



2015 LEAP RECAP: YOUTH, EDUCATION, & SUCCESS

The Hispanic National Bar Association's foundation, the Legal Education Fund (HNBA-LEF) hosted its 2015 Legal Education Action Program (LEAP) at Rice University in Houston, Texas from June 21-28. LEAP introduces Hispanic high school students to the United States legal system, specifically by enrolling and providing scholarships to selected high school students from diverse backgrounds across the United States. Throughout the LEAP program, participants learn about the legal profession by interacting with leaders resemble their diverse ethnic and socioeconomic backgrounds.



LEAP participants with HNBA-LEF President Benny Agosto and LEAP Director Cynthia Carrasco at Abraham, Watkins, Nichols, Sorrels, Agosto & Friend.

In addition to scholarships, LEAP also provides students the opportunity to meet with national and international business leaders, lawyers in private practice, government lawyers, government agency officials, state and federal judges, and law professors. This year's agenda included a law firm panel on the practice of law in a small firm hosted by Firm Partner and HNBA-LEF President Benny Agosto, Jr. at Abraham, Watkins, Nichols, Sorrels, Agosto, and Friend. "The students participated in a life-shaping experience," said Agosto. "Former students have contacted us to say again how LEAP changed their lives and focus on advancing their education."

The LEAP participants were given a one of a kind opportunity to learn about the different careers they can pursue with a law degree or other graduate degree. At the 2015 LEAP program in Houston the participants were hosted at Rice University, visited South Texas College of Law, and toured Space Center Houston. Additionally, participants visited Shell Oil where the attendees met with global legal staff and scientists. Some of the highlights of this year's program include meeting with Federal, State Appellate and Superior Court Judges to gain advice on how to be a strong college student to prepare to become a competitive law student, visiting with the second largest non profit corporation in the nation where lawyers litigate social justice issues all the way to the supreme court and



visiting with an FBI agent. The participants were exposed to all aspects of the legal field throughout the week long program. After participating in LEAP, the students leave with better understanding of the legal profession and various careers available to them.

LEAP MOCK TRIAL COMPETITION



At the end of the LEAP program, the participants were given the opportunity to showcase the skills and knowledge acquired throughout the week by participating in a mock trial completion. Participants were coached by volunteer legal advocacy coaches including law school professors and judges each day of the program during one on one training. The competition was held at South Texas College of Law, where the participants were able to use the facilities of one of the best advocacy programs in the nation. After only a few days of practice, the participants demonstrated great knowledge and skill during their mock trial rounds. Congratulations to all the LEAP participants on a job well done!



HNBA-LEF PARTNERS WITH THE MABATx FOUNDATION

The Mexican American Bar Association of Texas Foundation (MABATx), an organization which raises money to provide scholarships for Hispanic law students in the Houston area, partnered with HNBA-LEF during the 2015 LEAP program. The MABATx Foundation graciously donated t-shirts for the participants. After a week with a full agenda, the participants were treated to a much needed break and attended a Houston Astros game. In conjunction with MABATx, tickets to the game were donated by the Houston Astros Foundation. The participants proudly wore their t-shirts as they cheered on the Astros.



HNBA-LEF is proud to partner with organizations such as the MABATx Foundation which strive to provide more opportunities for Hispanics in the legal industry. Thank you to all the sponsors who made this an incredible week for the participants!

To get involved with the HNBA-LEF or to make a donation please visit www.hnbafund.org