



PRESS RELEASE

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MICHAEL M. BOONE EARNS PRESTIGIOUS TEXAS PUBLIC SCHOOLS "FRIEND OF THE YEAR" AWARD

Non-profit organization, business leaders and school officials will recognize top Texas lawyer for his advocacy of public schools on October 17, 2006

DALLAS, Texas – Friends of Texas Public Schools today announced that Michael M. Boone, a partner in Dallas law firm Haynes and Boone, will receive the second annual Friend of the Year award for his lifelong commitment to public education.

The award will be presented by last year's recipient, special guest Charles Butt, Chairman and CEO of H.E. Butt Grocery Company, at a public reception on Tuesday, October 17, 2006, at the Frontiers of Flight Museum in Dallas. Retired DISD Superintendent and former Texas Education Commissioner Mike Moses will give the keynote speech. Friends founder, Leslie Milder, a high school teacher, will deliver an inspiring message about education in Texas. Doors open at 4:30 p.m. for museum tours before the reception, at 5:30. The event is open to the news media.

Michael Boone is a product of Texas public schools. "I received a great education in public schools," Mr. Boone said. "Public schools gave a lot to me, and I feel that I owe them a lot in return."

Mr. Boone has long been a private-sector advocate for Texas public schools. He served on the Highland Park School Board and, more recently, participated in the school finance debate as a respected voice for equity in school funding. He demonstrated courage and leadership, often resisting popular opinion in the business community in favor of a practical, equitable solution.

"There's nothing more important for us to invest in than children, and we shouldn't turn our backs on public schools," Mr. Boone said. "Because of the media and other critical reports we get about public schools, people tend to hear the negatives more than the positives, and that invites frustration and apathy. That's the biggest mistake we can make."

"Mike Boone clearly sees beyond the surface issues featured daily in news and politics," *Friends* founder and President Scott Milder said. "He understands that the success of public education in Texas is everyone's business. Mike has sustained a long-term commitment to Texas Public Schools through public expression of his support, volunteer work, employee involvement, and countless other contributions. He's long-overdue for this recognition."

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David Thompson, attorney with Bracewell and Guiliani, says Mike Boone has been a friend of public education for many years. "Although many individuals have been involved in working to improve funding for public schools over the past decade, none has been more tireless, effective, or essential than Mike Boone. Because of his efforts, we have a realistic hope and expectation that the State will pay its fair share to educate Texas children and will reduce its over-dependence on local property taxes. Mike Boone is richly deserving of this great award."

Michael Boone is a member of the Board of Directors and one of the co-founders of Haynes and Boone. He has more than 30 years of experience in mergers and acquisitions, corporate finance, securities transactions, and board of director representations. Michael has been selected as the "Go-To-Lawyer" in Texas in the field of corporate/business law by the Texas Lawyer Magazine, one of the top corporate finance/mergers and acquisitions lawyers in Dallas by D Magazine, and one of the Top 10 Super Lawyers by Texas Monthly and Law and Politics Magazine.

"The Friend of the Year award is a way to show public schools that some of our greatest leaders are their greatest advocates," said Charlene "Charlie" Fern, vice president of Friends of Texas Public Schools and former White House speechwriter. "Every day in Texas, people who are products of Texas public schools are out there changing the world, changing lives, and making history as leaders in every field imaginable. They aren't succeeding in spite of public schools. They are succeeding *because* of public schools."

Friends of Texas Public Schools believes that the people of Texas have a right to know that, in spite of the many challenges they face, our public schools are achieving more today than ever. *Friends* strives to balance the overwhelmingly negative public school debate with optimistic, factual accounts of success. By lifting up schools as places of triumph and achievement, Friends hopes to restore public confidence in our public school system. "It is our honor, our pleasure, and our mission to salute the success of Texas public schools," Milder said.

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