



**Governor Greg Abbott
Governor's Committee on
People with Disabilities**

Members:

- Aaron Bangor**, *Chair*, Austin
Nancy Clemmer, Austin
Elizabeth Dickey, Austin
Marilou Fowler, Katy
Heather Griffith, Fort Worth
Archer Hadley, Austin
P. Faye Kuo, Austin
Richard Martinez, San Antonio
Linda Millstone, Austin
Dylan Rafaty, Dallas
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*For more information on our
**Lex Frieden Employment
Awards**, visit our website:*

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



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

*Lex Frieden
Employment Awards*

**Presented to outstanding
employers who have
demonstrated efforts to
hire and retain employees
with disabilities, and to
recognize Best Practices in
the workplace.**



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.

The Committee works with local communities & 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.

What are the Lex Frieden Employment Awards?

Since 1979, the Texas Governor's Committee on People with Disabilities has worked to highlight the efforts of employers to hire and retain employees with disabilities, and to recognize Best Practices that positively affect employees with disabilities within the workplace.

An employer whose philosophy is to support employment opportunities for all Texans, including people with disabilities, benefits the local community as well as the state. The attitude of working as a strong partner in the community is considered an admirable strength to be highlighted, acknowledged and encouraged by the presentation of GCPD's Lex Frieden Employment Awards, named for the well known disability rights champion and independent living movement leader who is regarded as one of the architects of the landmark Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990.

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

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

Awards Categories

The Governor's Trophy is the Governor's Committee's highest honor and is awarded to a person who has achieved extraordinary success in enhancing the empowerment and employment of Texans with disabilities. The Governor's Trophy recognizes long-term commitment and outstanding efforts at both the community and state level.

Employer Awards are presented in four categories:

Small Employer (25 or fewer employees)

Medium Employer (26 to 500 employees)

Large Employer (500+ employees)

Non-Profit Employer

The Entrepreneurship Award recognizes a living entrepreneur with a disability who has shown extraordinary ingenuity and drive to create and sustain a successful business that has created jobs and/or accessible services.

The Martha Arbuckle Award recognizes an innovative Local Committee project.