

**NOMINATION FORM**

Project Title: **They Had a Dream Too: Young Leaders of the Civil Rights Movement**

Bar Association/Foundation: **Texas Young Lawyers Association/State Bar of Texas**

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**Membership Size and Type of Organization:**

State bar association with more than 18,000 members, or its affiliated foundation

State bar association with 18,000 or fewer members, or its affiliated foundation

Local bar association with more than 5,000 members, or its affiliated foundation

Local bar association with membership between 2,001 and 4,999, or its affiliated foundation

Bar association with 2,000 or fewer members, or its affiliated foundation.

**Description**

Describe the program in 200 words or fewer.

*They Had a Dream Too: Young Leaders of the Civil Rights Movement* (THADT) is an 11th and 12th grade curriculum project designed to assist educators, challenge and inspire students, and help build future leaders. Produced by the Texas Young Lawyers Association (TYLA) and made possible by a grant from the Texas Bar Foundation, THADT is a multimedia project comprised of a website ([www.theyhadadreamtoo.org](http://www.theyhadadreamtoo.org)), classroom curriculum, and a 28-minute film highlighting the achievement of a few of the thousands of young people who made a difference in the 1950s and 1960s when the struggle for civil rights reached its peak in the United States. The film includes interviews with people who as young adults helped changed their world. The film also contains a component that educates students about civil rights struggles that have occurred since the 1960s and challenges young people to become leaders today. The curriculum includes discussion

questions and activities to help educators incorporate THADT into their classrooms. The curriculum details which Texas-mandated learning objectives are covered by this project. The website serves as another resource for teachers and students and provides additional resources related to the project and the civil rights movement.

### **Type of Project**

Mark the category this project most closely falls under:

<input type="checkbox"/> Improved Administration of Justice	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Law-Related Education
<input type="checkbox"/> Improved Access to Justice	<input type="checkbox"/> Adults <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Children
<input type="checkbox"/> Enhanced Image of Profession	<input type="checkbox"/> Community Service
<input type="checkbox"/> Special Needs (Children, Immigrants, <hr/> Seniors, etc.)	<input type="checkbox"/> Other

To your knowledge, is this a new project or has it been developed from an existing project? If modeled after another program, describe how it was adapted in a new or unique way.

THADT is a new project that was inspired by Jeff Zaslow's Wall Street Journal article, "Kids on the Bus: The Overlooked Role of Teenagers in the Civil-Rights Era" (Nov. 10, 2005; Page D1).

### **Objectives & Goals**

Please state the problem or need this program addressed.

The stories of the young people who were involved in the civil rights movement of the 1950s and 1960s were being lost to history. By neglecting to talk about the extraordinary actions taken by thousands of ordinary children, educators were missing a valuable opportunity to inspire today's youth with a richer, more complete picture of what happened during that defining era.

"You've probably heard of the Rev. Martin Luther King, Jr. and Rosa Parks," NAACP chair Julian Bond says in the THADT film. "They're the most famous figures from the civil rights movement. But it was a people's movement that produced leaders of its own. It relied not on the noted, but on the nameless. Not on the famous, but on the faceless."

Through the eyes of the students, teenagers, and children active in the civil rights movement, THADT seeks to show high school juniors and seniors the profound impact on history that students had and that they, too, can positively change the world around them. THADT is designed to:

- Challenge educators to teach high school students about the pivotal roles teenagers played during the civil rights movement.
- Challenge high school students to learn more about the laws and legal decisions that affect their lives and to become involved in their communities.

### **Implementation**

Please describe the methods used to address the problem.

The time was ripe for THADT as the 2006-2007 school year marked the 40-year anniversary of the signing of portions of the Voting Rights Act and the 50-year anniversary of when the Little Rock Nine first attended Little Rock's Central High School. To reach and engage educators and their students, THADT was developed as a multimedia project comprised of a film, curriculum, and website.

