

HOUSTON BAR FOUNDATION

# CORNERSTONE

Volume 19 • March 2013

## *The Compassionate Side of the Practice of Law*

For the last year, I have had the honor of serving as the Chair of the Houston Bar Foundation. The HBF is the charitable arm of the Houston Bar Association and is one of the largest supporters of programs providing pro bono legal services to those who would otherwise be left without recourse to an attorney. My time on the Board and as Chair has yielded a number of insights, a few of which I share below. Most are obvious, but perhaps still worth considering:

**First**, the gap between the need for legal services in our community and the ability of the existing infrastructure to meet those needs is widening rapidly.

The economic engine that is Houston invites many from other parts of our country and other parts of the world looking for a better life. As our population increases, the number of individuals with unmet legal needs increases as well.

Also, our society is becoming increasingly complex and legalistic. Those of us with college degrees and ready access to the Internet are easily able to keep pace with the forms, regulations and legal restrictions governing an increasingly expanding portion of our lives. Those without such a background - the uneducated, those who speak and read little English, the elderly – often find these legal requirements frightening and overwhelming. For such individuals, a little assistance or a knowledgeable helping hand can be life changing.

**Second**, it is imperative that the members of the Bar step up and support pro bono legal services – financially or with their time and talent or (ideally) both.

There is a reason why Superman spent a large portion of his time fighting evil masterminds. While his service at a canned food drive or a toys-for-tots program would most certainly have been appreciated, his skill set was uniquely suited to confronting super villains. In the same sense, while participation by those in the Bar in general civic and charity events is wonderful and should be encouraged, those who have the privilege of a law license are uniquely suited to confront the unmet legal needs of our community. While most anyone with energy or resources can help those in need with food, shelter or other day-to-day needs, only a licensed attorney can provide legal services.

While many donate resources to programs that provide needed services in our community, the area of legal services is one that is often overlooked because the issue of unmet legal needs is often viewed as a peripheral issue. For us in the Bar, however, this need concerns the core of our profession and likely should be considered as primary needs when we look at where to direct our civic time, talent and treasure.

**Third**, supporting pro bono meaningfully does not necessarily mean taking on a specific pro bono client or a specific legal matter. While the acceptance of such a matter is likely at the top of the pro bono food chain, important pro bono needs can be met by simply showing up for one of the many legal clinics sponsored by the Houston Volunteer Lawyers and helping identify individuals who have needs and qualify for pro bono support; or spending a few hours on a Friday at the Veterans Clinic helping in the same manner. It can also mean specifically direct-



2012 Foundation Chair  
Robert J. McAughan

ing a portion of your charitable contributions to a pro bono support group, such as the Houston Bar Foundation, which will ensure that those funds are directed to organizations that work to meet the legal needs of the underprivileged in our area.

While a partner at a law firm who is also a parent of small children may have little time to devote to taking a pro bono case, they may be able to make a financial contribution to a group supporting those who can. While a retired, but still-licensed, attorney on a fixed income may be unable to contribute financially to these matters, they may have time to spend impacting the lives of the needy. All of us likely have some capacity to support pro bono legal services; all of us should consider whether that capacity should be exercised, and to what extent.

My final observation is philosophical. At one time I viewed pro bono merely as free legal advice for the needy. I now view such services as the compassionate side of the practice of law. Participation in pro bono work (with your time, your donations or both) focuses on the needs of others. In our often ego-focused, profit-driven, inwardly directed profession, doing so directs our energies outward in an act of compassion that benefits those performing the work greatly. In her recently published book TWELVE STEPS TO A COMPASSIONATE LIFE, author Karen Armstrong noted that:

“[The World’s great] traditions agree that compassion is natural to human beings, that it is the fulfillment of human nature and that in calling us to set ego aside in a consistently empathetic consideration of others, it can induce us to a dimension of existence that transcends our normal self-bounded state.”

My hope (for myself and all members of the Bar) is that we can recognize the great needs of our community and devote at least some of our time, talent and/or treasure to the compassionate side of the practice of law.

