The Houston Bar Association’s 11,500-plus member attorneys have a continued commitment to serving the legal profession and the community.

Established in 1870, the Association’s purpose was to maintain high standards in the legal profession and provide legal education for Harris County attorneys. Today the HBA, the fifth largest voluntary bar association in the nation, still adheres to those basic principles, but has expanded its goals to include public service and better access to legal services for all citizens in the Greater Houston area.

HBA continuing legal education and professional development programs for attorneys are second to none. HBA members contributed over 42,738 volunteer hours to community service projects last year.

AIDS Outreach Program

The AIDS Outreach Committee assists the Houston Volunteer Lawyers in providing legal services, assistance and education for persons with HIV/AIDS, caregivers and health professionals. For information, call (713) 759-1133.

Dispute Resolution Center

The Dispute Resolution Center offers citizens a free alternative to legal action. Services include community-based mediation, court-ordered mediation, arbitration, and moderated settlement conferences. Trained mediators and moderators bring together persons on both sides of an argument and help them reach an agreement before the problem leads to a costly lawsuit or violence. If you have a problem or lawsuit, you may be able to resolve it through the DRC. For more information, visit www.co.harris.tx.us/drc/ or call (713) 755-8274.

Elder Law Program

Senior citizens have unique legal needs. Attorneys visit senior centers to provide legal advice when needed. An annual Will-A-Thon provides no-cost wills and medical directives to low-income seniors to assist them with estate planning. The Elder Law Committee also assists in preparing the free Elder Law Handbook. For Will-A-Thon dates, visit www.hba.org. For more information, call 713-759-1133.

Legal Services

The Houston Lawyer Referral Service

Houston Lawyer Referral Service can recommend a competent attorney who will set up an initial consultation for a reduced fee. Citizens can then decide if they would like to continue the services of that attorney at the attorney’s regular fee scale. For income eligible citizens, HLRS has a panel of attorneys who agree to handle cases on a reduced fee scale. HLRS maintains a large panel of attorneys who handle all types of cases. To be referred to a lawyer, visit www.hlrs.org or call (713) 237-9429.

Houston Volunteer Lawyers

Houston attorneys volunteer their time to provide legal services in civil matters for Houston’s needy citizens. This program helps those who cannot get help through other legal aid programs and is based on income eligibility. Special units within the Houston Volunteer Lawyers handle family law, AIDS, problems of the elderly, low-income tax matters, and veterans’ issues. HVL also sponsors monthly legal advice clinics. To reach the program, visit www.makejusticethappen.org or call (713) 228-0732.

Legal Handbooks

The HBA offers free handbooks in English, Spanish and Mandarin Chinese that answer questions on elder law, family law, and consumer law. Some handbooks are available in other languages. Copies of the legal handbooks are available online at www.hba.org and printed copies are available in the HBA office. To have copies mailed to you or to obtain multiple copies, call the HBA office at (713) 759-1133 for more information.

LegalLine

Many times, citizens need answers to legal questions or simple legal advice that can be given over the telephone in just a few moments. Or, citizens may need a referral to other legal or social service agencies. On the first and third Wednesday of each month, from 5 p.m. to 9 p.m., volunteer attorneys answer telephone calls from the public. On the first Thursday of each month, the Mexican-American Bar Association and the Hispanic Bar Association answer Spanish calls during Consejos Legales, from 6-8 p.m. The LegalLine number is (713) 759-1133.

Veterans’ Legal Clinics

Veteran attorneys provide advice and counsel to veterans at a Veterans’ Legal Advice Clinic held every Friday afternoon from 2 p.m. to 5 p.m. at the Michael E. DeBakey VA Medical Center. No appointment is necessary. Legal advice clinics are also held at some residential facilities for veterans and on certain Saturdays each year. If veterans need further legal assistance, they may be referred to a pro bono attorney through the Houston Volunteer Lawyers. For more information call (713) 275-0137.
Community Support

IDEA Program
The Interprofessional Drug Education Alliance (IDEA) is a partnership between the HBA and the medical community. Teams of students and medical residents educate the public about the legal and medical consequences of substance abuse. For more information, call (713) 759-1133.

HAY Center Project
The HBA partners with the Houston Alumni and Youth (HAY) Center to provide legal education and support programs to youth who are aging out of the foster care system and to HAY Center staff. For more information, call (713) 759-1133.

KidZone
This section of the HBA website provides information and resources for kids, teens, adults and educators on information regarding safety, legal/government education and helpful links. Visit www.hba.org/KidZone or call (713) 759-1133 for information.

Law Student Center
This section of the HBA website provides information and resources for students at Houston’s three law schools, to help them make the most of their law school experience and assist them as they transition from law school to practice. Visit www.hba.org.

Law Week Activities
May 1, Law Day USA, was set aside by Congress in 1958 as a national day of celebrating the rule of law in our society. The HBA plans a number of special events to educate and involve citizens in this annual celebration. Activities include poster, essay and photography contests in local schools, legal education programs for children and teens, Dialogue on Freedom Program, and extended hours for the LegalLine program. To join the celebration, call (713) 759-1133.

People’s Law School
Twice each year the HBA and the University of Houston Center for Consumer Law present a free program to teach citizens about their legal rights. Attorneys and judges present classes on legal topics such as consumer law, landlord/tenant law, criminal law, and wills & probate, as well as how to select and work with an attorney. Popular author and media personality Richard Alderman, “The People’s Lawyer,” coordinates the program. For more information, call (713) 743-2165 or visit www.peopleslawyer.net.

Speakers Bureau
The Houston Bar Association provides attorneys willing to speak on legal topics to schools, churches, and other community groups without charge. To arrange for a free speaker, call (713) 759-1133.

Voir Dire Program
High school students learn about the jury selection process and the importance of jury duty in this program conducted by judges and lawyers in real courtrooms. For information, call (713) 759-1133.

We Care Cards
The HBA produces a wallet-sized card that provides helpful telephone numbers for teens in crisis. The cards have been distributed free to middle school and high school students in Houston area for the past 21 years. For more information, call (713) 759-1133.

Public Education

IDEA Program
The Interprofessional Drug Education Alliance (IDEA) is a partnership between the HBA and the medical community. Teams of lawyers and medical professionals visit local schools each fall and spring to educate 5th graders on the legal and medical consequences of substance abuse. For more information, call (713) 759-1133.

Community Support

IDEA Program
The Interprofessional Drug Education Alliance (IDEA) is a partnership between the HBA and the medical community. Teams of lawyers and medical professionals visit local schools each fall and spring to educate 5th graders on the legal and medical consequences of substance abuse. For more information, call (713) 759-1133.

Community Support

IDEA Program
The Interprofessional Drug Education Alliance (IDEA) is a partnership between the HBA and the medical community. Teams of lawyers and medical professionals visit local schools each fall and spring to educate 5th graders on the legal and medical consequences of substance abuse. For more information, call (713) 759-1133.

Community Support

IDEA Program
The Interprofessional Drug Education Alliance (IDEA) is a partnership between the HBA and the medical community. Teams of lawyers and medical professionals visit local schools each fall and spring to educate 5th graders on the legal and medical consequences of substance abuse. For more information, call (713) 759-1133.