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**PRESS RELEASE – FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

**WEIL PARTNER SYLVIA MAYER APPOINTED  
TO HARRIS COUNTY BENCH BAR PRO BONO AWARDS COMMITTEE**

**HOUSTON** – Sept. 1, 2011 – In recognition of her leadership and active involvement in Houston pro bono, Sylvia Mayer, a Business Finance and Restructuring partner in the Houston office of global law firm Weil, Gotshal & Manges LLP, has been appointed to the Harris County Pro Bono Awards Committee. This committee, composed of judges and attorneys, selects the recipients of the annual Harris County Bench Bar Pro Bono Awards. These annual awards, which are presented by the Harris County judiciary, in conjunction with the Houston Bar Association, recognize outstanding pro bono services and encourage law firms, corporate legal departments and individual attorneys to volunteer direct legal services to low-income Harris County residents.

Mayer specializes in corporate rehabilitation and restructuring, including representing companies and stakeholders in in-court and out-of-court reorganizations, as well as systemically important financial institution resolution planning. She regularly writes, teaches and speaks about current bankruptcy, rehabilitation and restructuring issues.

A graduate of the Center for Houston's Future Leadership Forum, Mayer has been prominently engaged in numerous non-profit and community service activities in Houston and regionally. In 2007, Mayer created the Houston Pro Bono Network, a forum for leaders and pro bono coordinators in mid-size to large law firms in Houston to discuss and address the challenges facing firms in expanding their pro bono offerings. Subsequently, she helped the group launch the Houston Pro Bono Joint Initiative (HPBJI), which promotes collaboration between private practice attorneys and in-house attorneys to expand pro bono support throughout the Houston community. The HPBJI meets quarterly and offers at least three pro bono-related Continuing Legal Education programs each year.

In addition, Mayer has served as the Houston coordinating partner for a nation-wide pro-bono project to assist Holocaust survivors in obtaining reparations from the German government, and she developed and implemented a national program for volunteer attorneys to assist Mississippi residents in the wake of Hurricane Katrina.

Within the firm, Mayer's leadership roles include serving on Weil's firm-wide Pro Bono Committee and Diversity Committee and leading the Houston office's Pro Bono Committee and Diversity Committee. Through these leadership roles, she contributes substantially to Weil's highly regarded programs in these areas.

In 2006, Mayer was admitted to the Executive Women's Partnership of the Greater Houston Partnership (GHP), in which she remains active. In 2007, she was selected to participate in the Center

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for Houston's Future Fall 2007 Business/Civic Leadership Forum. *Texas Lawyer* recognized Mayer in 2008 as one of 30 "Extraordinary Women in Texas Law," an honor awarded every five years to select women lawyers across Texas, and in 2011, the Texas Diversity Council named Mayer one of the "Texas' Most Powerful and Influential Women."

Earlier this year, Mayer also helped launch the GHP's Business Retention and Expansion Initiative (BREI), which she chairs. BREI focuses on supporting businesses undergoing expansion and contraction in the Greater Houston area. Most recently, she was appointed by Houston Mayor Annise Parker to serve on the Houston Zoo Development Corporation board of directors. Mayer also serves on the regional board of directors for the Anti-Defamation League (Southwest Region).

Mayer earned her Bachelor of Arts degree, *cum laude*, from Washington University in 1987 and completed her law degree, *summa cum laude*, at the University of Houston Law Center in 1993.

**About Weil**

Weil, Gotshal & Manges ([www.weil.com](http://www.weil.com)), an international law firm of over 1,200 lawyers, including approximately 300 partners, is headquartered in New York, with offices in Beijing, Boston, Budapest, Dallas, Dubai, Frankfurt, Hong Kong, Houston, London, Miami, Munich, Paris, Prague, Providence, Shanghai, Silicon Valley, Warsaw, Washington, D.C. and Wilmington.

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