### *Remember Loved Ones with Foundation Memorials*

Memorial contributions to the Houston Bar Foundation are a lasting way to remember a loved one, express appreciation, or commemorate a special date or event. The Foundation is a 501(c)(3) non-profit corporation, so all contributions are tax deductible.

Memorials are acknowledged without specified amounts, unless the donor requests otherwise. Acknowledgments are made by handwritten note to the family or designee.

For more information about memorials, please contact Kay Sim, secretary of the Houston Bar Foundation and executive director of the Houston Bar Association, at 713-759-1133 or [kays@hba.org](mailto:kays@hba.org).

# Glenn Ballard Takes Office as 2013 Houston Bar Foundation Chair

## *Giuliani Gives Keynote Address*

Glenn A. Ballard, Jr. of the Houston office of Bracewell & Giuliani LLP took office as 2013 Chair of the Houston Bar Foundation on February 7 at the Foundation's Annual Meeting and Luncheon at the Four Seasons Downtown. Welcoming him and serving as keynote speaker was Rudolph W. Giuliani, name partner in the New York office of Bracewell & Giuliani, former Mayor of the City of New York and former Presidential candidate.

Gregory Ulmer of Baker Hostetler LLP was elected vice chair of the Houston Bar Foundation and Craig Glidden of Lyondell-Basell Industries was elected treasurer. New directors are David Brinley of Shell Oil company; William R. Buck of Exxon Mobil Corporation; and Denise Scofield of Morgan, Lewis & Bockius LLP. Completing terms as directors are Christopher J. Arntzen of CenterPoint Energy; Chris Popov of Vinson & Elkins LLP; and John Eddie Williams of Williams Kherker Hart Boundas, LLP. Robert J. McAughan will serve on the board as im-

mediate past chair.

Ballard is head of Bracewell & Giuliani's trial section, where his practice focuses on complex commercial litigation with emphasis on intellectual property, real estate, banking and energy disputes. He served as president of the Houston Bar Association in 2006-2007, when he created the Equal Access to Justice Champions Program that significantly increased pro bono legal services to low-income Houstonians. Ballard also served on the board of directors of the State Bar of Texas. He is



*Giuliani and Ballard at the Annual Luncheon*

a graduate of Southern Methodist University's Dedman School of Law and is board certified in Civil Trial Law.

Giuliani served as Associate Attorney General under President Ronald Reagan, supervising all U.S. Attorney Offices, federal law enforcement agencies, the Bureau of Corrections, the DEA and the U.S. Marshals. In 1983 he was appointed U.S. Attorney for the Southern District of New York, where he led the effort to fight organized crime. He was elected Mayor of New York City in 1994 and rallied the city and the nation in response to the September 11 attacks on the World Trade Center. Giuliani ran for the Republican nomination for President of the United States in 2004.

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## Fellows Program Allows HBF to Support Community, Profession

The Houston Bar Foundation is now in its 30th year of service to the community and the profession. The success of the Foundation is due in large part to the commitment of HBA members who contribute \$20 of their yearly dues to the Foundation. In addition, the Fellows Program provides the opportunity for long-term giving.

The Fellows Program provides members the opportunity to increase their contributions to achieve both short-term and long-term goals for the Foundation, as well as their own charitable giving plan. This is an outline of the Fellows Program:

A. A Fellow pledges \$2,000, payable in a lump sum or \$200 per year for ten years.

B. Once the original \$2,000 commitment is met, a Fellow will have the opportunity to become a Life Fellow by continuing to donate \$200 per year for ten years or making an additional lump payment of \$2,000.

C. Once the Life Fellow commitment is met, a member may

become a Sustaining Life Fellow by continuing to donate \$200 per year for 10 years or making a third lump payment of \$2,000.

D. Once the Sustaining Life Fellow Commitment is met, a member may become a Continuing Sustaining Life Fellow by continuing to donate \$200 per year for five years or making a fourth lump payment of \$1,000.

