

Legal Aid and Advice for Non-Profits

Texas Non-profit Legal Advice

UT Austin School of Law Entrepreneurship and Community Development Clinic: [Entrepreneurship and Community Development Clinic | Experiential Learning: Clinics | Texas Law \(utexas.edu\)](#)

- Service: The ECDC provides transactional business law representation to small businesses, social enterprises, artists, **nonprofit organizations, and community groups** in Texas.
 - Activities:
 - Forming for-profit and nonprofit entities;
 - Drafting and reviewing contracts;
 - Applying to the IRS for tax-exempt status;
 - Providing legal advice to nonprofit boards of directors and staff;
 - Legal research
- Contact: [Contact | Experiential Learning: Clinics | Texas Law \(utexas.edu\)](#)

Pro Bono Texas: [Texas Community-Building with Attorney Resources \(Texas C-BAR\) | Pro Bono Texas](#)

- Service: Our mission is to improve the quality of life for **low-income communities** in Texas by providing pro bono business law resources to **nonprofits** and microentrepreneurs for whom legal assistance is financially out of reach. We fulfill this mission by connecting eligible nonprofits and microenterprises to attorney volunteers through Texas C-BAR and LAMP (Legal Assistance to Microenterprises Project). [**Non-profits that serve low-income communities**]
 - Activities:
 - Entity formation;
 - Nonprofit bylaws;
 - Contracts;
 - General legal compliance for nonprofit and small business entities;
 - Fundraising compliance;
 - Tax help
- Contact: [Contact Form \(copy\) \(typeform.com\)](#)

Texas A&M School of Law Community Development Clinic: [Community Development Clinic information for students \(tamu.edu\)](#)

- Service: The Community Development Clinic is a transactional real estate, nonprofit and public advocacy clinic that works on a range of legal issues related to promoting community development through social entrepreneurship, affordable housing and community advocacy. The clinic will work with individuals and **nonprofits** in underserved communities to counsel them on their legal rights and duties.
 - Activities:
 - Nonprofit creation;
 - Nonprofit sustainability;
 - Social entrepreneurship;
 - Legal research
- Contact: legalclinics@law.tamu.edu

Legal Advice Resource: Nonprofit Legal Center

[Free Legal Advice Archives - Non-Profit Legal Center \(nonprofitlegalcenter.com\)](#)

Legal Aid and Advice for Non-Profits

Texas-Specific Legal Aid Sources: Environmental Law

UT Austin School of Law Environmental Clinic: [Environmental Clinic | Experiential Learning: Clinics | Texas Law \(utexas.edu\)](#)

- Service: Environmental Clinic students work with **underserved communities** throughout Texas to advocate for solutions to today's pressing environmental problems, including environmental injustice and climate change. Students develop creative legal solutions to protect and improve environmental quality and public health. We also represent **environmental nonprofit organizations and local governments**.
 - Activities:
 - Federal litigation to enforce air pollution limits and secure access to clean water;
 - Comments on Environmental Impact Statements for new highways and coastal barriers;
 - Challenges to new pollution permits in overburdened communities;
 - Civil rights complaints to address environmental injustice;
 - Petitions for rulemaking to increase interpretation and translation services in environmental processes;
 - Community education about pollution and environmental rights;
 - Pollution monitoring; and
 - Policy research into environmental and climate-related relocations.
- Contact: [Contact | Experiential Learning: Clinics | Texas Law \(utexas.edu\)](#)

Texas RioGrande Legal Aid: [Texas RioGrande Legal Aid \(TRLA\) | Free Legal Services](#)

- Service: Community Preservation and Empowerment – Environmental Justice: The Environmental Justice Team represents **low-income people** in environmental matters to improve the health and safety of communities impacted by pollution. The team focuses on community outreach and education, as well as administrative advocacy before the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality (TCEQ) and other government agencies with regulatory authority over the environment.
 - Activities:
 - Represent clients before administrative agencies that regulate polluting industries;
 - Prosecute “citizen suits” to enforce federal environmental laws;
 - Address nuisances that impact TRLA clients, such as odors, dust, or noise;
 - Promote enforcement of environmental laws in low-income minority communities disproportionately affected by pollution;
 - Represent clients at contested case hearings on air, water, or solid waste permits before the TCEQ or on permits within the jurisdiction of the Railroad Commission of Texas;
 - File citizen suits under the Clean Water Act, Clean Air Act, and Safe Drinking Water Act;
 - Pursue state court suits for nuisance;
- Contact: [Our Services | Texas RioGrande Legal Aid \(TRLA\) | Free Legal Services](#)

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National Legal Aid Sources: Environmental Law

EarthJustice: [Earthjustice: Because the earth needs a good lawyer](#)

- Service: Earthjustice handles court and administrative impact litigation that involves environmental laws or issues and that have the potential to generate results and align with our mission. Given our mission and limited resources, we take on high impact cases that provide the most benefit to the planet and the greatest number of people. Our work includes large-scale impact litigation and advocacy.
 - Activities:
 - Secure clean air and water as rights for all
 - Fight for better air quality by taking the government to court when it fails to uphold the Clean Air Act;
 - Fight for safe drinking water by taking the government to court when it fails to uphold the Clean Water Act;
 - Compel the government to enforce protections for rivers, streams, wetlands, and other waters, and defend those protections from political attacks
 - Safeguard lands and waters;
 - Stop destructive mines from being built by invoking clean water and air protections
 - Compel the government to enforce protections for rivers, streams, wetlands, and other waters, and defend those protections from political attacks
 - Protect species biodiversity
 - Protect whole prairies, wetlands, deserts, and other wild places by challenging land use proposals that threaten the endangered species that live there;
 - Take on pesticides, agricultural runoff, and other forms of pollution that kill insects, animals, and plants;
 - Defend the Endangered Species Act from special interest groups that want to weaken it
- Contact: [Request for Legal Assistance - Earthjustice](#)

National Environmental Law Center: [About Us - National Environmental Law Center \(nelc.org\)](#)

- Service: NELC works closely with **national, state, and local citizen groups**, providing essential legal expertise and representation to protect public health and the environment. In addition to litigation and regulatory challenges, NELC countermands threats to legal protections of environmental and public health by filing amicus (friend of the court) briefs in litigation pending before the Supreme Court and other federal courts. These efforts focus on cases in which the integrity of environmental laws, or the rights of the public to participate in the implementation of those laws, is threatened.
 - Activities:
 - Clean Water

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- NELC represents **citizen groups and their members** in these lawsuits, empowering them to hold even the largest industrial polluters accountable.
 - Clean Air
 - Species Protection
 - Hazardous Waste
 - Regulatory Challenges
 - NELC files legal challenges to regulations written by EPA and other environmental agencies when they fail to fulfill the requirements of our hallmark environmental laws, such as the Clean Air Act and Clean Water Act. Conversely, when industry attempts to thwart needed environmental regulations, NELC goes into court to defend them.
- Contact: [Contact Us - National Environmental Law Center \(nelc.org\)](http://nelc.org)

***** These organizations are good starting places when searching for legal advice or legal aid. *****
We cannot guarantee that each of these organizations will have the capacity to take on cases or offer legal advice when requested.