#### THADT Film

Through pictures, footage, and interviews with actual participants at the time, THADT takes students on a ride through the turbulent civil rights movement of the '50s, '60s, and '70s. It introduces students to Terrence Roberts of the Little Rock Nine and teaches them about Ruby Bridges, who almost single-handedly integrated schools as an elementary school student in New Orleans, and others who braved integration following *Brown vs. Board of Education*. The film discusses Claudette Colvin, Rosa Parks' predecessor and inspiration. THADT takes the students to Greensboro, N.C., to meet Franklin McCain, one of four college freshmen who took a stand by sitting down at Woolworth's lunch counter. They meet Doreen Lousy, who jumped in a swimming pool at age 8 to help desegregate public places. In a section about young leaders of other movements, Mary Beth Tinker explains why she protested at her school at age 13 and why her seminal Supreme Court case states that the civil rights of students and teachers do not stop at the schoolhouse gate. John Martin, a Department of Justice Civil Rights Division lawyer at the time, talks about the Freedom Rides, "Bloody Sunday," and how the efforts of students during the long hot summer led to the signing of the Voting Rights Act. The film also walks students through the student marches in Birmingham and Selma, Ala. Henry Cisneros, former San Antonio mayor and U.S. secretary of Housing and Urban Development, and University of Texas School of Law Professor Norma Cantú, a former assistant U.S. secretary for civil rights, discuss student action in the Mexican-American Civil Rights movement. Within 30 minutes, students find out what a difference people their age made in shaping our nation. Renowned civil rights leader and NAACP chair Julian Bond narrates the film.

#### THADT Curriculum

The written curriculum is designed to follow the topics discussed in the film. The information provided is a summary of the vast history of the time, with a specific focus on the youth of the day and the participants of the film. Each section includes discussion questions

and/or activities for teachers to use with their classes plus a list of additional resources. Each section includes the specific Texas-mandated learning objectives covered by THADT to assist educators in meeting their teaching goals.

#### THADT Website

The [www.theyhadadreamtoo.org](http://www.theyhadadreamtoo.org) website serves as another resource for teachers and their students. The website houses additional information related to the project and the civil rights movement.

#### Timetable

Please address when project was initiated and time spent in preparation and in implementation.

The THADT film went from conception to rollout in eight months. The THADT website and curriculum were completed four months later. Below is the preparation and implementation schedule:

November 2005: 2005-06 TYLA president-elect Karin Crump reads the Wall Street Journal article and contacts author Jeff Zaslow. Zaslow is enthusiastic about the THADT project and provides contact information for the people he interviewed for his article.

December 2005: Crump contacts potential participants to discuss THADT project.

January 2006: Crump applies for Texas Bar Foundation grant to fund THADT film production.

April 2006: Texas Bar Foundation awards \$40,000 for THADT film production.

May 2006: Five-member THADT committee, comprised of TYLA directors, is formed and meets for the first time. Committee contacts and confirms nine interview participants: Professor Julian Bond; Gloria Bradley; Dr. Terrence Roberts; Franklin McCain; Dr. Doreen Loury; John Martin; Henry Cisneros; Professor Norma Cantú; and Mary Beth Tinker. Committee awards film production bid to ZoMotion Picture Co. and Zone Communications Group, companies with experience developing civil rights and diversity projects.

June 2006: Committee develops THADT script. Committee travels around the country with crew from video production company to interview and film the nine participants. Committee researches and collects still photographs to use in the film. Photo sources include the Library of Congress website ([www.loc.gov/rr/print/catalog.html](http://www.loc.gov/rr/print/catalog.html)) and the film participants' personal collections. Committee selects music to be used in the film. Special care is taken with the song choices to ensure an upbeat atmosphere that energizes the viewers and holds their interest. Production company obtains civil rights footage to include in the film.

July 2006: Production company completes final edit of film. At the 2006 Bar Leaders Conference, THADT is shown publicly for the first time to state and local bar officers, directors, and representatives. Later in the month, committee introduces project to several hundred social studies teachers attending State Bar of Texas Law-Related Education conferences. With the volunteer assistance of two Department of Justice lawyers, committee begins writing THADT curriculum. Committee begins THADT website development. Committee develops marketing plan.

August 2006: Committee coordinates with local bar affiliates and oversees rollouts across the state.

