



Houston Bar Foundation

1111 Bagby, FLB 200, Houston, Texas 77002 Fax (713) 759-1710 www.hba.org

Media Contact: Tara Shockley, (713) 759-1133
or taras@hba.org

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

(HOUSTON – February 22, 2017) - 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.

- **Richard L. (Dick) Tate**, partner at Tate, Moerer & King LLP, was named the seventh recipient of the **James B. Sales Pro Bono Leadership Award**. Tate has served as chair of the board of directors of the Texas Access to Justice Foundation (TAJF) for two decades. Under his leadership, TAJF funds more than 37 nonprofit legal organizations that provide assistance in civil matters to more than 100,000 low-income Texas families each year, in matters that include protection from domestic violence, maintaining public benefits, protection from consumer scams, and veterans legal services.

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.

- **Baker Botts LLP** earned the award for Outstanding Contribution to the Houston Volunteer Lawyers by a Large Firm.
- **CenterPoint Energy, Inc.** was honored for Outstanding Contribution to the HVL by a Corporate Law Department.
- **Morgan Lewis & Bockius LLP** and **Gray Reed & McGraw LLP** were both honored for Outstanding Contribution to the HVL by a Mid-Size Firm.
- **Trahan Dinn Kornegay Payne LLP** received the award for Outstanding Contribution to the HVL by a Small Firm.
- **Kenneth D. Kuykendall**, of counsel to Royston, Rayzor, Vickery & Williams, L.L.P., and **Ryan J. Lynch**, an associate at Latham & Watkins LLP, were both honored for Outstanding Individual Contribution to the HVL.
- Attorney **Austin M. O'Toole** was recognized for Outstanding Contribution to the Dispute Resolution Center.
- **Jon Eliot King** was honored for Longevity of Exemplary Service to the Dispute Resolution Center.
- **Randall O. Sorrels**, name partner at Abraham, Watkins, Nichols, Sorrels, Agosto & Aziz, and **Eric K. Gerard**, a former associate in the firm, were honored as the authors of

the outstanding legal article published in *The Houston Lawyer*, the HBA's professional journal.