

NEWS

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For Immediate Release

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Photos available on request

Houston Bar Foundation Presents Annual Awards for Pro Bono Service, Volunteer Service and Legal Writing

(HOUSTON – February 16, 2018) - 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 pro bono legal services and support the administration of justice for all Harris County citizens.

Awards were presented 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.

- **Vinson & Elkins LLP** earned the award for Outstanding Contribution to the Houston Volunteer Lawyers by a Large Firm.
- **King & Spalding LLP** received the award for Outstanding Contribution to the HVL by a Mid-size Firm.
- **Frye, Benavidez & O'Neil, PLLC** received the award for Outstanding Contribution to the HVL by a Small Firm.
- **Keri D. Brown** of Baker Botts L.L.P. and **Scott A. Bresk** of the Harris County Attorney's Office were both honored for Outstanding Contribution to HVL by an Individual.
- **Exxon Mobil Corporation** and **Halliburton** were both honored for Outstanding Contribution to HVL by a Corporate Law Department.
- **Austin M. O' Toole**, attorney at law, was recognized for Outstanding Volunteer Service to the Dispute Resolution Center for the second consecutive year and third time overall.
- **Russell C. Ducoff**, attorney at law, was honored for Longevity of Exemplary Service to the Dispute Resolution Center.
- **Sam M. "Trey" Yates and Mike Day**, both of Trey Yates Law Firm, were honored as the authors of the outstanding legal article published in *The Houston Lawyer*, the HBA's professional journal.

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Established in 1982, the Houston Bar Foundation is the charitable arm of the Houston Bar Association, providing grants for a number of community programs, including the Houston Volunteer Lawyers (HVL) and the Veterans Legal Initiative (VLI). HVL provides pro bono legal assistance in civil matters to Harris County residents who could not otherwise afford legal representation.