The Houston Bar Association staff handles all administrative functions for the Houston Bar Foundation, keeping administrative costs to a minimum.

The goal of the Houston Bar Foundation is to become self-sustaining, with the ability to maintain and expand existing programs, while adding new programs as needs arise. A tax-deductible contribution to the Houston Bar Foundation is one of the best investments HBA members can make in the future of their profession and their community. For more information about the Fellows program, please contact Kay Sim at 713-759-1133.

## Night Court 2012: Viva Laws Vegas Comedy Show Raises Money for Foundation, Other Charities

"Night Court 2012: Viva Laws Vegas" netted nearly \$63,000 for the Houston Bar Foundation and Harris County charities. Proceeds from the production went to the Houston Bar Foundation, the Harris County STAR Family Intervention Court Program, the Children's Court Services of the Houston Area Women's Center, the Harris County Community Supervision and Correction Department's SOBER Courts, and the HBA Lawyers Against Waste Houston Arboretum Tree Project.

The event was produced by Debra Baker of Connelly•Baker•Wotring LLP and Scott Davenport of Davenport Law Firm, and directed by Judy Frow of FrowBiz. A cast, crew and orchestra of lawyers took the stage for an annual production that parodies current events, celebrities, politics and entertainment genres, as well as the legal profession.

Mark your calendar now for "Night Court 2013: Law of Ages/Feel the Energy" scheduled for June 12-15 at The Wortham Center. Tickets go on sale April 1, 2013 at [www.hba.org](http://www.hba.org).

*"Night Court 2013: Law of Ages/Feel the Energy" runs June 13-15 at The Wortham Center.*



## Foundation Presents Awards for Outstanding Pro Bono Service

During its Annual Meeting and Luncheon on February 7 at The Four Seasons, the Houston Bar Foundation announced its annual awards for pro bono service, volunteerism and legal writing.

Kay Sim, executive director of the Houston Bar Association and secretary of the Houston Bar Foundation, was named the fourth recipient of the James B. Sales Pro Bono Leadership Award. Throughout her long career with the HBA, Sim has built many of the association's most enduring public service and community education programs. Her passion for educating young people led to the development of the Juvenile Justice Mock Trial Program, which has given more than 39,000 young teens a positive look into the legal system. She has worked tirelessly to enhance the learning environment for students at B.C. Elmore Middle School, the HBA's "adopted" school in North Forest ISD. Sim also was instrumental in developing the Juvenile Consequences Program, a partnership of the HBA, the Harris County District Attorney's Office, the Houston Police Department and the Harris County Juvenile Probation Department that educates youth and their parents and gives them second chance when they enter the juvenile system. In 2008, she worked with then-HBA president, Travis Sales, to establish the Veterans Legal Initiative, which provided legal services to more than 7,500 veterans and served as a model for statewide programs.

The Foundation also named the recipients of awards for outstanding contributions to the Houston Volunteer Lawyers which provides pro bono legal services to low-income residents; for volunteer service to the Dispute Resolution Center, providing free alternatives to formal



*2012 Foundation Chair Robert J. McAughan with James B. Sales Pro Bono Leadership Award Recipient Kay Sim.*

litigation; and for legal writing in the HBA's professional journal.

- Fulbright & Jaworski L.L.P. earned the award for Outstanding Contribution to the Houston Volunteer Lawyers by a Large Firm for the 13th consecutive year.
- Gardere Wynne Sewell LLP received the award for Outstanding Contribution to the HVL by an Intermediate Firm.
- Porter Hedges LLP received the award for Outstanding Contribution to the HVL by a Mid-size Firm.
- Beck|Redden LLP received the award for Outstanding Contribution to the HVL by a Small Firm.
- Jenkins & Kamin, L.L.P. earned the award for Outstanding Contribution to the HVL by a boutique firm.
- Peter J. Bennett was honored for Outstanding Contribution to HVL by a solo practitioner.
- Exxon Mobil Corporation and LyondellBasell shared the honors for Outstanding Contribution to HVL by a Corporate Law Department.
- Susan B. Sanchez of Exxon Mobil Corporation and Monica Karuturi of LyondellBasell were both honored as Outstanding Pro Bono Coordinators.
- Attorney Francine J. Barton earned her second consecutive honor for Outstanding Volunteer Service to the Dispute Resolution Center.
- James Greenwood III was honored for Longevity of Exemplary Service to the Dispute Resolution Center.
- Caroline C. Pace of Kane Russell Coleman and Logan, PC was honored as the author of the outstanding legal article published during 2012 in *The Houston Lawyer*, the HBA's professional journal.

