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Legal, Medical Professions Team Up to Deliver Anti- Drug/Alcohol Message at 13 Area Schools on October 24

(Houston, Texas – October 23, 2017) Attorneys from the Houston Bar Association and Houston area medical professionals are teaming up to educate fifth graders about the medical and legal consequences of drug and alcohol use through the Interprofessional Drug Education Alliance (IDEA) Program. Teams consisting of an attorney and a medical professional will use an interactive approach to provide information to 1,370 fifth graders at 13 schools in five school districts (Houston, Cy-Fair, Galena Park, Channelview and Pasadena).

Most participating schools will have two morning sessions, at 9:00 a.m. and 10:00 a.m., to educate youth about the dangers of drugs and substance abuse. The Houston Bar Association and the Houston medical community established the IDEA Program in 1992 with a primary focus of preparing fifth graders for peer pressure they may face in middle school and beyond.

The teams encourage dialogue about the realities of using drugs and alcohol. Physicians will inform children on how drugs, alcohol and tobacco damage their minds and growing bodies, while attorneys will discuss the perils of youth entering the criminal justice system. Some physician/attorney teams will stimulate discussion with visual aids, such as handcuffs, jail attire, photographs, and organs damaged by drugs and alcohol. Since 1992, the IDEA Program has reached over 73,000 students in many local school districts in the Houston area.

To cover an IDEA program at one of the schools, please call Tara Shockley or Ashley Steininger at 713-759-1133 in advance, or on the day of the event, check in at the school office when arriving.

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The Houston Bar Association, with over 10,000 members, is the nation's fifth-largest metropolitan bar association. The HBA provides professional development, education, and service programs for the legal profession and the community.