

LINEBARGER GOGGAN BLAIR & SAMPSON, LLP

ATTORNEYS AT LAW

For Immediate Release

January 25, 2007

Media Inquiries

Call: 844-577-7628

Email: cmsmedia@lgbs.com



Linebarger Goggan Blair & Sampson, LLP honored for partnership with Houston *U.S. Conference of Mayors cites "Outstanding Achievement"*

January 25—Austin—For the third time in a decade, The United States Conference of Mayors has honored Linebarger Goggan Blair & Sampson, LLP for Outstanding Achievement in Public/Private Partnerships. The 2007 award specifically honors the firm for its work in partnership with the City of Houston in an effort known as Project Houston Hope.

“Our work with the City of Houston is indicative of the partnerships we have with all levels of government, from cities, schools, counties and states to the federal government” said Mike Vallandingham, Partner & National Marketing Director for the law firm. Linebarger Goggan collects delinquent receivables for some 1,800 governments throughout the county.

“With states and the federal government, it’s about helping close the tax gap, or the difference between what is owed and what is collected. At the local level, it’s about helping communities generate the additional revenue needed to provide critical services its citizens deserve and expect, such as law enforcement, fire, public health, and parks and roads, while at the same time making sure that the vast

majority of us who pay our taxes, fees and fines on time and as required by law, feel like everyone else is doing their part” said Mike Vallandingham.

Project Houston Hope is a unique effort, teaming Linebarger Goggan with the City of Houston and other public entities to acquire vacant, abandoned and blighted properties, and once acquired, rehabilitating and making those properties available to those needing affordable housing. To date, roughly 500 properties have been redeveloped, thus making it possible for more people to achieve their American dreams.

“We are honored to receive this recognition and proud of what our partnership with the City of Houston has accomplished,” said Leah Stolar, a Partner in the law firm. “It is gratifying to be able to demonstrate through Houston Hope the benefits of public-private partnerships not only to the governments we represent but to the taxpayers they serve.”

Linebarger Goggan is a national law firm with offices from coast-to-coast. They will collect an estimated \$1 billion for their government clients this year alone.

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Note: Mike Vallandingham is no longer an employee of Linebarger Goggan Blair & Sampson, LLP. He has retired from the law firm.