## Grants Allow Expansion of Veterans Legal Initiative

Grants from the Texas Access to Justice Foundation and the Texas Bar Foundation have allowed the Houston Bar Foundation to expand the Veterans Legal Initiative to 17 counties in Texas, providing legal services to veterans in Bell, Brazoria, Chambers, Fort Bend, Galveston, Grimes, Hardin, Harris, Jefferson, Liberty, McLennan, Montgomery, Orange, San Jacinto, Travis, Walker and Waller counties. This area represents a population of nearly 500,000 veterans. The Houston Bar Foundation partners with a coalition of bar associations including the Jefferson County Bar Foundation, Fort Bend Lawyers Care, Baylor Law School and the Austin Bar Foundation.

The Veterans Legal Initiative (VLI) hosts free clinics for veterans every Friday afternoon at the Michael E. DeBakey VA Medical Center. The VLI also hosts one to two Saturday clinics in outlying areas each month. In addition, the VLI sponsors programs at Houston Stand Down and at two residential facilities for veterans, U.S. VETS at Midtown Terrace and DeGeorge at Union Station.

Any veteran, or spouse of a deceased veteran, can receive legal advice and counsel at clinics. Veterans who qualify and need continued representation in a civil matter will be assigned a volunteer attorney through the Houston Volunteer Lawyers. Since the current VLI began in 2008, more than 7,500 veterans have received services. If you are interested in volunteering through the Veterans Legal Initiative, please visit the HBA website, [www.hba.org](http://www.hba.org), for a volunteer form.

Information on upcoming clinics, as well as other programs provided through the Veterans Legal Initiative, is available on the HBA website, [www.hba.org](http://www.hba.org).



*A veterans legal clinic in Bell County.*



*A veteran gets a will at a legal clinic at Baylor Law School.*

# Harvest Party 2012 Underwriters

## *Thank you for your generosity!*

The 63rd Harvest Party raised a record \$613,900 in underwriting to benefit the Houston Bar Foundation. Held on Monday, November 12, 2012 at River Oaks Country Club, the gala was co-sponsored by the Houston Bar Association, the Houston Bar Foundation and the HBA Auxiliary.

### \$25,000

Andrews Kurth LLP  
Baker Botts L.L.P.  
Bracewell & Giuliani LLP  
Fulbright & Jaworski L.L.P.  
Locke Lord LLP  
Vinson & Elkins LLP  
Williams Kherkher Hart Boundas, LLP

### \$10,000

Akin Gump Strauss Hauer & Feld LLP  
Beirne, Maynard & Parsons, LLP  
Chevron Corporation  
Exxon Mobil Corporation  
HBA Litigation Section  
King & Spalding LLP  
LyondellBasell Industries  
Melanie Gray & Mark Wawro  
Morgan, Lewis & Bockius LLP  
Shell Oil Company  
Sidley Austin LLP  
Sutherland Asbill & Brennan LLP

### \$7,500

Beck, Redden & Secrest, L.L.P.  
Winston & Strawn LLP

### \$5,000

Amegy Bank  
Baker Hostetler LLP  
BP America Inc.  
ConocoPhillips  
DLA Piper  
Gardere Wynne Sewell LLP  
Gibbs & Bruns LLP  
Greenberg Traurig, LLP  
Haynes and Boone, L.L.P.  
HBA Bankruptcy Section  
HBA Family Law Section  
HBA Juvenile Law Section  
Jackson Walker L.L.P.  
Jones Day  
Latham & Watkins LLP  
Schirrmeister Diaz-Arrastia Brem LLP  
Susman Godfrey L.L.P.  
Sutton McCaughan Deaver PLLC  
Thompson & Knight LLP  
Weil, Gotshal & Manges LLP  
Winstead PC  
Yetter Coleman LLP

