

THE SUPREME COURT OF TEXAS

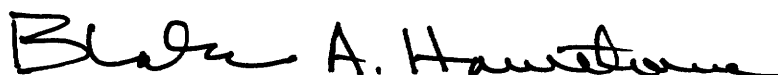
Misc. Docket No. 11- **9101**\_\_\_\_\_

Certification of Emeritus Attorney

The Supreme Court of Texas hereby certifies Rita Irani as an Emeritus Attorney pursuant to Article XIII of the Texas State Bar Rules. As such, Rita Irani is eligible to participate in the Texas State Bar Emeritus Attorney Pro Bono Program. She may perform the services allowed by the State Bar Rules, only in association with the Houston Volunteer Lawyers Program, an approved legal assistance organization. Services performed by Rita Irani must be performed under the supervision of Lan Nguyen of the Houston Volunteer Lawyers Program.

As ordered by the Supreme Court of Texas, in chambers,

with the Seal thereof affixed at the City  
Of Austin, this 9<sup>th</sup> day of June 2011.



BLAKE A. HAWTHORNE, CLERK  
SUPREME COURT OF TEXAS

# STATE BAR OF TEXAS



Legal Services Support Division  
probono@texasbar.com

June 8, 2011

Blake Hawthorne  
Clerk, Supreme Court of Texas  
Supreme Court Building  
P.O. Box 12248  
Austin, Texas 78711

Re: Emeritus Attorney Pro Bono Participation Program, Article XIII, State Bar Rules  
Attorney: Rita Irani

Dear Mr. Hawthorne:

Enclosed please find an Emeritus application/certification packet for Ms. Rita Irani. Ms. Irani requests that the Supreme Court of Texas approve her as an Emeritus attorney. Upon approval, she will perform pro bono legal services with the Houston Bar Association's Houston Volunteer Lawyers Program (HVLP), which is an organization the Supreme Court of Texas certified as an "approved legal assistance organization" in 1988.<sup>1</sup> Enclosed in the packet are:

- 1) Letter of support for the Emeritus attorney applicant from HVLP's Director, David Mandell;
- 2) Notarized statement of Emeritus attorney applicant indicating that she meets Emeritus attorney criteria set forth under Article XIII of the State Bar Rules;
- 3) Letter from the State Bar of Texas certifying that the attorney is in good standing and was engaged in the active practice of law for a minimum of five out of the last ten years immediately preceding their Emeritus attorney applications; and
- 4) "Certification of Emeritus Attorney" document *for the Court to sign*, should it approve the attorney as an Emeritus volunteer.

If the volunteer is approved by the Court, please sign and return the "Certification of Emeritus Attorney" to our office so that Ms. Irani may begin volunteering with HVLP.

Thank you for your assistance with this matter. If you have any questions, please contact me at 427-1855.

Sincerely yours,

Elma E. Garcia  
Director, Legal Services Support Division

Enclosures

<sup>1</sup> A copy of this certification is attached to this letter for your convenience.

RECEIVED  
IN SUPREME COURT  
OF TEXAS

JUN 08 2011

BLAKE HAWTHORNE, Clerk  
BY \_\_\_\_\_ Deputy



**H**OUSTON  
**V**OLUNTEER  
**L**AWYERS  
**P**ROGRAM, INC.

712 Main Street, 27<sup>th</sup> Floor  
Houston, TX 77002  
Phone: (713) 228-0735  
Fax: (713) 228-5826  
www.hvlp.org

May 23, 2011

BLAKE A. HAWTHORNE  
Clerk, Supreme Court of Texas  
Supreme Court Building  
P.O. Box 12248  
Austin, Texas 78711

Re: Emeritus Attorney Pro Bono Participation Program  
Article XIII, Texas State Bar Rules

Dear Mr. Hawthorne:

Houston Volunteer Lawyers Program, Inc. is an approved legal assistance organization under the Emeritus Attorney Pro Bono Participation Program.

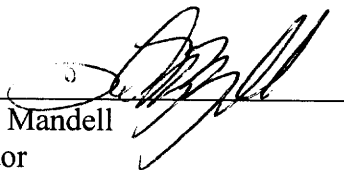
Enclosed are:

- (1) a sworn statement by Rita Irani that she meets the requirements set forth in the rule governing this program.
- (2) a certificate from the highest court or agency governing the practice of law in the state, territory or district in which she has previously been licensed stating s/he has fulfilled the requirements of active Bar membership and has a clear disciplinary record as required under this rule.

Furthermore, I certify that Rita Irani is currently associated with this organization and that Lan Nguyen, a member in good standing of the Texas Bar and participating as a volunteer with this organization, has been approved by me to be the supervising attorney.

I, therefore, request that Rita Irani be approved as an emeritus attorney for the Houston Volunteer Lawyers Program under the supervision of Lan Nguyen according to the provisions of Article XIII of the Texas State Bar Rules.

