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San Antonio Bar Foundation Bexar Outreach Project-Phase II improves public access to legal resources in a post-pandemic world

SAN ANTONIO, TX — The **San Antonio Bar Foundation** launched the **Bexar Outreach Project-Phase I** in May 2020, in response to the dramatic increase in public requests for legal information and resources resulting from the Covid-19 crisis. Phase I engaged an Outreach Attorney staffer who was charged with transforming the public resources pages on the San Antonio Bar Association's site to a robust FOR THE PUBLIC website designed exclusively for non-attorney members of the public seeking legal resources curated for Bexar County. Additionally, the **Lawyer Referral Service** was restructured to an online format to provide 24-hour instant referrals and **Ask-A-Lawyer** was launched - a free community program for residents to ask a volunteer attorney one or two legal questions.

The **Bexar Outreach Project-Phase II** launched with the October 2020 award of a \$15,000 grant from the Texas Bar Foundation. Phase II will expand information accessibility by presenting pertinent legal information in various formats including livestream, prerecorded video, transcripts and closed captioned; building distribution on social media and other online communities; and sharing with more community media partners.

“The most vulnerable populations have been severely impacted by the Covid-19 pandemic. Our goal with Phase II is to provide easy to find, accessible Bexar County specific information in a user-friendly format” reports Whitney Thomas, the new Outreach Attorney. “We built the content in our one-stop resource. Now we are making sure more people know about it and can access that content.” concludes Thomas.

Since its inception in 1965, the **Texas Bar Foundation** has awarded more than \$21 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 about this grant or other SABA news and events, visit www.sabar.org.

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The San Antonio Bar Association (SABA) was established in 1898 to serve their clients and the public with the highest degree of dedication and professionalism in the continuing pursuit of equal justice for all under law. The San Antonio Bar Foundation is the charitable arm of the Association and enhances the rule of law and the system of justice in Bexar and surrounding counties by funding and facilitating programs that relate to ethics in the legal profession, the administration of justice, legal assistance for the indigent, and legal scholarship and publications.