

Houston Bar Bulletin

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Join Incoming HBA President for Annual Dinner, May 17

Join the Houston Bar Association and HBA Auxiliary for the HBA Annual Dinner on Thursday, May 17, at River Oaks Country Club. Warren W. Harris of Bracewell LLP will succeed Alistair Dawson of Beck Redden LLP as the new HBA president. The event begins with a reception at 6:30 p.m., followed by dinner at 7:00 p.m.



Harris

Dawson will present President's Awards to outstanding committee and program chairs. He will recognize Mayor Sylvester Turner, Harris County Judge Emmett, Judge Robert Schaffer, Judge Sylvia Matthews, Judge Susan Brown, Judge David Farr and Judge Paula Goodhart for their service during and after Hurricane

Harvey. Dawson will also recognize members who have reached their 50th year of practice.

Dress is cocktail attire. Tickets are \$150 per person by mail; \$156 if purchased by credit

card online. Tables of eight and 10 are available. Seating is limited and no tickets are sold at the door. To purchase tickets by May 9, please visit www.hba.org.

President
Warren Harris
Bracewell LLP

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*Abraham, Watkins, Nichols,
Sorrels, Agosto & Aziz*

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Norton Rose Fulbright US LLP

Robert Painter
Painter Law Firm PLLC

Greg Ulmer
Baker Hostetler

Diana Gomez
Chamberlain Hrdlicka

Celebrating Texas Day of Civility, April 20

In recognition of the first-ever Texas Day of Civility in the Law, April 20, the Houston Bar Association, American Board of Trial Advocates and Houston Young Lawyers Association sponsored "Civility and Ethics in the Courtroom," a luncheon and judicial panel at the 1910 Courthouse that featured Judge Mike Engelhart, Judge Michael Gomez, Judge Sylvia Matthews, Judge Robert Schaffer, and moderator Geoff Gannaway. They presented examples of how civility (and lack of civility) affects clients and court practice. The HBA also offered an ethics presentation at a morning Java with the Judges and visits to all three Houston law schools.



Bar Bulletin Changing to Better Serve You

At the HBA, we constantly work to improve our communications with members, so that you receive the most timely and effective notice about events and activities, CLE, networking, volunteer opportunities, and other benefits. We want our communications with you to be timely, effective, cost-efficient and interactive.

Beginning in July, the *Houston Bar Bulletin* will change from a bi-monthly printed newsletter to a monthly online newsletter. You will receive an email prior to the first of every month that will give you a direct link to that month's newsletter. The link will also be posted on the homepage of the HBA web site, www.hba.org. You will still be able to print your Bulletin on your office or home printer, if you prefer a paper copy.

The new and improved online *Houston Bar Bulletin* will give the HBA flexibility to publish more content. The digital publication will in-

clude timelier, more detailed information about activities, upcoming events, news featuring our members, section and committee activities, CLE and professional development programs. You will see more photos and graphics in full color; live links to register for events, find directions and contact organizers; connections to social media; and news about your legal community.

You will still receive a print copy of the HBA's bi-monthly magazine, *The Houston Lawyer*, if you have chosen that option. And you will still receive your weekly e-Bulletin every Monday and your weekly CLE Update every Wednesday, as well as special emails highlighting upcoming events and activities.

If you have any questions about the new monthly online newsletter, contact the HBA communications department at (713) 759-1133.

HBA Introduces Auto-Renewal Option for Yearly Dues

HBA members will now have the option to auto-renew their membership (including section memberships), instead of completing and returning a dues statement each year. This new feature is convenient for members, assists the HBA in planning, and reduces paper.

On the 2018-19 membership form, you will have the option to auto-renew in the last row. Should you choose to do so, this will be the last HBA membership form you will have to complete in your career!

If you have questions about auto-renew, please contact the Membership Department at ronr@hba.org or daniellek@hba.org.

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Will-a-Thon Serves Record Number of Clients

The HBA's annual Will-a-Thon, sponsored by the HBA Elder Law Committee, completed intake for a record 237 wills on Wednesday, April 4. Volunteer attorneys gathered at Tidwell Community Center to serve low-income seniors, disabled persons, and veterans of all ages in need of simple wills and medical directives.