Respectfully submitted by:

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
David Mandell  
Director

7718 Stonesdale Drive  
Houston, TX 77095  
May 14, 2011

David Mandell, Executive Director  
Houston Volunteer Lawyers Program, Inc.  
712 Main Street, 27<sup>th</sup> Floor  
Houston, Texas 77002

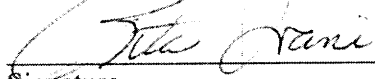
Re: Emeritus Attorney Statement

Dear Mr. Mandell:

As an applicant for the Emeritus Attorney Pro Bono Program under article XIII of the State Bar Rules:

- (1) I certify that I have graduated from Duquesne University School of Law, a law school accredited by the American Bar Association, and have not failed the Texas Bar examination three or more times;
- (2) I have read and am familiar with the Code of Professional Responsibility as adopted by the Supreme Court of Texas, and will abide by its provisions;
- (3) I submit to the jurisdiction of the Supreme Court of Texas and the State Bar of Texas for disciplinary purposes, as defined by Article X of the State Bar Rules and as set forth in this rule;
- (4) My Texas Bar Card number is 10409700.
- (5) I will neither ask for nor receive compensation of any kind for the legal services authorized by this rule.
- (6) I further certify that I have not been disciplined for professional misconduct by the Bar or Court of any jurisdiction within the past fifteen years.


Rita M. Irani  
(emeritus attorney's name typed)

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Signature

7718 Stonesdale Drive  
Houston, TX 77095

Subscribed and acknowledged before me by Rita Irani this 17 day of  
May, 20 11.



  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Signature

Chad Brown  
\_\_\_\_\_  
(print name)  
Notary Public in and for Harris County, Texas  
My commission expires: 11/01/2014

# STATE BAR OF TEXAS



## Membership Department

June 1, 2011

David Mandell  
Director  
Houston Volunteer Lawyers Program  
712 Main Street, 27<sup>th</sup> Floor  
Houston, Texas 77002

Re: Emeritus Attorney Pro Bono Participation Program,  
Article XIII, Texas State Bar Rules

Dear Mr. Mandell:

I certify that **Rita Irani** (SBN 10409700):

- (1) has been engaged in the active practice of law for a minimum of five (5) out of the immediately preceding ten (10) years:
- (2) has been a member in good standing before The State Bar of Texas, governing the practice of law in Texas, and has not been disciplined for professional misconduct in this jurisdiction within the past ten (10) years.

Submitted by:

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Dee Stacey", is written over a horizontal line.

Dee Stacey  
Office Manager, Membership Dept.

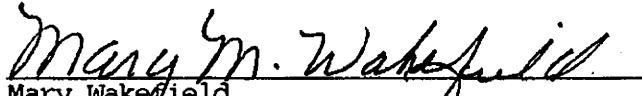
SUPREME COURT OF TEXAS

IN RE  
Certification of  
Houston Volunteer Lawyers Program  
as an approved legal assistance  
organization pursuant to Article XIII  
of the Texas State Bar Rules

CERTIFICATION OF AN APPROVED  
LEGAL ASSISTANCE ORGANIZATION

THIS MATTER is before the Court for certification of an approved legal assistance program pursuant to Article XIII of the Texas State Bar Rules.

Houston Volunteer Lawyers Program is accordingly certified as an approved legal assistance organization in the State Bar of Texas' Emeritus Attorney Pro Bono Participation Program.

  
Mary Wakefield  
Clerk, Texas Supreme Court

Conformed copies to:

Houston Volunteer Lawyers Program

this 28th day of November, 1988.



SUPREME COURT OF TEXAS

IN RE:

Certification of Houston Volunteer Lawyers Program, Inc.  
as an approved legal assistance  
organization pursuant to Article XIII  
of the Texas State Bar Rules.

PETITION

Houston Volunteer Lawyers Program, Inc. ("Petitioner"), pursuant to Article XIII, Section 2(c), of the Texas State Bar Rules, petitions this Court to certify it as an approved legal assistance organization for the purpose of allowing eligible lawyers to practice under Article XIII of the Texas State Bar Rules and as grounds would show:

1. Petitioner is a Texas, not-for-profit organization. It was formed in November 1983, for the purpose of providing free legal services to indigent persons within Harris County. Petitioner accepts no fees or other payments from its clients for legal services rendered. Petitioner is structured as follows: initial screening by telephone, office interview, referral to volunteer or staff attorney, periodic follow-up on case until completion. Staffing consists of 3 attorneys, 3 support staff, 5 law clerks.

2. Petitioner operates offices in the city of Houston.

3. Petitioner's major sources of funding are Houston Bar Foundation, Gulf Coast Legal Foundation, IOLTA grant.

4. The criteria used to determine potential client's eligibility for legal services performed by Petitioner are: resident of Harris County, Harris County jurisdiction, meets income guidelines, has non-criminal, non-fee generating case.

5. Petitioner provides its clients with the following types of legal and nonlegal services: divorce, custody, adoption, landlord-tenant, property tax, foreclosures, bankruptcy, guardianships, referral to other social services in Houston, referral to other legal aid.

6. Presently, Petitioner employs the following members of the Texas Bar:

Alice S. Wilson  
Samuel Gutierrez  
Carol Ann Cox

7. Petitioner has acquired the following malpractice insurance which will cover any emeritus attorney working with Petitioner: Professional Liability Coverage underwritten by Lloyd's of London through the National Legal Aid and Defender Association, Complete Equity Markets, Inc.

8. Petitioner's main office is located at 806 Main, Suite 1130, Houston, Harris County, Texas 77002. Its area code and telephone number are (713) 228-0735.



WHEREFORE, Petitioner requests this Court to certify it as an approved legal assistance organization pursuant to Article XIII of the Texas State Bar Rules.

DATED this 18 day of October, 1988.



Alice S. Wilson  
Attorney at Law  
Executive Director  
806 Main, Suite 1130  
Houston, Texas 77002  
Tel. (713) 228-0735