

**PRESS RELEASE – FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

**WEIL PARTNER SYLVIA MAYER NAMED  
TO TEXAS C-BAR ADVISORY BOARD**



**HOUSTON** – Oct. 17, 2011 – Sylvia Mayer, a Business Finance & Restructuring partner in the Houston office of global law firm, Weil Gotshal & Manges LLP, has been named to the Texas Community Building with Attorney Resources (C-BAR) advisory board.

Texas C-BAR is the only project of its kind in Texas, providing free business law services across the state to community-based nonprofits developing affordable housing and other much-needed services in low-income communities. Texas C-BAR was founded in 2000 with the support of the Texas Bar Foundation and continues as a successful program today due to the support it receives from more than 45 law firms, hundreds of volunteer attorneys, the State Bar and numerous other funders and participants.

The Texas C-BAR program is modeled on established business law pro bono referral programs around the country, including programs in Chicago, Washington, D.C., Georgia, Detroit, Boston and New York. Business law pro bono projects have been endorsed by organizations such as the ABA's Section of Business Law and the American Corporate Counsel Association in recognition of the fact that these programs provide business lawyers with opportunities to volunteer their expertise in ways that many litigation-oriented pro bono programs do not offer.

"We are very excited to welcome Sylvia Mayer to the Texas C-BAR advisory board," said Frances Leos Martinez, director of Texas C-BAR. "She is a strong advocate of transactional pro bono work and a well-respected pro bono champion who will bring great leadership to the C-BAR program. For the past decade, Weil has been an important partner in Texas C-BAR's work, which improves the lives of low-income individuals, families and communities. C-BAR has leveraged more than 9 million pro bono services, thanks to the generosity of our pro bono volunteers. We are thrilled at this opportunity to deepen this relationship and expand C-BAR's efforts with Sylvia's guidance and assistance."

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

A Fall 2007 graduate of the Center for Houston's Future Leadership Forum, Mayer has

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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 2008, *Texas Lawyer* recognized Mayer as one of 30 "Extraordinary Women in Texas Law," an honor awarded every five years to select women lawyers across Texas. In 2011, the Texas Diversity Council named Mayer one of "Texas' Most Powerful and Influential Women."

In January 2011, 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. Earlier this year, she was appointed by Houston Mayor Annise Parker to serve on the Houston Zoo Development Corporation board of directors, which led to her appointment to the Finance Committee for the Board of Directors of Houston Zoo, Inc. Most recently, Mayer was appointed to the Harris County Bench Bar Pro Bono Awards Committee. She also serves on the regional board of directors for the Anti-Defamation League (Southwest Region).

Mayer earned her B.A., *cum laude*, from Washington University in 1987 and completed her J.D., *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 1,100 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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