



Governor Rick Perry

Committee on People with Disabilities

CHAIR: Joe Bontke, Houston
Executive Director: Angela English

Members:

Aaron W. Bangor Austin	Rudy Becerra, Jr. Nacogdoches
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Connie Sue Kelley Humble	Margaret Larsen The Hills
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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://governor.state.tx.us/disabilities/awards/
barbara_jordan_media_awards/](http://governor.state.tx.us/disabilities/awards/barbara_jordan_media_awards/)



Texas Governor's Committee on People with Disabilities

Barbara Jordan Media Awards

**Designed to recognize individuals and
organizations for eliminating
attitudinal and social barriers
and to encourage
accurate, respectful and progressive
portrayals of people with disabilities**



**BARBARA JORDAN
MEDIA AWARDS**
Categories

What is the Governor's Committee?

The Committee is composed of twelve gubernatorial appointed members, 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 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 committees and organizations?

The Committee develops statewide networks of volunteer community-level committees to help promote dissemination of information and 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.

What are the Barbara Jordan Media Awards?

In 1982, a series of annual awards recognizing outstanding contributions of the Texas communications media was established by the Texas Governor's Committee on People with Disabilities. These awards recognize media professionals, students, and organizations for eliminating attitudinal and social barriers, and for encouraging accurate, respectful and progressive portrayals of people with disabilities. At the suggestion of media advisors, the awards were named for Barbara Jordan, one of Texas' most distinguished citizens and foremost spokespersons for the rights of all human beings.

The **Barbara Jordan Media Awards** acknowledge print, broadcast, and Internet media professionals and students who accurately and positively report on individuals with disabilities. Each year the decisions for the judges become more difficult as more quality entries are received.

To be eligible, 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, score the entries to determine winners in several categories.

Television includes News, Features, Entertainment, Documentary, etc.

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

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

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

Radio includes News, Features, Advertising and PSA.

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

Special Contribution includes mixed media productions produced by an individual or organization to publicize activities or events.

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

Submission Guidelines and Entry Forms can be found on our website at:

*[http://governor.state.tx.us/disabilities/awards/
barbara_jordan_media_awards/](http://governor.state.tx.us/disabilities/awards/barbara_jordan_media_awards/)*