September 2006: Committee coordinates marketing blitz to publicize project. THADT debuts at high schools in Dallas, San Antonio, Austin, Houston, and El Paso. The presentations were outstanding:

- The Dallas Association of Young Lawyers presented THADT to students at the School for the Talented and Gifted at the Yvonne A. Ewell Townview Center. Justice Carolyn Wright of the Fifth Court of Appeals and attorney John Martin (who appears in the film) addressed the audience. Wright shared a number of anecdotes about racism she encountered as a child, and Martin recounted his days as a civil rights lawyer in the South.
- At Harlandale High School, the San Antonio Young Lawyers Association hosted four-term Congressman Ciro Rodriguez and Harlandale Board of Trustee Anthony Alcocer.
- The Austin Young Lawyers Association presented Texas Supreme Court Justice Dale Wainwright and University of Texas School of Law Professor Norma Cantú (who appears in the film) to students at Bowie High School.
- The Houston Young Lawyers Association's Aspiring Youth Committee organized a "red carpet" movie premier at a local high school. Guests included Rep. Garnet Coleman of Houston and DeBra Edwards, one of ten students who integrated Beltsville Elementary School in the early 1960s.

October 2006: With participation of local bar affiliates, THADT presentations continue at high schools across the state.

November 2006: THADT website launched and curriculum completed.

December 2006 through present: THADT presentations continue statewide:

- In January 2007, the Austin Young Lawyers Association and the William Wayne Justice Center for Public Interest Law at The University of Texas School of Law co-sponsored a THADT presentation at the Texas Capitol. After touring the Capitol, 300 high school students heard remarks from Rep. Senfronia Thompson and Sen. Royce West. During lunch, the teenagers had a chance to talk informally with law students and attorneys.
- To recognize Black History Month in February 2007, the Dallas

Independent School District's Time Warner cable channel 9B broadcast THADT eight times, introducing THADT to an even wider audience in the community.

- In March 2007, a notice about THADT on the American Bar Association's Law Day listserv generated requests for copies of the film and curriculum from 65 organizations outside of Texas – including one from Germany. For Law Day 2007, the Houston Young Lawyers Association will include THADT as part of its annual Teen Civil Leadership Academy. In Austin on Law Day, THADT will be shown for the second time at the Texas Capitol Auditorium. Rep. Senfronia Thompson, Texas Supreme Court Justice Dale Wainwright, and University of Texas School of Law Professor Norma Cantú (who appears in the film) will address students from Manor High School, Taylor High School, Del Valle High School, and Fort Bend Independent School District.

### **Target Audience**

Who was the intended audience (age groups, occupations, etc.)?

High school students, specifically 11th and 12th graders, are the target audience of THADT. However, as State Bar of Texas Director Demetrius Bivins states, "*They Had a Dream Too* is not just for kids; everyone needs to hear this message." He has since shown THADT to leaders from three national organizations: Jack And Jill of America, Inc.; National Organization of Blacks in Government; and Top Teens of America. In the fall of 2007, THADT will be presented at the Clinton Presidential Library and Museum in Little Rock, Ark., during its Little Rock Nine 50th anniversary celebration activities.

Number of people served by the program?

Determining an exact number of people served by THADT is difficult because access to the film and curriculum is unrestricted – both are available to anyone to download for free from the [www.theyhadadreamtoo.org](http://www.theyhadadreamtoo.org) website. Based solely on our website statistics (below) and the 2,000-plus DVDs and curriculums mailed from the TYLA office to date, we estimate that tens of thousands of children, thousands of teachers, and the broader community have benefited from THADT.

THADT website statistics from June 2006 to March 2007

Total Hits: 91,514

Unique Visitors: 2,286

Total Page Views: 13,396

Repeat visitors: 714

One-time visitors: 1,572

### **Budget**

What was the total budget for the program?

The total budget for THADT was \$65,000. The largest expense was for the film production (\$40,000). The remaining \$25,000 was spent on developing the website; printing 3,000 copies of the curriculum; printing 1,000 T-shirts to give to students; traveling to interview the participants in the film; and implementing the THADT rollouts across the state.

How was the program funded?

The Texas Bar Foundation awarded a \$40,000 grant to fund the production of the THADT film. The remaining funding came from the Texas Young Lawyers Association annual budget.

### **Results/Evaluation**

How was the program evaluated? What were the results? Were the objectives/goals met? Feedback from community?