### \$3,000

Benny & Nikki Agosto

### \$2,500

Abraham Watkins Nichols Sorrels  
Agosto & Friend  
Anadarko Petroleum Corporation  
Blank Rome LLP  
CenterPoint Energy, Inc.  
Chamberlain Hrdlicka White Williams  
& Aughtry  
Christian, Smith & Jewell LLP  
Coats Rose

Cokinos, Bosien & Young, P.C.  
Connelly-Baker-Wotring LLP  
Energy Transfer Partners L.P.  
Energy XXI  
EOG Resources, Inc.  
Fisher, Boyd, Brown & Huguenard LLP  
FTI Consulting  
HBA Federal Practice Section  
HBA Labor & Employment Section  
Hewlett-Packard Co.  
Hogan Lovells US LLP  
Hunton & Williams LLP  
Legge, Farrow, Kimmitt, McGrath  
& Brown L.L.P.  
Martin, Disiere, Jefferson & Wisdom,  
L.L.P.  
McGuire Woods LLP  
McKool Smith, PC  
Noble Energy, Inc.  
Pillsbury Winthrop Shaw Pittman LLP  
Plains All American Pipeline, L.P.  
Rusty Hardin & Associates, P.C.  
Schwartz Junell Greenberg  
& Oathout, L.L.P.  
Sedgwick, LLP  
Skadden, Arps, Slate, Meagher  
& Flom LLP  
StoneTurn Group  
Strasburger & Price, LLP  
Tekell, Book, Allen & Morris, L.L.P.  
The Lanier Law Firm

### \$2,000

HBA Oil, Gas & Mineral Law Section

### \$1,500

Alistair Dawson  
Brent Benoit  
Harold Metts  
Kay Sim  
Siegmyer, Oshman & Bissinger, LLP  
Thomas Roche

### \$1,000

3B Studio, Inc.  
Ahmad, Zavitsanos, Anaipakos, Alavi  
& Mensing P.C.  
Ajamie LLP  
Al Kimball  
Arnold & Knobloch, LLP  
Bank of Texas, N.A.  
Berg & Androphy  
BoyarMiller  
Brent Perry  
Campbell Harrison & Dagley L.L.P.  
David Chaumette  
Dobrowski Larkin & Johnson L.L.P.  
Ebanks Horne Rota Moos LLP  
Frank, Elmore, Lievens, Chesney  
& Turet, L.L.P.  
Fullenweider Wilhite  
Germer Gertz, L.L.P.  
Godwin Ronquillo PC  
Gordon & Rees LLP

