

Mithoff to be honored May 22

By **K PICA KAHN**
ThisWeek Correspondent

Richard "Racehorse" Haynes and Harry Reasoner will serve as co-chairs for the May 22 Anti-Defamation League's Jurisprudence Award luncheon honoring Houston attorney Richard Mithoff.

The award is presented by the Southwest Region of ADL and the ceremony is at the downtown Hyatt Regency. In the past, the award has gone to Gibson Gayle, Karen Susman, J. Evans Attwell, Joseph Jamail and Mark D. Yudof.

A trial lawyer with the firm of Mithoff and Jacks, Mithoff specializes in business litigation, medical malpractice, general civil and products liability law.

"We have a natural connection to the legal profession," said Jonathan Bernstein, regional director of ADL. "We fight extreme bigotry and terrorism and one of the best ways is through the legal profession. This give us the opportunity honor ones who helps to fight bigotry."

With a distinguished career behind him, Mithoff has been elected to a fellowship in the American College of Trial Lawyers, the International Academy of Trial Lawyers, the International Society of Barristers, the American Board of Trial Advocates and the American Board of Professional Liability Attorneys. Named annually as among the best attorneys in America, he is also regarded as "one of the nation's highest profile litigators" by the National Law Journal.

Mithoff and his wife Ginni have contributed greatly to the community through their philanthropic and civic activities.

"Richard is a firm believer in giving back to the community," said Bernstein. "He has made exemplary contributions to the legal profession."

His accomplishments have been included in features and profiles in Forbes Magazine, US News & World Report, and he has been featured on ABC's Nightline. He has served as president of the Houston Chapter of the American Board of Trial Advocates and as the president of the Houston Trial Lawyers. For luncheon information call 627-3490. ext. 128.

In addition to the luncheon, the organization is in the process of developing long-range planning to better facilitate the groups goals of fighting hatred.

An example of one such programs to help combat hatred in the schools was an activity guide sent to schools as a companion to the film "Schindler's List" seen on television in late February and in schools today.

Designed in part by the ADL's Braum Holocaust Institute, the guide focuses on dealing with bigotry offering tools to teach tolerance.

"The guide is an effective way to launch discussions of modern forms of bigotry and intolerance," said Martin Fein chair of the institute.

Due to increased intolerance at Klein Forest High School, the ADL presented a program by Dr. Leon Bass, a 66-year-old African American Philadelphia high school principal who served in a segregated army unit during World War II.

Bass was one of the soldiers who participated in the liberation of Buchenwalk concentration camp where he saw first-hand the atrocities of hatred.

"I was not the same after that day,"

said Bass. "I had been an angry young man, but not any more. I realized that day that human suffering and evil can touch us all. I know on that day I saw the face of evil. I was totally unprepared for what I saw. Slapped right in the face was the horror perpetrated by man against man."

Adoption workshop

The Great Wall China Adoption is sponsoring a free workshop about ways to adopt children from the Asian country.

The licensed agency is a non-profit organization and handles China adoptions exclusively. Two meetings are scheduled in the area with one set for May 22 at the Jungman Library, 5830 Westheimer, 6:30-8:30 p.m.

The other workshop is at the Sugarland Library, 2121 Austin Parkway, June 22 1-3 p.m.

According to Barbara Wang with Great Wall China Adoptions, thousands of children are available for adoption and 95 percent of them are girls. There is no waiting list for adopting a child from China, the adoption takes six to 10 months and the eligibility range for most adoptive families is 30 to 55 years of age.

Call Wang at 713-249-5941 for reservations or more information.