



Governor Greg Abbott

Committee on People with Disabilities

Chair: Joe Bontke, Houston

Executive Director: Angela English

Members:

- | | |
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Nacogdoches |
| Marilou Fowler
Katy | Rames Gonzales, Jr
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| Faye Kuo
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| Margaret Larsen
Austin | David Ondich
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| Shawn Saladin
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The Texas Governor's Committee on People with Disabilities

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*For more information on the
Barbara Jordan Media Awards,
visit our website at*

[http://gov.texas.gov/disabilities/awards/
/barbara_jordan_media_awards/](http://gov.texas.gov/disabilities/awards/barbara_jordan_media_awards/)



**Texas Governor's Committee
on People with Disabilities**

Barbara Jordan Media Awards

**Designed to recognize journalists,
journalism students and creative
organizations for presenting
accurate, respectful and
progressive portrayals of people
with disabilities**



BARBARA JORDAN MEDIA AWARDS

Categories

Broadcast includes News, Features, Radio, Entertainment, Documentary, etc.

Print includes News, Features, Advertising, PSA, and Editorial or Commentary.

Photojournalism includes a photo, series of photos or video used to tell a story.

Internet includes print, photography, or video produced and displayed for the public on a website.

Student includes print, photography, or video produced by high school or college journalism students.

Published Books on disability issues or specific disabilities, including fiction or children's books that feature a character with a disability.

There is NO FEE for entries. Submission Guidelines and Entry Forms can be found on our website at:

http://gov.texas.gov/disabilities/awards/barbara_jordan_media_awards/

What are the Barbara Jordan Media Awards?

Since 1982, the **Barbara Jordan Media Awards**, created by the Texas Governor's Committee on People with Disabilities, has served the purpose of recognizing and honoring print, broadcast, and internet media professionals and students who accurately and respectfully report on individuals with disabilities, using People First language and positive portrayals. Because the media has an integral role in shaping public perceptions, the awards are meant to raise awareness within the journalism profession as well as in the public community.

The awards are named in honor of Barbara Jordan, a distinguished Texan who served in the U.S. House of Representatives and the Texas Senate and who was known as a trailblazing spokesperson for the rights of all human beings.

To be eligible for the award, entries must have been produced and offered to the public during the calendar year before the awards are presented, and submitted to our office by January 15. A panel of judges, including media professionals and people familiar with disability issues, determine winners in several categories, looking for stories that realistically portray people with disabilities as independent and productive, and that focus on the person first.

What is the Governor's Committee?

The Committee is composed of twelve members who are appointed by the Governor, at least seven of whom must be persons with disabilities. The Committee is supported by a staff of five state employees. Officials from various Texas state agencies serve as advisory ex-officio members.

What does the Committee do?

The Committee and staff serve as subject matter sources of information on the abilities, rights, problems, and needs of Texans with disabilities. They advise the Governor and the state legislature on issues related to Texans with disabilities. Although the Committee does not have enforcement legislation linked to its enabling statute in the Texas Human Resources Code, Chapter 115, it develops policy recommendations based on citizen input and research.

Does the Committee work with local communities and organizations?

The Committee develops statewide networks of volunteer community-level committees to help promote dissemination of information and to support the rights of Texans with disabilities. It provides information and technical assistance to public and private agencies and businesses to promote and facilitate disability rights laws.