



Houston Bar Association

Committee Opportunities for 2015-2016

Serve on an HBA Committee - enhance your practice and your personal development!
Learn more about HBA committees and time commitments by visiting
www.hba.org and clicking on Committees. **Please return this form by Friday, April 3, 2015.**



In a fast-paced world with never-ending professional and personal obligations, it's easy to think that we "don't have the time" to participate in an HBA committee. But, the HBA has a variety of committees and projects with different time commitments. Find one that fits you and you will be hooked on contributing to the betterment of others. I'm grateful for the positive experiences I've had serving as an HBA Ambassador and co-chairing two committees.

- **Angelica M. Hernandez**, *Linebarger Goggan Blair & Sampson, LLP*
HBA Ambassador & HAY Center Committee Co-Chair



My involvement with the HBA Committees during the past 13 years has afforded me a sense of camaraderie with my fellow practitioners while providing countless opportunities to give back to the community. As attorneys, we are highly trained and educated individuals who have unique skills that allow us to help the less fortunate. Staying active within the HBA's programs has been personally and professionally rewarding. I encourage you to get involved.

- **Mitch Reid**, *Andrews Kurth LLP - LegalLine Committee Co-Chair*

• **Administration of Justice Committee:** Plans an annual Bench Bar Conference to create opportunities for communication between attorneys and the judiciary. **Meets 6x per year.**

• **AIDS Outreach Committee:** Coordinates a Holiday Gift Drive for families affected by HIV/AIDS, provides a meal to Omega House residents, and participates in AIDS walk. **Meets 6-7x per year.**

• **Alternative Dispute Resolution Committee:** Assists and supports the operation of the Dispute Resolution Center, Inc. and its programs. Limited membership. **Meets 6x per year.**

• **Campaign for the Homeless Committee:** Oversees the HBA's annual clothing drive. **Meets 3-4x per year; recruiting donors, picking up clothing and sorting donations recommended.**

• **Communities In Schools Committee:** Supports the Summer Legal Internship Program sponsored with Communities In Schools Houston for at-risk high school students by recruiting law firms and legal entities to participate and provide enrichment activities for students. **Meets 6-7x per year in Spring and Summer.**

• **Consumer Law Committee:** Develops ways in which the HBA can help families face difficult consumer issues in challenging economic times, including advice and counsel at legal clinics, updating the Consumer Law Handbook, and developing resources and training attorneys in consumer law issues. **Meets 6x per year.**

• **Continuing Legal Education Committee:** Plans and executes continuing legal education seminars, institutes and special programs. For membership requirements, contact Ashley Steinger at 713-759-1133 or ashleyg@hba.org. **Meets 4x per year.**

• **County Law Library Committee:** Reviews the facilities and materials in the Harris County Law Library and advises on how the bar can serve the library. **Meets 4x per year.**

• **John J. Eikenburg Law Week Fun Run Committee:** Organizes the annual John J.

Eikenburg Law Week Fun Run for HBA members and the community that benefits The Center, a facility that serves persons with intellectual disabilities. **Meets 9-10x per year.**

• **Elder Law Committee:** Volunteers visit senior citizen sites when requested to provide legal advice and secure legal representation, if needed. Supervises the publication of an Elder Law Handbook and organizes a yearly Will-A-Thon for eligible seniors, veterans, and the disabled. **Meets 4x per year.**

• **Fee Dispute Committee:** Arbitrates disputes between attorneys and clients involving legal fees. Must be licensed for at least 5 years. **Meets 2x per year.**

• **Gender Fairness Committee:** Examines issues related to gender equity in the legal profession and develops programs to discuss issues important to women attorneys. Promotes awareness of these issues and encourages law firms and corporate legal departments to sign a Gender Fairness Commitment Statement. **Meets 10x per year.**

• **Golf Tournament Committee:** Plans and conducts an annual golf tournament for HBA members. **Meets 5x per year.**

• **Habitat for Humanity:** Raises funds and recruits volunteers to build homes with Habitat for Humanity. **Meets 5x per year; opportunity to lead on a build date.**

• **HAY Center Committee:** Works with the Houston Alumni and Youth (HAY) Center to provide services to youth aging out of the foster care system in Harris County, including enrichment programs, a holiday party, legal speakers, sealing juvenile records, and stocking a "Ready Room" for those beginning their first independent living arrangement. **Meets 10x per year; sub-committee work expected.**

• **Historical Committee:** Responsible for researching and preserving the history of the association and its members. **Meets 10-12x per year.**

• **The Houston Lawyer Committee:** In cooperation with HBA staff and board, edits and publishes a bi-monthly magazine to keep members updated on the law and HBA activities. For membership requirements, contact Tara Shockley at 713-759-1133 or taras@hba.org. **Meets 12x per year.**