The Houston Volunteer Lawyers assisted in coordinating the event, and the City of Houston's Department of Neighborhoods helped promote the service to the public.

Phase two of the Will-a-Thon, when the drafted wills are executed, was set for May 2.

MOILP Luncheon Features Panel on Diversity and Growth, June 7

The Houston Bar Association's Minority Opportunities in the Legal Profession Committee is hosting its Annual Summer Luncheon on Thursday, June 7, 2018 at the DoubleTree by Hilton Hotel Houston Downtown, 400 Dallas Street, from 11:30 a.m. - 1 p.m. A panel will discuss the topic "Reflecting on Diversity, Cultivating Growth." Panelists include Vijay D'Cruz of Enterprise Products Operating, Jarvis Hollingsworth of Bracewell LLP, and Hon. Debra Mayfield,

190th Civil District Court. The panel will be moderated by Rehan Alimohammad of Wong Fleming.

All law students who are working as summer interns in Houston law firms, corporate legal departments, courts or government/non-profit organizations, as well as attorneys, judges, and other program supporters, are invited to attend. The HBA would like to thank the organizations that are participating in this year's summer employ-

ment program. Employers are listed at www.hba.org/moilp18.

Tickets are \$55 per individual, \$35 for government employees, judges and non-profit employees, as well as their interns. Tables of eight are available. Visit www.hba.org/moilp18 to purchase tickets online or to print an order form and pay by check. The ticket deadline is May 18. This event sells out each year. For information, contact Bonnie Simmons at bonnies@hba.org.

Harris County Bench Bar Pro Bono Award Winners Honored at April 30 Luncheon

Individuals and legal organizations who performed outstanding pro bono work in 2017 were honored at the 2018 Harris County Bench Bar Pro Bono Awards Luncheon on Monday, April 30 at the Historic 1910 Courthouse. A committee headed by HBA President



Mithoff

Alistair Dawson (Beck Redden LLP) and the Hon. Robert K. Schaffer (152nd District Court) selected winners based on quality and quantity of pro bono representation. The President's Pro Bono Star Award was also designated for pro bono mediation services.

The keynote speaker was Richard Mithoff of Mithoff Law, who recently co-founded the Richard and Ginni Mithoff Pro Bono Program

at the University of Texas Law School, and established the Joe Jamail Endowment for Veterans Legal Services.

Our gratitude to the following recipients:

Corporate Award
Exxon Mobil Corporation

Large Firm Award
Baker Botts L.L.P.

Mid-Size Firm Award
Akin Gump Strauss Hauer & Feld LLP

Small Firm Award
Berg & Androphy

Individual Award
Mike Day
Trey Yates Law

President's Pro Bono Star Award
Steven Howard
Steven C. Howard, PC



HLRS Unveils New Logo

For 60 years, the Houston Lawyer Referral Service – an ancillary organization of the Houston Bar Association – has connected qualified attorneys to clients in the community. In April, HLRS sponsored a free CLE program for all licensed legal practitioners in Texas, as part of their landmark anniversary celebration. Now the organization has developed a brand new logo to reflect its longevity as a benefit for attorneys.

HLRS is always looking for attorneys to add to their network. Call (713) 650-0470 to begin the vetting process, and you will soon find an increase in business!

Members of the public in search of formal legal representation in criminal and civil cases can call the HLRS intake line, (713) 237-9429, Monday through Friday, 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. For more information, visit hlrs.org.

Volunteer Opportunities

Special Olympics Spring Athletics and Soccer Tournament – The HBA Special Olympics Committee is looking for volunteers for the Special Olympics Track & Field and Soccer events on Saturday, May 12 at Strake Jesuit, 8900 Bellaire Blvd. Shifts available from 8 a.m. - noon and 11:30 - 4 p.m. To register as a volunteer, visit sotx.org/volunteer-4-hba.

LegalLine – Need a great team-building activity? Choose a date and have your firm volunteer for LegalLine, the HBA's twice monthly call-in program that answers legal questions for Houstonians. The HBA is now scheduling two-hour shifts (5 - 7 p.m. or 7 - 9 p.m.) on the first and third

Wednesdays for 2018-2019. See what dates are still available by contacting Ashley Steininger at ashleyg@hba.org or (713) 759-1133.

