

NEWS



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HOUSTON BAR FOUNDATION PRESENTS ANNUAL AWARDS FOR PRO BONO SERVICE, VOLUNTEER SERVICE AND LEGAL WRITING

(HOUSTON – March 6, 2014) - The Houston Bar Foundation (HBF) has announced its annual awards for pro bono service, volunteerism and legal writing. The HBF is the charitable arm of the Houston Bar Association (HBA) that enables the organization to fund crucial programs that provide legal services and support the administration of justice for all Harris County citizens.

- **S. Jack Balagia, Jr.**, Vice President and General Counsel of Exxon Mobil Corporation, was named the fifth recipient of the **James B. Sales Pro Bono Leadership Award**.

Under Balagia's leadership, ExxonMobil leads the way in corporate responsibility for pro bono service. The work of ExxonMobil attorneys in all sections of the law department has inspired and encouraged other corporate legal departments to support equal access to justice.

The Foundation also named the recipients of awards for outstanding contributions to the Houston Volunteer Lawyers (HVL), which provides pro bono legal services to low-income residents; for volunteer service to the Dispute Resolution Center, providing free alternatives to formal litigation; and for legal writing in the HBA's professional journal.

- **Fulbright & Jaworski LLP** earned the award for Outstanding Contribution to the Houston Volunteer Lawyers by a Large Firm for the 14th consecutive year.
- **Gardere Wynne Sewell LLP** received the award for Outstanding Contribution to the HVL by an Intermediate Firm for the second consecutive year.
- **BakerHostetler** received the award for Outstanding Contribution to the HVL by a Mid-size Firm.
- **Beck|Redden LLP** and **Yetter Coleman LLP** shared the award for Outstanding Contribution to the HVL by a Small Firm.
- **Coane and Associates, PLLC** and **Jenkins & Kamin, L.L.P.** shared the award for Outstanding Contribution to the HVL by a Boutique Firm.
- **Peter J. Bennett** was honored for Outstanding Contribution to HVL by a solo practitioner for the second consecutive year.
- **Exxon Mobil Corporation** was honored for Outstanding Contribution to HVL by a Corporate Law Department.
- **Susan B. Sanchez** of Exxon Mobil Corporation earned her second consecutive award as Outstanding Pro Bono Coordinator.
- **Jack Edwards** and his firm, **Ajamie LLP**, along with **John Spiller** of Strasburger & Price, LLP, received special recognition from HVL for exceptional pro bono representation on a complex, time consuming case that took more than five years to complete.
- Attorney **Robert G. Devlin** was recognized for Outstanding Volunteer Service to the Dispute Resolution Center.
- **The Hon. Alvin L. Zimmerman** was honored for Longevity of Exemplary Service to the Dispute Resolution Center.
- **The Hon. Dan Hinde**, judge of the 269th District Court, was honored as the author of the outstanding legal article published in *The Houston Lawyer*, the HBA's professional journal.