



Houston Bar Association

Committee Opportunities for 2017-2018

Serve on an HBA Committee - enhance your practice and your personal development!
Learn more about HBA committees and time commitments by visiting
www.hba.org and clicking on **Committees**. **Please return this form by Friday, April 14, 2017.**

The Houston Bar Association Ambassadors *Want You To Join!*



- **Administration of Justice Committee:** Plans an annual Bench Bar Conference to create opportunities for communication between attorneys and the judiciary. **Meets 6x per year.**

- **AIDS Outreach Committee:** Coordinates a Holiday Gift Drive for families affected by HIV/AIDS, provides a meal to the Omega House residents, and participates in the AIDS Walk. **Meets 5-6x per year.**

- **Campaign for the Homeless Committee:** Oversees the HBA's annual clothing drive. **Meets 3-4x per year; recruiting donors, picking up clothing and sorting donations.**

- **Communities In Schools Committee:** Supports the Summer Legal Internship Program sponsored with Communities in Schools Houston for at-risk high school students. Committee members plan and provide enrichment activities for students and recruit law firms to hire high school students through the program. **Meets 6-7x per year in Spring and Summer.**

- **Consumer Law Committee:** Develops ways in which the HBA can help families face difficult consumer issues in challenging economic times, including advice and counsel at legal clinics, updating the Consumer Law Handbook, and developing resources and training attorneys in consumer law issues. **Meets 6x per year.**

- **Continuing Legal Education Committee:** Plans and executes continuing legal education seminars, institutes and special programs. For membership requirements, contact Ashley Steinger at 713-759-1133 or ashleyg@hba.org. **Meets 2x per year.**

- **County Law Library Committee:** Reviews the facilities and materials in the Harris County Law Library and advises on how the bar can serve the library. **Meets 4x per year.**

- **HBA John J. Eikenburg Law Week Fun Run Committee:** Organizes the annual HBA John J. Eikenburg Law Week Fun Run for HBA members and the community that benefits The Center, a facility that serves persons with intellectual disabilities. **Meets 7-8x per year.**

- **Elder Law Committee:** Volunteers visit senior citizen sites when requested to provide legal advice and secure legal representation, if needed. Supervises the publication of an Elder Law Handbook and organizes a yearly Will-A-Thon for eligible seniors, veterans, and the disabled. **Meets 4x per year.**

- **Fee Dispute Committee:** Arbitrates disputes between attorneys and clients involving legal fees. Must be licensed for at least 5 years. Appointment to a panel not guaranteed. **Meets 1-2x per year.**

- **Gender Fairness Committee:** Examines issues related to gender equity in the legal profession and develops programs to discuss diversity, equality and inclusion in law firms. **Meets 4-6x per year.**

- **Golf Tournament Committee:** Plans and conducts an annual golf tournament for HBA members. **Meets 5x per year.**

- **Habitat for Humanity:** Raises funds and recruits volunteers to build homes with Houston Habitat for Humanity. **Meets 7-8x per year; opportunity to lead on a build date.**

- **HAY Center Committee:** Works with the Houston Alumni and Youth (HAY) Center to provide services to youth aging out of the foster care system in Harris County, including enrichment programs, a holiday party, a prom event and legal speakers. **Meets 10x per year; subcommittee work expected.**

- **Historical Committee:** Responsible for researching and preserving the history of the association and its members. **Meets 6x per year.**

- **The Houston Lawyer Committee:** In cooperation with HBA staff and board, edits and publishes a bi-monthly magazine to keep members updated on the law and HBA activities. For membership requirements, contact Tara Shockley at 713-759-1133 or taras@hba.org. **Meets 12x per year.**

- **IDEA Committee:** Coordinates the Interprofessional Drug Education Alliance (IDEA), a cooperative effort between the HBA and medical professionals that educates fifth graders about the medical and legal consequences of drug abuse. **Meets 2x per year.**

- **Juvenile Consequences Partnership:** A partnership of the HBA, the Harris County Juvenile Probation Department, the Harris County District Attorney's Office and the Houston Police Department that provides youth and their parents information about the juvenile justice system, giving juveniles a second chance to stay out of the system. **Meets 1x per year. Each committee member is expected to speak at one program a year; attorneys with juvenile defense experience needed.**

- **Judicial Polls Committee:** Oversees the development, distribution to members, and dissemination of results for judicial candidate qualification questionnaires, judicial preference polls, and judicial evaluation questionnaires. **Meets 3x per year.**

- **Law & the Media Committee:** Plans and executes the yearly Law and the Media Seminar for attorneys, news professionals and students, in partnership with the Society of Professional Journalists and Houston Press Club. **Meets 2-3x per year; Saturday event attendance recommended.**

See additional committees on next page.

