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## **2009 LEXISNEXIS COMMUNITY AND EDUCATIONAL OUTREACH AWARD WINNERS HONOR FIVE STATE AND LOCAL BAR ASSOCIATIONS**

The National Association of Bar Executives' Board of Directors recently announced five winners of the 2009 LexisNexis Community and Educational Outreach Award. The award program honors bar associations and bar foundations that are committed to public service.

*A Level Playing Field: Why the American Legal System Matters to You* is produced by the Arkansas Bar Association and includes a DVD and Instructor's Guide covering four core principles of the American judicial system—the rule of law; equal justice under the law; fair, impartial and independent judiciary and the jury system. The materials are designed for secondary education classrooms.

The State Bar of Texas emphasized voter education through three public education efforts: *Vote America! Honor the Fight, Exercise Your Right*, a short film that educates high school students about the enactments of the 15<sup>th</sup>, 19<sup>th</sup> and 26<sup>th</sup> Amendments to the U.S. Constitution and the struggles associated with the 1965 Voting Rights Act; the *Election Law Toolkit*, a resource guide that helps lawyers build awareness and understanding of the election process in their communities and schools; and with three radio public service announcements that encourage Texans to educate themselves about the issues and candidates and vote in the November 2008 elections.

*And Justice for All*, a Palm Beach County Bar Association project, features educational displays and exhibits at the County Courthouse. Topics include the three branches of government, the election process, the Bill of Rights, the Constitution and the Declaration of Independence as well as other law-related subjects. Public tours are available through the Historical Society of Palm Beach County. Since April 2008, over 15,000 students, adults and seniors have toured the exhibits.

The Houston Bar Association's Veterans' Legal Initiative provides legal services for Harris County veterans at various residential and medical facilities throughout Houston. Besides offering free legal clinics, the program presents speakers who address additional problems veterans face such as credit, bankruptcy, wills and probate, family law, veterans benefits and disability issues.

"The American Justice System: A Day in the Life of..." is a monthly radio show produced by the Washington County Bar Association in partnership with Washington & Jefferson College in Washington, PA. The 30-minute broadcast airs on the college's radio station WNJR and presents live interviews with legal professionals that educates the public about what lawyers do and how the justice system operates.

The awards will be presented at the NABE Annual Meeting Membership Luncheon on Thursday, July 30, 2009 in Chicago.

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NABE unites and inspires bar executives in the promotion of excellence in bar association management, as well as professionalism among bar executives through educational programming and other activities that support the effective fulfillment of NABE member's job responsibilities. With a national membership of more than 600 executive directors and professional staff, the association's members represent every discipline and every service that contributes to the success of bar associations nationally. NABE was founded in 1941 and is an affiliate of the American Bar Association.