

# Developing A Disaster Plan

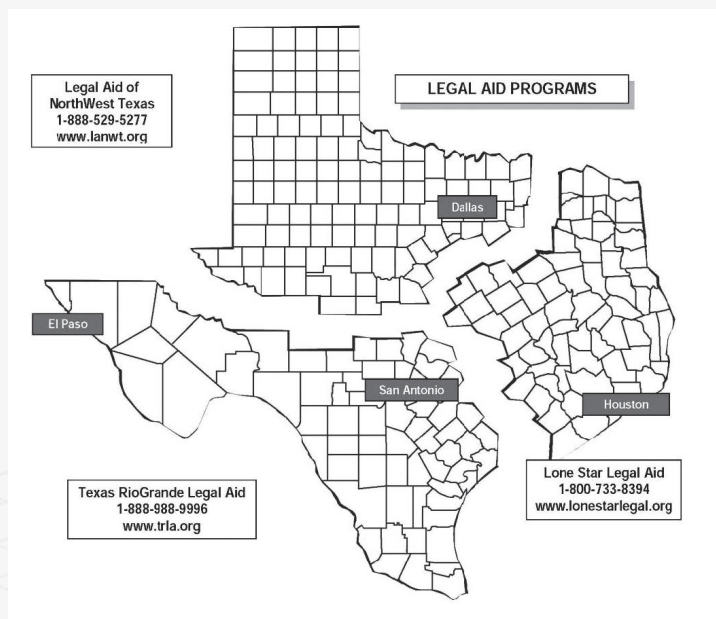
Texas RioGrande Legal Aid



TRLA provides free legal services to residents in 68 Southwest Texas counties.

TRLA serves about 23,000 clients each year. However, more than 2.6 million residents of Southwest Texas are considered eligible for TRLA services, a ratio of almost 21,000 potential clients per legal aid lawyer.

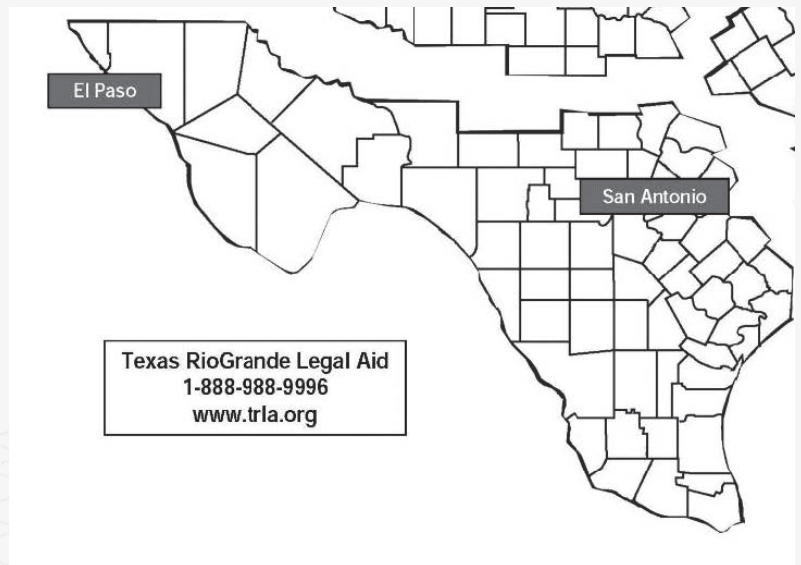
TRLA attorneys specialize in more than [45 practice areas](#), including **disaster**, family, employment, foreclosure, bankruptcy, subsidized housing, farmworker, civil rights, and environmental law. TRLA serves its clientele through its Mercedes headquarters and branch offices throughout Southwest Texas.



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## Initial Considerations

- Perfect is the enemy of the good- Voltaire
- Customize a plan and make it your own
- Build your plan with a diverse team
- Write the plan down
- Schedule time to review and update

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## Planning Process

- Concepts to keep in mind
  - **Implement “All Hazards” approach**
    - Decide what risks you accept, and what to specifically address in your plan
  - **Critical vs. Non-critical functions**
    - Identify critical functions of your organization and prioritize those in your plan
  - **Key Personnel**
    - Who is essential to implementing the plan

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## Planning Process

- Consider how potential hazards may impact:
  - **Personnel**
    - Evacuation, Education, Preparation
  - **Workspace, Equipment, Property**
    - ABA Ethics Opinion No. 482 and Tex. Disciplinary Rules Prof'l Conduct R. 1.14;
    - ABA Ethics Opinion 482 and ABA Model Rule 5.5 – limits multijurisdictional practice by attorneys displaced by disaster.

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Title search: Building a Disaster Plan for Your Law Practice

Also available as part of the eCourse

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"Building a Disaster Plan for Your Law Practice"