LAURELS

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Erin Fonte, an associate of Cox, Smith, Matthews, Inc. of Austin, was elected to a three-year term on the board of the Texas Association of Bank Counsel (TABC). TABC is an organization for lawyers who devote a substantial part of their practice to representing banks and financial institutions.

Chris Lopez, an associate of Weil, Gotshal & Manges, L.L.P. in Houston, was appointed to a one-year term on the board of the Hispanic Bar Association of Houston.

Sen. **John Whitmire**, of counsel to Locke, Lord, Bissell & Liddell, L.L.P. in Houston, was selected as one of *Governing* magazine's 2010 Public Officials of the Year.

The Baylor Law team of Sarah Judge and Jose Magana defeated the Baylor Law team of Joel Towner and James Willis to win the 13th annual Mack Kidd Administrative Law Moot Court Competition held Oct. 16 at the 3rd Court of Appeals in Austin. It is the fifth consecutive year a Baylor Law team has won the competition. In addition, Magana was named Best Speaker in the final round, and Towner was named Best Speaker from the preliminary rounds.

W. Mike Baggett, chair emeritus and shareholder in Winstead, P.C. in Dallas, was named the 2010 recipient of the Morris Harrell Professionalism Award. The award is presented annually by the Dallas Bar Association and the Texas Center for Legal Ethics and Professionalism to the "attorney who best exemplifies, by conduct and character, truly professional traits who others seek to emulate and who all in the bar admire."

Alfredo Perez, a partner in Weil, Gotshal & Manges, L.L.P. in Houston, was named the 2010 recipient of the Turnaround Management Association's "Mega" Transaction of the Year Award for his work on behalf of BearingPoint, Inc. The award recognizes one successful transaction involving a company with \$1 billion or more in annual revenues at the onset of the transaction.

Maria-Vittoria "Giugi" Carminati, an associate of Weil, Gotshal & Manges, L.L.P. in Houston, was elected a member of the International Institute of Space Law. The organization's purpose is to cooperate with appropriate international organizations and national institutions in the field of space law and to carry out the tasks for fostering the development of space law.

Houston-based Andrews Myers, P.C. received a 2010 Business Excellence Award from the Associated Builders and Contractors of Greater Houston. Honored in the professional associate category, the firm was recognized for its excellence in management, stewardship, and business practices.

The Harris County Sheriff's Office named **Jeff Nadalo**, in-house counsel to TransCanada Corporation in Houston, its Deputy of the Year. Nadalo, who is a reserve patrol deputy with the sheriff's office, was honored for his volunteer efforts with the office.

Grover Hartt, senior litigation counsel to the U.S. Department of Justice, Tax Division in Dallas, received the John Marshall Award from U.S. Attorney General Eric Holder in Washington, D.C. The award is the department's highest award for excellence in litigation.

Raquel West, a private practitioner in Beaumont, was presented the 2010 Jefferson County Mickey S. Mehaffy Pro Bono Attorney of the Year Award.

Brian P. Lauten, of Sawicki & Lauten, L.L.P. in Dallas, and Charla Aldous, of the Aldous Law Firm in Dallas, were recognized by the Dallas Trial Lawyers Association with the John Howie Award for "Courage in the Face of Adversity" in their joint representation in a race and religious discrimination case. Lauten was also inducted into the Dallas Chapter of the American Board of Trial Advocates and his article, "Top 10 Emerging Issues in Business Torts," was selected for publication in the *Texas Journal of Business Law*, one of South Texas College of Law's reviews.

Texas-licensed **Ellen E. Slavin**, of the Office of Counsel to the Inspector General, U.S. Department of Health and Human Services in Washington, D.C., was a member of the national investigative team awarded the 2010 Council of the Inspectors General on Integrity and Efficiency (CIGIE) Award for Excellence in Investigations. The investigative team was honored for outstanding teamwork, investigative excellence, and community impact related to the adjudication of the Small Smiles investigation.

Jeffrey W. Carr, senior vice president, general counsel, and secretary to FMC Technologies, Inc. in Houston, received the Association of Corporate Counsel's 2010 "Excellence in Corporate Practice" award, which recognizes achievements in service to the legal profession.

The following Texas-licensed attorneys have become members of the American Law Institute: William G. Arnot III of Houston; Karl Bayer of Austin; John C.D. Drolla, Jr. of Austin; Meredith J. Duncan of Houston; Kenneth C. Johnston of Dallas; David R. Keyes of Houston; Othni J. Lathram of Tuscaloosa, Ala.; Maria P. Lopez of Indianapolis, Ind.; Lawrence G. Newman of Dallas; Brent E. Newton of Washington, D.C.; and Jan P. Patterson of Austin.



Former San Antonio Bar Association President Charlie Butts received the SABA's Joe Frazier Brown, Sr. Award of Excellence, which honors a lawyer who demonstrates service to others, idealism, intelligence, and a high degree of integrity.

Ike Vanden Eykel, managing partner in Koons, Fuller, Vanden Eykel, P.C. in Dallas, was awarded the Texas Academy of Family Law Specialists' Sam Emison Award, given to an attorney who has demonstrated a significant commitment to family law in Texas.

Joseph W. Spence, a partner in Shannon, Gracey, Ratliff & Miller, L.L.P. in Fort Worth, was honored with the Steve Chaney Friend of the Law School Award as part of the Texas Wesleyan School of Law Annual Alumni Awards.

Sofia Adrogué, a member in Looper, Reed & McGraw, P.C., was inducted into the 2010 Greater Houston Women's Chamber Hall of Fame for her significant contributions to the advancement of women and for having improved the quality of life for future generations of Houstonians.

William S. "Bill" Moss III, a partner in Mayer Brown, L.L.P. in Houston, was named to the board of the Children's Advocacy Centers of Texas, Inc. (CACTX). CACTX is the largest statewide association of children's advocacy centers in the nation.

Alex Cosculluela, a partner in Adams and Reese, L.L.P. in Houston, was invited to join the Litigation Counsel of America, an invitation-only honorary society of trial lawyers selected based on effectiveness and accomplishment in litigation, both at the trial and appellate levels, and superior ethical reputation.

Lawrence W. Hanson, of the Law Office of Lawrence W. Hanson, P.C. in Houston, was elected U.S. chair of the U.S.-Mexico Bar Association. Charles A. Beckham, Jr., of Haynes and Boone, L.L.P. in Houston; Gregory J. Casas, of Greenberg Traurig, L.L.P. in Austin and Houston; and Deborah Williamson of Cox, Smith, Matthews, Inc. in San Antonio, were named members of the board.