Saturday Veterans Clinics – The HBA's Veterans Legal Initiative sponsors free, walk-in, semimonthly legal advice clinics for U.S. veterans on Saturday mornings at various VA facilities near Houston. The Initiative is in need of volunteer attorneys to staff clinics in Galveston, Tomball, Richmond, Conroe, Katy, and Texas City. Contact Tara Shockley at taras@hba.org or (713) 759-1133 to sign up.



Equal Access Champions

The firms, corporations and individuals listed below have agreed to assume a leadership role in providing equal access to justice for all Harris County citizens. Each has made a commitment to provide representation in a certain number of cases through the Houston Volunteer Lawyers.

Large Firm Champions

Baker Botts L.L.P.
Bracewell LLP
Hunton Andrews Kurth LLP
Locke Lord LLP
Norton Rose Fulbright US LLP
Vinson & Elkins LLP

Corporate Champions

BP America Inc.
CenterPoint Energy, Inc.
Exxon Mobil Corporation
Halliburton Energy
LyondellBasell Industries
Marathon Oil Company
Shell Oil Company

Mid-Size Firm Champions

Akin Gump Strauss Hauer & Feld LLP
BakerHostetler LLP
Beck Redden LLP
Chamberlain Hrdlicka
Gardere Wynne Sewell LLP
Gibbs & Bruns LLP
Gray Reed & McGraw, P.C.
Greenberg Traurig, LLP
Haynes and Boone, L.L.P.
Jackson Walker L.L.P.
Jones Day
King & Spalding LLP
Morgan, Lewis & Bockius LLP
Porter Hedges LLP
ReedSmith LLP
Sidley Austin LLP
Strasburger & Price, L.L.P.
Winstead PC
Winston & Strawn LLP

Boutique Firm Champions

Abraham, Watkins, Nichols, Sorrels, Agosto
& Aziz
Blank Rome LLP
Dentons US LLP
McDowell & Hetherington LLP
Fullenweider Wilhite PC
Hogan Lovells US LLP
Jenkins & Kamin, L.L.P.
LeClairRyan
Ogden, Broocks & Hall, L.L.P.
Ogletree, Deakins, Nash, Smoak & Stewart
P.C.
Vorys, Sater, Seymour and Pease LLP
Weycer, Kaplan, Pulaski & Zuber, P.C.
Wilson, Cribbs & Goren, P.C.
Yetter Coleman LLP

Small Firm Champions

Coane & Associates
Frye, Benavidez and O'Neil, PLLC
Fuqua & Associates, P.C.
Gibson, Dunn & Crutcher LLP
Givens & Johnston
Hunton & Williams LLP
Katine & Nechman L.L.P.
Katten Muchin Rosenman LLP
KoonsFuller, P.C.
MehaffeyWeber, P.C.
Quinn Emanuel Urquhart & Sullivan, LLP
Shortt & Nguyen, P.C.
Trahan Kornegay Payne, LLP

Individual Champions

Law Office of Peter J. Bennett
Law Office of J. Thomas Black, P.C.
Burford Perry, LLP
The Dieye Firm
The Ericksen Law Firm
Law Office of Todd M. Frankfort
Hasley Scarano L.L.P.
David Hsu and Associates
The Jurek Law Group, PLLC
Law Firm of Min Gyu Kim PLLC
The LaFitte Law Group, PLLC
Law Firm of Catherine Le PLLC
C. Y. Lee Legal Group, PLLC
Law Office of Gregory S. Lindley
Martin R. G. Marasigan Law Offices
Law Office of Evangeline Mitchell, PLLC
Rita Pattni, Attorney at Law
Pilgrim Law Office
Law Office of Robert E. Price
The Reece Law Firm, PLLC
Sanchez Law Firm
Law Office of Jeff Skarda
Angela Solice, Attorney at Law
Diane C. Treich, Attorney at Law
Law Office of Norma Levine Trusch
Law Office of Cindi L. Wiggins, J.D.
Troy Yates Law