Dr. Sandra Guerra Thompson

Dr. Sandra Guerra Thompson is the recipient of the 2020 Mayor’s Hispanic Heritage Education in the Community Award. She has dedicated her life to persevering and making contributions for the betterment of the Latino community. Her expertise in the areas of wrongful convictions, forensic science, discrimination in jury selection, prosecutorial ethics, and police interrogations is highly sought after, especially during this current movement for critical criminal justice reform to reduce racial and ethnic disparities.

A Yale University and Yale Law School graduate, Dr. Sandra Guerra Thompson is an acclaimed national expert in criminal law and has taught at the University of Houston Law Center for three decades. She has also served as a faculty advisor for the Hispanic Law Students Association during her entire tenure with the university. In 2016, she played a pivotal role in Mayor Sylvester Turner’s Transition Team’s Criminal Justice Committee, as well as Harris County District Attorney Kim Ogg’s transition to office the following year. Earlier this year, Chief U.S. District Judge Lee H. Rosenthal appointed her as deputy monitor of Harris County’s historic bail reform agreement which reformed the bail practices for misdemeanor defendants.

Dr. Sandra Guerra Thompson also serves as the director of the University of Houston’s Criminal Justice Institute. She was a founding board member for the Houston Forensic Science Center and served on the Timothy Cole Advisory Panel on Wrongful Convictions as a gubernatorial appointee. She has received many accolades, including the Distinguished Leadership in Teaching Excellence Award and several awards from the Hispanic Bar Association for her contributions in inspiring generations of young Latino law students.

The City of Houston commends Dr. Sandra Guerra Thompson for her outstanding commitment to education in the community and extends best wishes for continued success in all endeavors.

Therefore, I, Sylvester Turner, Mayor of the City of Houston, hereby honor Dr. Sandra Guerra Thompson with the Mayor’s Hispanic Heritage Education in the Community Award for the City of Houston and proclaim September 15, 2020, as

Sandra Guerra Thompson Day

in Houston, Texas.

In Witness Whereof, I have hereunto set my hand and have caused the Official Seal of the City of Houston to be affixed this 3rd day of September, 2020.

Sylvester Turner
Mayor of the City of Houston