of its Asian Judicial Institute (AJI). Specifically, the AJI program focuses on the retraining of Mongolian judges and lawyers.

The grant will help the AJI aid in the establishment of Mongolia’s developing democratic government. The country elected to adopt a democratic system of government in 1992. In 1995, the AJI was formed under the direction of professor and Judge Joe Spurlock, and the Institute has provided training to members of the country’s judiciary since 1999.

“We are extremely grateful to the Texas Bar Foundation for this grant which will allow the AJI program to extend its reach of training and begin working with law professors and lawyers in addition to judges,” Interim Dean Cynthia Fountaine said. “As legal educators and lawyers, we believe that the way to achieve peaceful transition to democracy is through education.

“This program achieves this goal and has been very successful in reaching and educating Mongolian judges about principles of democracy and judicial independence. It is crucial, now, to expand this program to enable Mongolian lawyers and law professors to understand these fundamental principles as the government of that country makes a transition to democracy.”

To date, the AJI has trained 43 judges from the trial, appellate, and supreme courts of Mongolia about the principles of judicial accountability, responsibility, independence, and honesty, as well as judicial procedures. In addition to professors from Texas Wesleyan University School of Law and leaders from the National Legal Center of Mongolia, members of the Texas Wesleyan legal community have had the opportunity to contribute to and participate in the program.

Since its inception in 1965, the Texas Bar Foundation has awarded more than \$9 million in grants to law-related programs. Supported by members of the State Bar of Texas, the Texas Bar Foundation is the nation's largest charitably-funded bar foundation.

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