

# NEWS



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Photos are available*

## **Harris County Bench Bar Pro Bono Awards Recognize Outstanding Legal Service to Low-income Houstonians**

*(Houston, Texas – May 3, 2016)* The Harris County judiciary in conjunction with the Houston Bar Association presented the eighth annual Harris County Bench Bar Pro Bono Awards to law firms, individuals and a corporate legal department on May 2 at a ceremony and luncheon held at the Harris County Civil Courthouse.

The awards program was established to recognize outstanding pro bono service through local legal service providers and to encourage the provision of direct legal services to low-income Harris County residents. A committee of seven judges and six attorneys selected the recipients. The keynote speaker was Anthony Graves, the 138<sup>th</sup> death row exoneree in the U.S., who delivered a moving message about the importance of pro bono service to our justice system. Harris County Administrative Judge Robert Schaffer of the 152<sup>nd</sup> District Court and Houston Bar Association President Laura Gibson presented the following awards for outstanding pro bono service in 2015:

- Large Firm – **Vinson & Elkins LLP**
- Mid-size Firm – **Gibbs & Bruns LLP**
- Small Firm – **Coane & Associates, PLLC**
- Corporation – **Exxon Mobil Corporation Law Department**
- Individual – **Lan T. Nguyen** of Shortt & Nguyen, P.C.

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*The Houston Bar Association is an 11,400-member metropolitan bar association that provides professional development, education, and service programs for the legal profession and the community.*