

## **Eligibility Criteria for Harris County Bench Bar Pro Bono Awards**

A committee of Harris County judges and attorneys will select the award recipients. The awards will be presented by the judiciary at a special luncheon on a date to be determined, in the Ceremonial Courtroom at the Harris County Civil Courthouse. Each award winner will receive a plaque for their office, and permanent plaques displayed in each of the courthouses will include the names of each year's honorees.

Awards will be given in the following categories:

- Large Firm (100+)
- Mid-size Firm (20-100)
- Small Firm (1-20)
- Corporate Law Department – large (11 or more attorneys)
- Corporate Law Department – small (10 or fewer attorneys)
- Individual, an award for overall outstanding pro bono work by an individual, whether part of a firm, corporation or solo practice.

Attorneys and firms become eligible through a self-nominating process. Attorneys/firms must submit a log of their pro bono service during the calendar year 2009 to the Houston Bar Association by **March 12, 2010**. Eligibility criteria include:

- The attorney or firm attorneys must be licensed by and in good standing with the State Bar of Texas.
- The attorney must not be employed by an organization that has as its primary purpose the provision of legal services to low-income residents.
- The attorney must have provided direct pro bono legal services without any compensation for fees, expenses or otherwise.
- In reviewing award nominees, the judges will consider the number of clients directly receiving legal services, the complexity of the legal work provided, and the number of pro bono hours provided.
- The pro bono work may be performed through any recognized legal services provider.

For more information on the Harris County Judicial Pro Bono Awards, contact Kay Sim, HBA executive director, at 713-759-1133.