Gordon, Arata, McCollam, Duplantis  
& Eagan, LLC  
Hagans Burdine Montgomery Rustay,  
P.C.  
Hall, Maines & Lugrin, P.C.  
Hasley Scarano, L.L.P.  
HBA ADR Section  
HBA Appellate Practice Section  
HBA Commercial & Consumer Law  
Section  
HBA Construction Law Section  
HBA Corporate Counsel Section  
HBA International Law Section  
HBA Mergers & Acquisition Section  
HBA Real Estate Law Section  
Hirsch & Westheimer, P.C.  
Hoover Slovacek LLP  
Jane and Doug Bland  
Jenkins & Kamin, L.L.P.  
Jim Adler & Associates, P.C.  
John & Denise Scofield  
John Eddie Williams, Jr.  
John Strasburger  
Johnson, Trent, West & Taylor, L.L.P.  
JPMorgan Chase  
Kelly, Durham & Pittard, LLP  
Lighthouse Legal Copy  
Liskow & Lewis, A PLC  
Looper Reed & McGraw, P.C.  
M.A. Mills P.C.  
MacIntyre McCulloch Stanfield  
& Young LLP  
MehaffyWeber, P.C.  
Michael Perrin  
Munsch Hardt Kopf & Harr, P.C.  
Nathan Sommers Jacobs  
Neil and Dana Kelly  
Novak Druce + Quigg LLP  
Ogden, Gibson, Broocks, Longoria  
& Hall, LLP  
Olson & Olson LLP  
Phelps Dunbar LLP  
Porter Hedges LLP  
Providus  
Reynolds, Frizzell, Black, Doyle, Allen  
& Oldham LLP  
Roach & Newton, LLP  
Royston, Rayzor, Vickery & Williams,  
L.L.P.  
Schiffer Odom Hicks & Johnson PLLC  
Shannon, Martin, Finkelstein  
& Alvarado, P.C.  
Shepherd, Scott, Clawater & Houston,  
L.L.P.  
Shrader & Associates, LLP  
Smyser Kaplan & Veselka, L.L.P.  
South Texas College of Law  
Sprott, Rigby, Newsom, Robbins,  
Lunceford & Bell, P.C.  
Stewart & Lynn Gagnon  
Strong Pipkin Bissell & Ledyard, L.L.P.  
Sysco  
Terry Bryant/Seth Kretzer  
Todd Frankfort

Total Petrochemicals USA, Inc.  
UBS Wealth Management/Mark Elias  
& Dan Carter  
Ware, Jackson, Lee & Chambers,  
L.L.P.  
Welsh & Chapoton LLP  
Westlake Chemical Corporation  
Wilson, Elser, Moskowitz, Edelman  
& Dicker LLP  
Wright & Close, L.L.P.

### \$800

Night Court 2013 - Law of Ages

### \$500

Bill Kroger  
Bob & Laura McCaughan  
Carrin & Jim Derrick  
Carter Crow  
Dan Herink  
De Leon Law Firm  
Gib & Martha Walton  
HBA Environmental Law Section  
HBA Securities, Litigation  
& Arbitration Section  
HBA Tax Section  
Houston Bar Association Auxiliary  
Charitable Fund, Inc.  
Karl Stern  
Laura Gibson  
Mark & Laura Snell  
Otway B. Denny, Jr.  
Roland Garcia  
Scott Rozzell  
Susan and Pablo Sanchez  
Travis Sales  
Warren Harris

### \$300-100

Amy Dunn  
Amy Dunn & Robert Taylor  
Barrett & Susan Reasoner  
Bill Wilde  
Blake & Barbara Tarrt  
Charles R. Gregg  
Daniella Landers  
Farrah Martinez  
Glenn & Susan Ballard  
HBA Animal Law Section  
HBA Health Law Section  
Hon. David Fraga  
Hon. Frank Rynd  
Jim & Beuna Sales  
Jim Greenwood  
John Spiller  
Kelly & Carmela Frels  
Meredith Levine  
Michael Cancienne  
Norma Levine Trusch  
Raymond Kerr  
Robert A. DeWitt

# Programs Funded by Houston Bar Foundation in 2011

## HOUSTON VOLUNTEER LAWYERS PROGRAM

The Houston Bar Foundation provides an annual grant to Houston Volunteer Lawyers, a service of the Houston Bar Association. Houston Volunteer Lawyers uses these funds, which represent approximately one-third of its operating budget, to provide critical legal services to low-income Houstonians. The Houston Bar Association established Houston Volunteer Lawyers in 1981 to fill a gap in the provision of legal services to those people who could not qualify for traditional legal aid programs because they were working to support their families. In reality, however, their income would not cover even their most basic legal needs, such as child custody, landlord/tenant issues and probate matters. Through Houston Volunteer Lawyers, volunteer private attorneys handle cases pro bono for eligible, low-income clients.

