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Mr. Richard L. Tate, Chairman  
Texas Access to Justice Foundation  
P.O. Box 12487  
Austin Tx 78711

Re: Edward M. Lavin, Bar No. 12000250  
\$200 Donation to Texas Access to Justice Foundation

Dear Mr. Tate:

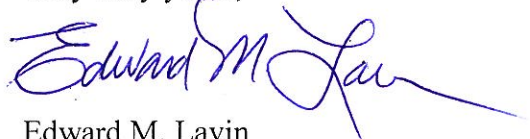
After you read this and accept my donation if you concur and can make it happen, it would be nice to have this letter published in the Texas Bar Journal to encourage others. I just read the Texas Access to Justice Foundation's newsletter for March 2009 reporting on the dramatic decrease in the annual funding from lawyer IOLTA accounts, due to low interest rates being paid, for legal services for the poor, from \$20 million in 2007 down to an estimated \$1.5 million for 2009.

This won't work. I support the IOLTA concept and I support the work of the Texas Rio Grande Legal Aid, Inc. and other agencies furnishing legal services to the poor. If the first isn't working right now, I call on the legal community to make up the difference.

According to the State Bar of Texas web site there are about 83,000 lawyers in Texas. If each one will match my \$200 donation to the Foundation that's \$16,600,000 which will make up most of the shortfall. I'll send another \$200 next year.

For those needing a personal incentive the donation is, I believe, tax deductible. Keeping legal aid agencies up and running will also lessen the likelihood of future mandatory *pro bono* requirements. For those like me who don't need a personal incentive, it's just the right thing to do! By the way, I'm a solo practitioner and I don't make a lot of money, but for those of my brother and sister lawyers making a lot more, please try to donate even more than \$200. Thanks.

Very truly yours,



Edward M. Lavin

EML/sad  
Enclosures