

NEWS



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Photo attached. Contact: Tara Shockley, (713)759-1133

HBA Recognized by State Bar of Texas for Outstanding Programs

(Houston – June 27, 2014) The Houston Bar Association (HBA) was recognized by the State Bar of Texas with several awards for outstanding programs at the Bar Leaders Recognition Luncheon, held June 26 during the State Bar’s Annual Meeting in Austin.

The HBA’s Houston Volunteer Lawyers (HVL) was honored with the **Pro Bono Award** for outstanding contributions toward guaranteeing access to the legal system by the poor. In 2013, HVL provided in-person, one-on-one legal advice to more than 4,000 applicants at no charge, referred 1,270 cases to pro bono attorneys for long term representation at no charge, assisted 1,900 U.S. veterans with legal issues, and assisted more than 7,100 pro se litigants at the Harris County Family Courthouse.

The HBA received the **Outstanding Partnership Award** for 25 years of work with the Greater Houston Area Special Olympics, providing tens of thousands of volunteer hours for Special Olympics sports events. The HBA also received the **Star of Achievement Award** for its Constitution Day Celebration, centered on September 17. More than 100 attorneys read a law-related book to 8,500 elementary school students in 200 classes at 101 schools, then donated the book to the school libraries. The HBA also partnered with the Houston Chronicle’s Chronicle in Education Program to reach nearly 64,000 Texas students through a curriculum called *The Power and the Glory – The U.S. Constitution*, which explains the importance of the document in relation to current stories in the news.

The Hon. Kem Frost, chief justice of Houston Fourteenth Court of Appeals, nominated by the HBA and HVL, received the **Judge Merrill Hartman Pro Bono Judge Award** for her exemplary pro bono service, including outreach to attorneys to increase the quantity and quality of pro bono representation and advocacy on behalf of access to justice.

The 11,400-member Houston Bar Association won the awards in the category of bar associations with more than 5,000 members.

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The Houston Bar Association is an 11,400-member nonprofit professional organization for attorneys. The HBA provides professional development, education, and service programs for the legal profession and the community.