2012 was an important year for Houston Volunteer Lawyers. Among other things, Houston Volunteer Lawyers launched a one-of-a-kind online Volunteer Portal, adopted a new name, slogan, logo, and website, created the first medical-legal partnership in Houston in conjunction with Texas Children's Hospital, expanded its many existing programs to provide legal aid to a diverse group of individuals in Harris County and the surrounding areas, and made significant process changes to provide clients with more efficient and robust legal aid.

Houston Volunteer Lawyers received 29,625 calls for assistance in 2012, and provided in-person, one-on-one legal advice to 4,459 applicants at no charge. Over 1,000 of the persons helped in 2012 were United States veterans or spouses of deceased veterans. In addition, Houston Volunteer Lawyers assisted 7,704 pro se litigants at the Harris County Family Courthouse.

In 2012, 1,508 volunteer lawyers logged 14,164 hours on pro bono cases through Houston Volunteer Lawyers, and an additional 1,936 hours volunteering at legal advice clinics. At a rate of \$200 per hour, the time donated by Houston Volunteer Lawyers volunteers represents a benefit to low-income persons seeking legal assistance of \$3,220,000. Houston Volunteer Lawyers assists eligible clients with a broad array of civil matters, including guardianships, probate, estate planning, IRS individual income tax disputes, landlord/tenant, homeownership matters, bankruptcy and family law. Some of Houston Volunteer Lawyers' notable programs are:

- **Saturday Clinics.** Houston Volunteer Lawyers conducted twice-monthly Saturday Legal Advice Clinics in 2012. This provides clients an opportunity to apply for the Houston Volunteer Lawyers program



Volunteer attorneys answer legal questions at a Saturday HVL legal advice clinic, held a different venues in the community.

and receive free legal advice on a walk-in basis at least every other week. Houston Volunteer Lawyers is unique in its allowance of walk-in consultations, and the public greatly appreciates and benefits from this service.

- **Veterans Clinic.** Every Friday afternoon, Houston Volunteer Lawyers holds a legal advice clinic at the Michael DeBakey V.A. Hospital, seeing nearly 40 veterans each week and providing them with legal advice on the spot and extended pro bono representation whenever needed. Houston Volunteer Lawyers has a 100% pro bono placement rate for veterans in need of continued representation.

- **Texas Children's Medical-Legal Partnership.**

Texas Children's Hospital and Houston Volunteer Lawyers formed the first medical-legal partnership (MLP) in the Houston area to provide Texas Children's low-income patients with critical legal assistance. A dedicated Houston Volunteer Lawyers staff attorney offices on-site at the Hospital and provides legal advice and representation to Texas Children's patients and their families with assistance from outside pro bono lawyers. The project is funded in part by a donation from Walmart, which created a successful MLP with Arkansas Children's Hospital last year.

Since its launch on November 1, 2012, Houston Volunteer Lawyers successfully has placed 100% of MLP cases needing pro bono assistance, and has helped more than 40 patient families.



HBA President Brent Benoit at a news conference announcing the partnership.

- **Family Courthouse Booth.** Located next to the Family Law Center intake department at Harris County's Family Law Center in downtown Houston, the Family Law Courthouse Booth assists pro se litigants in handling family law cases such as divorces and child custody matters. Increasingly, Family Court judges require pro se litigants to have their documents reviewed at Houston Volunteer Lawyers' booth prior to final hearing.

- **Houston Area Women's Center.** Houston Volunteer Lawyers assisted victims of domestic violence at the Houston Area Women's Center with protective orders. HAWC clinics are staffed by volunteer attorneys from ExxonMobil and Fulbright & Jaworski, and are scheduled on the first Friday of every month.

- **Asian Clinics.** Houston Volunteer Lawyers now maintains a consistent presence within Houston's Asian-American community. Houston Volunteer Lawyers holds legal advice clinics once monthly for persons of Vietnamese descent at the VN Teamwork Community Center, and once monthly at the Chinese Community Center. Houston Volunteer

## Programs Funded by Houston Bar Foundation in 2012 *continued*

Lawyers also held small “will-a-thons” for each of these communities.

