



# LONE STAR

## JUSTICE ALLIANCE

**LONE STAR JUSTICE ALLIANCE AWARDED  
TEXAS BAR FOUNDATION GRANT TO IDENTIFY AND ADVOCATE  
FOR JUVENILE SURVIVORS OF SEX TRAFFICKING, INTIMATE  
PARTNER VIOLENCE, AND OTHER FORMS OF ABUSE IN THE  
ADULT CRIMINAL SYSTEM**

AUSTIN, TX — The Lone Star Justice Alliance (LSJA) is pleased to announce that it has received a \$15,000 grant from the Texas Bar Foundation. The award will be used to identify juveniles in the adult criminal justice system who have survived sex trafficking, intimate partner violence, and other forms of abuse, and to offer training to the defense bar in representing such juveniles.

In 2012, the U.S. Supreme Court recognized that “children are different” in ways that must be accounted for in criminal sentencing, noting that one particular factor that must be considered is the “family and home environment that surrounds [a juvenile]—and from which he cannot usually extricate himself—no matter how brutal or dysfunctional.” This constitutional requirement reflects the well-established social science demonstrating that trauma has distinct, negative, but frequently treatable impacts on childhood development, with the result that children who have survived trauma are less culpable for resulting criminal conduct, and generally capable of rehabilitation. LSJA is determined to enforce this legal and moral mandate in Texas, and will do so through a combination of research and training, to first identify, then help to advocate on behalf of those juveniles whose offense conduct is a tragic but predictable outcome of their own experience of particularly prevalent, and devastating, forms of abuse.

“Too many Texas youths are currently serving criminal sentences that do not account for their experience of prior trauma and which are unnecessary to keep the public safe. These youth will benefit immensely from the Texas Bar Foundation’s generous grant,” said Elizabeth Henneke, Executive Director of the Lone Star Justice Alliance. “We are so grateful for their support as we work to identify these youth and assist the defense bar in their representation.”



### **About the Texas Bar Foundation:**

Since its inception in 1965, the Texas Bar Foundation has awarded more than \$20 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. For more information, visit [www.txbf.org](http://www.txbf.org).

### **About the Lone Star Justice Alliance:**

LSJA recognizes the inherent shortcomings of a criminal justice system that is focused on punishment rather than rehabilitation. LSJA provides a public health alternative for youth and emerging adults by developing and implementing innovative strategies for maximizing the supports and services needed to keep youth in the community where their needs are better met at a lower cost to the state. Through its alternative to incarceration program, LSJA identifies inefficiencies across siloed systems and helps communities realign their resources to reduce the criminogenic risk and maximize the potential of program participants. LSJA also works to bring youth who were sentenced to adult prison back to their communities and support them as they harness the new opportunities available to them. For more information, visit [www.lonestarjusticealliance.org](http://www.lonestarjusticealliance.org).

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