

## **Press Release: NAMI-Texas Awarded Grant from Texas Bar Foundation**

by Greg Hansch  
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The Texas Bar Foundation has awarded The National Alliance on Mental Illness-Texas (NAMI-Texas) a \$20,000 grant for the development, production and distribution of the sixth edition of the book, "Texas Criminal Procedure and the Offender with Mental Illness: An Analysis and Guide."

Texas Tech University [School of Law](#) Paul Whitfield Horn Professor Brian Shannon has agreed to draft the sixth edition of the guide book on a pro bono basis.

"I'm delighted by the grant for the new edition and honored that the books are widely used by judges, prosecutors and defense attorneys in cases across the state," Shannon said.

Since 1993, the Texas Bar Foundation has provided grants to NAMI-Texas for five previous editions of this detailed guide concerning Texas criminal procedure and alleged offenders with mental illness. Shannon and late Texas Tech School of Law Horn Professor Daniel Benson donated their time to research, write and produce the first four editions of the book, while Shannon authored the fifth edition.

"This publication project is intended to promote the ends of justice by being an important educational tool," said Greg Hansch, NAMI-Texas interim executive director and public policy director. "There often is a lack of understanding about many of the issues faced by persons with mental illness – particularly when those persons are caught up in the criminal justice system. These books help the courts and lawyers better understand a complex area of the law."

As with previous editions, NAMI-Texas will use grant funds to distribute free copies of the book to Texas judges, prosecutors, criminal defense attorneys and many others. A free version of the new edition also will be made available on the [NAMI-Texas website](#).

"I am extremely pleased the Texas Bar Foundation has agreed to fund this education project once more," said Jack Nowlin, dean of the Texas Tech Law School. "It has been a great collaboration between the Texas Bar Foundation, NAMI-Texas and the Texas Tech Law School."

Professor Shannon plans to begin work in June 2019 following the completion of the 86th regular session of the Texas Legislature and the Governor's bill signing deadline of June 16th. Thereafter, he anticipates that he can complete the final manuscript for the 6th edition by December 15, 2019. NAMI-Texas would then anticipate completing the printing and begin distribution by March 1, 2020.

### **About the Texas Bar Foundation**

Since its inception in 1965, the Texas Bar Foundation has awarded more than \$20 million in grants to law-related programs. Supported by members of the State Bar of Texas, the Texas Bar Foundation is the



National Alliance on Mental Illness

nation's largest charitably funded bar foundation. The mission of the Texas Bar Foundation is to solicit charitable contributions and provide funding to enhance the rule of law and the system of justice in Texas, especially for programs that relate to legal assistance for the underserved, the administration of justice, ethics in the legal profession, the encouragement of legal research, publications and forums and education of the judicial branch of government.

### **About NAMI Texas**

NAMI Texas is the state affiliate of the National Alliance on Mental Illness with headquarters in Austin, Texas. With twenty-nine Affiliates in communities across the state, NAMI Texas provides education, advocacy, and support for people with mental health conditions and their loved ones. NAMI Texas is dedicated to improving the quality of life of all individuals living with mental illness, and their families, friends, and support systems. Its vision is to ensure acceptance of and treatment for all those with mental illness to facilitate recovery.

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