• **Law Week Committee:** Plans and implements a comprehensive program of activities in commemoration of Law Day, May 1, a national holiday set aside to recognize the importance of law in society, including contests, school readings, dialogue programs and a visit to the courthouse for special needs students. *Meets 10x per year; various event attendance recommended.*

• **Lawyers for a Beautiful Houston:** Works with community partners to organize projects that promote beautification of Houston. *Meets 6x per year; Fall and Spring event attendance recommended.*

• **Lawyers for Literacy Committee:** Conducts an annual book drive and organizes volunteers to read at elementary schools. *Meets 2-4x per year; help with book sorting required.*

• **Membership Committee:** Works to increase membership in the HBA through membership drives, monitors member benefits, and oversees the publication of an annual Pictorial Roster of members. *Meets 4x per year.*

• **Minority Opportunities in the Legal Profession Committee:** Organizes and implements a summer clerkship program for first-year law students from the three Houston law schools to encourage equal opportunities for minority lawyers in the legal profession. Provides educational service and support programs for minority law students. *Meets 10-12x per year.*

• **Professionalism Committee:** Promotes professionalism within the legal community and encourages public awareness of the HBA's commitment to its mandate on professionalism. Coordinates the Mentor/Mentee Program; all members of this committee licensed 5 years or more are expected to serve as a mentor. *Meets 6x per year; attendance at various events is recommended.*

• **Project TRAIN (Training, Readiness and Inclusion Network):** This is a new committee being launched by incoming HBA President Alistair Dawson as part of his initiative to support and help those with special needs. The committee will develop and distribute training materials

for employers to assist them in hiring and retaining individuals with special needs or other cognitive disorders. Committee members also will recruit law firms, corporate legal departments and companies to join the Network and look for opportunities to hire special individuals.

• **Senior Lawyers Forum:** Plans quarterly luncheon meetings and recruits speakers on diverse topics of interest to lawyers 50 and over. *Meets 2x per year; optional attendance at four forums, potential for speaker introduction.*

• **Speakers Bureau:** Members serve as speakers on legal topics for schools, service clubs and other civic organizations. *Meets 1-2x per year; speaking requirement and help with recruiting.*

• **Special Olympics Committee:** Coordinates and recruits volunteers in support of Special Olympics Texas sports activities. *Meets 7-8x per year; members serve as volunteer coordinators for at least two events.*

Please remember that reappointment to a committee on which you have been serving is not automatic, and that all committee appointments are made by the HBA president. Every effort is made to accommodate your interests, and you may serve on more than one committee. Some committees, however, have limited membership. For more information, call (713) 759-1133. You must be a member of the HBA in order to serve on an HBA committee.

Ancillary Organizations

The HBA also has three ancillary organizations that are governed by boards of directors, rather than committees. **If you are interested in being considered for a board position on one of these organizations, please fill in that section of the form below.** Please remember that these boards have limited membership and the HBA may not be able to accommodate your preference for one of these boards.

• **Dispute Resolution Center:** The DRC is a nonprofit corporation, sponsored by the HBA and funded through the Harris County Courts, providing free mediation services for the residents of Harris County. The DRC mediates over 2,800

disputes each year that include: family, neighbors, auto repair, landlord/tenant, consumer/merchant, HOAs, employment and personal injury. The DRC Board makes recommendations to the HBA on the operation and administration of programs and the yearly budget. *The DRC Board meets 6x per year; attendance requirements.*

• **Houston Lawyer Referral Service:** The HLRS provides referrals to over 200 private attorneys who have been screened and selected on experience in specific areas of the law. HLRS serves individuals with a legal matter in the Houston Metropolitan Area including Harris, Montgomery, Fort Bend, Brazoria and Galveston counties. Formed in 1958, HLRS is sponsored by the HBA and eight other local bar associations. The HLRS Board makes rec-

ommendations to the HBA on the operation and administration of programs and the yearly budget. *The HLRS Board meets 6x per year; attendance requirements.*

• **Houston Volunteer Lawyers:** The HVL was founded in 1981 to deliver free legal services to low-income residents of Harris County. HVL links qualified applicants with attorneys volunteering their time on a pro bono basis to handle family, wills and probate, consumer, tax, landlord/tenant and many other civil matters. The HVL Board makes recommendations to the HBA on the operation and administration of programs and the yearly budget. *The HVL Board meets 12x per year; attendance requirements.*

HBA Committee Opportunity Request Form

You may list up to three committees on which you would like to serve:

1. _____
2. _____
3. _____

Alternate, if above choice(s) are full: _____

I would like to serve on two committees. No preference. I would like to serve on an HBA committee where needed.

Check here if you are interested in serving on a board for one of the three Ancillary Organizations described above. Remember that board membership for Ancillary Organizations is limited and the HBA may not be able accommodate your preference to serve on one of these boards.

Ancillary Organization: _____

Name: _____ Firm: _____

Address: _____ City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

Office Phone: _____ Fax: _____ E-mail _____

Return by Friday, April 14, 2017 to the Houston Bar Association by email to lindseyh@hba.org, by fax to (713) 759-1710 or by mail to Houston Bar Association, 1111 Bagby, FLB 200, Houston, TX 77002.