With thousands of copies of the THADT film and curriculum distributed to Texas educators and tens of thousands of Texas students learning about the actions of young people during the civil rights movement, the project has far exceeded its original goals. In fact, THADT has taken on a life of its own, being passed from teacher to teacher and shared throughout the community. Because of these grassroots efforts, we often hear from individuals praising the project, and at first, we cannot directly trace how or where they saw the film. Other organizations, including the Houston Bar Association and the State Bar of Texas Hispanic Issues Section, have been so impressed with THADT that they have volunteered to distribute the project to their members and to educators in their area.

Comments from students who have seen THADT illustrate how powerful the project is. For example, 17-year-old Sabrina Gonzalez, a senior at Harlandale High School in San Antonio, said the THADT presentation helped her realize the little things she could do to make a difference. "I can stand up and follow through on things," she said. "I can write letters to Congress." In April 2006, students at Harlandale walked out of class to speak out against proposed immigration policies, upset that the changes would affect their parents. Sixteen-year-old Ashley Mendoza refused to join them because she didn't think her participation would make much of a difference. But after watching THADT, she was more than enthused. "Young people do participate and can make a change and do change lives," she said. "Just because you're young, doesn't mean you can't be heard."

Letters and e-mails have offered these glowing reviews:

<b>SOURCE</b>	<b>COMMENT</b>
Monica Neely Helping Teacher Elementary Social Studies	I just received a copy of your video today. I want to personally let you and the members of TYLA

<p>Fort Bend ISD</p>	<p>know what an AMAZING resource this film is going to be for our students in Fort Bend ISD. Thank you for fulfilling your dream by creating this project. It is truly inspirational. THANK YOU!</p>
<p>Irene García AVID Teacher/Coordinator Department of L.O.T.E Austin ISD</p>	<p>One of my students came to make up a quiz this morning, and when he finished he told me that he was very impressed with what he heard on this trip [to the Capitol and to watch THADT]. We had a lengthy discussion about civil responsibility, academic preparation for leadership, and political awareness. Wow!! I've never had such a conversation with a Travis student!!! In fact, he said that this is the kind of field tripeveryone should take. He found this very motivating.</p>
<p>Jackie Seaborn Business Teacher Travis High School Austin ISD</p>	<p>Thank you so much for giving our students an opportunity to be a part of an outstanding event. It was great and the feedback from the students was extremely positive. I only wish we had more students to participate.</p>
<p>Tom Jaggard U.S. History Teacher Refugio Middle School Refugio, Texas</p>	<p>I am writing to thank you for making "They Had a Dream Too" available for classroom use. I teach U.S. history to 8th grade students at Refugio Middle School (Refugio, TX). I used the DVD and accompanying teacher's guide to build a one-day mini-lesson for MLK Day. My students told me it was one of the best lessons we had done together this year! The video was well paced and had just the right mix of explanatory narrative and live action sequences. The interviews with some of the actual participants really made it come to life. Thanks again for providing this great service.</p>
<p>Cherald Kocurek Theater Director School for the Talented and Gifted</p>	<p>It was very informative, and the students retained a lot of what they saw. I think it's going to</p>

at Yvonne A. Ewell Townview Center Dallas ISD	motivate them.
Holly Wilkerson Local Bars Coordinator State Bar of Texas	Victoria County Bar is using THADT and the response has been so strong that they are expanding into other schools. They LOVE the program and are excited about their use of other TYLA projects. Great job and thanks for offering such resources to local bars!

Will the program be continued?  Yes     No

**Volunteers & Staff**

Total number of people involved in developing and implementing the program: 9

These people included the 2006-07 TYLA president; TYLA executive committee advisor; five TYLA directors who composed the THADT committee; and two young lawyers who developed the curriculum.

Of this number, how many were volunteer attorneys? 9

**Address concerns other bars may have if they were to replicate this program.**

THADT was developed so that bar associations in other states could easily adopt the project unchanged. The film and curriculum are relevant to audiences around the country. A bar association that adopts THADT may want to supplement the curriculum by adding information about the activism of young people in its particular state during the civil rights era. Otherwise, THADT is a turnkey project that is ready to implement as is. TYLA will present THADT during the ABA Young Lawyers Division conference May 3-5, 2007, in Montréal.