• **Houston Lawyer Referral Service Committee:** Provides services and support to the Lawyer Referral Service as needed. Limited membership. **Meets 6x per year.**

• **Houston Volunteer Lawyers Committee:** Oversees the operation of the Houston Volunteer Lawyers, which provides pro bono legal services in civil matters to financially-eligible Harris County residents. Limited membership. **Meets 12x per year.**

• **IDEA Committee:** Coordinates the Interprofessional Drug Education Alliance (IDEA), a cooperative effort between the HBA and medical professionals that educates fifth graders about the medical and legal consequences of drug abuse. **Meets 2x per year.**

• **Juvenile Consequences Partnership:** A partnership of the HBA, the Harris County Juvenile Probation Department, the Harris County District Attorney's Office and the Houston Police Department that provides youth and their parents information about the juvenile justice system, giving juveniles a second chance to stay out of the system. **Meets 1x per year; each committee member is expected to speak at one program a year. Juvenile defense attorneys preferred.**

• **Judicial Polls Committee:** Oversees the development, distribution to members, and dissemination of results for judicial candidate qualification questionnaires, judicial preference polls, and judicial evaluation questionnaires. **Meets 3x per year.**

• **Law & the Media Committee:** Plans and executes the yearly Law and the Media Seminar for attorneys, news professionals and students. **Meets 3x per year; Saturday event attendance recommended.**

• **Law Week Committee:** Plans and implements a comprehensive program of activities in commemoration of Law Day, May 1, a national holiday set aside to recognize the importance of law in society, including contests, school readings and dialogue programs and a visit to the courthouse for special needs students. *Meets 12x per year; various event attendance recommended.*

• **Lawyers Against Waste:** Works with the Houston Arboretum, Hermann Park Conservancy, and Buffalo Bayou to organize projects that promote beautification of Houston. *Meets 10x per year; Fall and Spring event attendance recommended.*

• **Lawyers for Literacy Committee:** Coordinates the HBA's participation in Houston Center for Literacy's Great Grown-Up Spelling Bee; conducts an annual book drive; and organizes volunteers to read at elementary schools. *Meets 4x per year; help with book sorting recommended.*

• **LegalLine Committee:** Oversees the operation and recruits volunteers for the HBA's call-in program on the first and third Wednesday of each month that answers legal questions and provides other resources for the public. *Meets 1x per year; assist with recruiting volunteers for LegalLine shifts.*

• **Membership Committee:** Works to increase membership in the HBA through membership drives, monitors member benefits, and oversees the publication of an annual Pictorial Roster of members. *Meets 4x per year.*

• **Minority Opportunities in the Legal Profession Committee:** Encourages and promotes equal opportunities and participation by minority lawyers in the legal profession and the HBA by sponsoring a summer clerkship program for first-year law students, as well as educational, service and support projects. *Meets 12x per year.*

• **Professionalism Committee:** Promotes professionalism within the legal community and encourages public awareness of the HBA's com-

mitment to its mandate on professionalism. Coordinates the Mentor/Protege Program; all members of this committee licensed 5 years or more are expected to serve as a mentor. *Meets 6x per year; attendance at various events is recommended.*

• **Senior Lawyers Forum:** Plans quarterly luncheon meetings and recruits speakers on diverse topics of interest to lawyers 50 and over. *Meets 2x per year; optional attendance at four forums, potential for speaker introduction.*

• **Speakers Bureau:** Members serve as speakers on legal topics for schools, service clubs and other civic organizations. *Meets 2x per year; speaking requirement and help with recruiting.*

• **Special Olympics Committee:** Coordinates and recruits volunteers in support of Special Olympics Texas sports activities. *Meets 8x per year; members serve as volunteer coordinators for at least two events.*

Please remember that reappointment to a committee on which you have been serving is not automatic, and that all committee appointments are made by the HBA president.

Every effort will be made to accommodate your interests, and you may serve on more than one committee.

Some committees, however, have limited membership. For more information, please call (713) 759-1133.

You must be a current member of the HBA in order to serve on an HBA committee.

HBA Committee Opportunity Request Form

You may list up to three committees on which you would like to serve:

1. _____
2. _____
3. _____

Alternate, if above choice(s) are full: _____

I would like to serve on two committees. No preference. I would like to serve on an HBA committee where needed.

Name: _____ Firm: _____

Address: _____ City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

Office Phone: _____ Fax: _____ E-mail _____

Return by Friday, April 3, 2015 to the Houston Bar Association by email to arianao@hba.org, by fax to (713) 759-1710 or by mail to Houston Bar Association, 1111 Bagby, FLB 200, Houston, TX 77002.

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