

## Nationally Renowned Attorney and Diversity/Inclusion Leader Launches Pauline E. Higgins and Associates, P.C.

Law and consulting firm offers business trial advocacy and diversity strategies to law firms, major corporations and small businesses

*Houston (March 12, 2012)*: Pauline E. Higgins, with 30-plus years of experience as a law firm partner & chief diversity officer and in-house counsel for such organizations as JPMorgan Chase, Thompson Knight LLP, and the Metropolitan Transit Authority of Harris County has founded Pauline E. Higgins and Associates, P.C.

A nationally recognized AV Preeminent Rated attorney and diversity champion, Ms. Higgins represents Fortune 100 corporations, small to mid-sized business enterprises, and individuals in all aspects of business litigation. She brings an in-depth understanding to the processes of organizational transformation through diversity and inclusion for hiring and selection, leadership development, team building, and conflict resolution. Her proprietary process enables higher levels of performance and contributes to business success for individuals and organizations in a broad array of industries including energy, transportation, manufacturing, financial services, utilities, franchising entity, hotel industry, education, and technology.

"Pauline's experience, savvy and passion have led us in achieving many of our diversity and inclusion goals," commented Peter Riley, Chairman & Managing Partner, Thompson & Knight, LLP. "Pauline has been an agent of change for the Firm, creating structures, processes, programs and awareness that will serve us well in the future. She has accomplished a great deal with us and in the best spirit of diversity has prepared many others within the Firm to do what needs to continue."

Ms. Higgins has earned recognition *Texas Lawyer*'s Top 50 in-house counsel, "Extraordinary Women in the Law" Award, the Sarah T. Hughes Award from the State Bar of Texas and the Minority Corporate Counsel Association's "Rainbowmaker" Award. Professional leadership positions include Chair of the Houston Bar Association, President of the Association of Law Firm Diversity Professionals and Board of Directors member for the State Bar of Texas. Peers have recognized Ms. Higgins as an American Law Institute and American Bar Association Fellow, Texas *Super Lawyer* and a Martindale-Hubbell "Preeminent AV"-rated attorney.

Ms. Higgins is known for her community involvement, working with the Houston Bar Association's Minority Opportunities in the Legal Profession Program (MOLP) and she founded the Annual Nicholas Alexander Higgins Memorial Golf Tournament, to raise needed funds for the support of children with congenital heart defects.

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