- **Faith and Practice.** Houston Volunteer Lawyers held quarterly Legal Advice Clinics at Palmer Episcopal Church in the Houston Medical Center. These Legal Advice Clinics targeted eligible employees of the medical center.

- **Will-a-Thons.** Houston Volunteer Lawyers continued collaborating with various corporations and bar committees to provide estate planning services to low-income seniors. For example, Shell Oil’s legal department volunteered for the 2012 Shell-a-Thon, at which Shell provided legal advice to walk-in applicants and also executed estate planning documents for pre-screened clients. In April 2012, the HBA Will-a-Thon, sponsored by the HBA’s Elder Law Committee, continued its success with 113 clients receiving estate planning documents that day. Halliburton sponsored its own wills clinic, as did BP’s legal department for the fifth year in a row.

- **Virtual Clinics.** To accommodate busy volunteer attorneys, one of Houston Volunteer Lawyers’ most active pro bono partners, Vinson & Elkins, held its Virtual Legal Clinic once per quarter. From their own offices, volunteer attorneys from V&E provided counsel and advice to clients – who come into Houston Volunteer Lawyers’ office – via the internet using Skype program software.

- **Spanish-only Clinic.** ExxonMobil conducted its first ever Law Management clinic with Houston Volunteer Lawyers in the Spring of 2012. ExxonMobil’s Law Management group, including its General Counsel and those who report immediately to him, brought 20 volunteer attorneys and 9 translators to Houston Volunteer Lawyers’ offices for a first ever Spanish-speaking clinic. Using translators, ExxonMobil attorneys assisted 55 Spanish-speaking applicants in a single morning. Houston Volunteer Lawyers makes it easy for volunteers to help in these matters, assigning a staff attorney to every pro bono case for mentoring and making a litany of legal resources available through the online Volunteer Portal. To learn how you can help, visit [www.MakeJusticeHappen.org](http://www.MakeJusticeHappen.org).



*Susan Sanchez of ExxonMobil and HBA President Brent Benoit counsel with a veteran at Houston Stand Down.*

## LAWYER ASSISTANCE PROGRAM

The Houston Bar Foundation provides limited, temporary financial assistance to attorneys who qualify and are approved by the Foundation’s Board of Directors as being in need of Financial Assistance.

## CONTINUING EDUCATION GRANTS

The Foundation provides a grant to underwrite education for Harris County court personnel that is related directly to the administration of justice. Grants have been made to both individuals and groups.

## JUVENILE JUSTICE MOCK TRIAL PROGRAM

The Houston Bar Association’s Juvenile Justice Mock Trial Program is now in its 37th year of teaching young teens about law and the legal system. As part of social studies or history classes, students at 40 participating public and private schools in the Houston area work with law students and staff to learn about the procedures involved in a courtroom trial.

Over a five-week period, the students develop their own case story and assume the roles of judge, jurors, attorneys, defendants, plaintiffs and witnesses. At the end of the unit, the classes travel to the Harris County courthouse complex where they enact their mock trial in an actual courtroom. The program focuses on eighth grade students and has reached more than 39,000 students in the Houston area, encouraging respect for the judicial system and discouraging entry into the system in a negative way.

## DOCUMENT PRESERVATION PROJECT

The Foundation partners with the Harris County District Clerk’s Document Preservation Project to accept donations for preserving and cataloging historical cases and documents from the Harris County Courts. Donations to preserve specific case files or for general document preservation needs may be made through the Foundation.

## ‘NOW YOU ARE 18’ HANDBOOKS

A grant to the Houston Bar Association Auxiliary Charitable Fund enabled the HBA Auxiliary to distribute copies of the booklet, “Now You Are 18” to high school seniors in numerous school districts and private high schools in Harris County. Prepared by the Texas Lawyers Auxiliary, the booklet explains the importance of knowing one’s legal rights and responsibilities. Topics covered include issues such as renting an apartment, credit and debt collection, employment and buying a car.

## Continuing Sustaining Life Fellows\*

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