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**NEWS
RELEASE**

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El Paso Municipal Court Receives Grant for Teen Court Program

EL PASO, Texas—The City of El Paso Municipal Court is excited to announce that its Teen Court Program has received a \$6,907 grant for the Teens Behind the Wheel initiative from the Texas Bar Foundation.

The grant, *Teen Court Program – Teens Behind the Wheel*, will help support and fund indigent families/youth who need a driver's license but are unable to afford the cost of driver's education.

The "Teens Behind the Wheel" initiative will make driver's education more accessible, covering a significant portion of the program's cost, which typically ranges between \$300 and \$400. This support empowers young drivers in the community to obtain their learner's permit, enhancing their knowledge of safe driving practices.

"We are honored and grateful to accept this grant award," said El Paso Municipal Court Director Annabelle Casas. "These grant funds will make a difference and support efforts to strengthen traffic safety with teens and families in our community. Thank you to the Texas Bar Foundation for investing in our community and support to the El Paso Municipal Court Teen Court Program."

In addition to funding driver's education, the grant will help advance and expand the Teen Court Program by enabling the purchase of educational and promotional materials.

"I couldn't be prouder of this program and all that it has accomplished over the last 7 years," said Municipal Court Judge Michelle Morales. "This grant will allow us to expand the program and spread the word all over the community about the Teen Court Program and instill in our youth the idea of how important it is to serve your community in the best way you can."

The Teen Court Program is a real justice program run by teenagers for teenagers and serves as a peer court for misdemeanor and traffic offenses. Teen volunteers perform the roles of a juror, court clerk bailiff, attorney, or prosecutor.

Teen Court provides juveniles who have been charged with a misdemeanor offense, an alternative means by which to have their case heard. Upon successful completion of the court-ordered punishment, the juvenile defendant will have their case dismissed. Teen Court also provides alternative sentences if the juvenile is found guilty.

For more information about the Teen Court program, visit www.ElPasoTexas.gov/Municipal-Courts.gov.

About Texas Bar Foundation

Since its inception in 1965, the Texas Bar Foundation has awarded more than \$29 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.

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