



The University of Texas at Austin School of Law

Alumni Association Announces 2018 Alumni Award Honorees

June 4, 2018

Six of Texas Law's most accomplished and illustrious alumni are being honored this October by the Texas Law Alumni Association and Dean Ward Farnsworth.

Legendary Houston lawyer and civic leader Richard Mithoff '71 will receive the Association's Award for Lifetime Achievement. Dallas-based Sandra Phillips Rogers '91, Group Vice President and Chief Legal Officer for Toyota Motor North America, will be honored as Outstanding Alumna. Carrin Patman '82, chair of the Metropolitan Transit Authority of Harris County, will be recognized as the Distinguished Alumna for Community Service. The Hon. Oscar Longoria '07, Representative for House District 35, will be named the Association's Outstanding Young Alumnus. Austin-based Karen Burgess '96, fellow of the International Academy of Trial Lawyers and elected treasurer of American Board of Trial Advocate's National Board of Directors, will be awarded Alumni Mentor of the Year.

In addition to those awards bestowed by the Alumni Association, Dean Ward Farnsworth will present a Dean's Honor to David Frederick '89, in recognition of his achievements in Appellate Advocacy.

The awards will be presented at an invitation-only dinner in Austin this October. Read more about these extraordinary awardees below.

LIFETIME ACHIEVEMENT AWARD RICHARD MITHOFF '71

Richard Warren Mithoff has been described by the National Law Journal as "one of the nation's highest profile litigators," and the Texas Lawyer, noting his "impressive trial record," has described his approach to the law as "magic."

He has consistently been named among the top trial lawyers in the country.

His diverse list of clients has included Conoco-Phillips, Harris County in the Tobacco and VW litigations, Texas Heart Institute, BP shareholders in the Deepwater Horizon oil spill litigation, Willie Nelson, the family of former Houston Oilers owner Bud Adams, the family of police-shooting victim Pedro Oregon, the Democratic Party of Texas, J.P. Morgan Chase in the Enron shareholder litigation, the families of five men killed in the 2005 BP Texas City explosion and the families of six elderly people burned to death in the 2005 Hurricane Rita evacuation bus fire.

In naming Mr. Mithoff the "Best Civil Lawyer" in Houston in 1998 and again in 2004, the Houston Press described his courtroom style as "dazzling his opposition with pretrial maneuvers and connecting emotionally with any juror he needs," while noting that he has "earned a reputation for honesty and forthrightness with clients, judges, and the media."

A native of Lufkin and reared in El Paso, Mr. Mithoff attended the University of Texas at Austin, majoring in business administration, then enrolling in the UT Law School, graduating in 1971. Following graduation, he clerked for U.S. District Judge William Wayne Justice. In 1974, he went into practice with legendary trial attorney Joe Jamail with the firm that later became Jamail, Koliou & Mithoff. In 2006 he established the Mithoff Law Firm.

Mr. Mithoff has served on the Supreme Court of Texas Committee on Judicial Appointments, on the State Bar of Texas Committee on Pattern Jury Charges, and as Special Assistant Disciplinary Counsel to the Texas Commission for Lawyer Discipline. He has also been a guest speaker at many seminars on a variety of topics throughout the country. He has served as president of the Houston Chapter of the American Board of Trial Advocates and president of the Houston Trial Lawyers.