



NACDL NEWS RELEASE

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

San Antonio, Tex., Attorneys Leslie Sara Hyman and Meagan M. Gillette Awarded Champion of Justice Awards by National Criminal Defense Bar

Washington, DC (Aug. 26, 2010) – At its 52nd Annual Meeting in Toronto, Ont. this month, San Antonio, Tex., attorneys Leslie Sara Hyman and Meagan M. Gillette were honored with Champion of Justice Awards by the National Association of Criminal Defense Lawyers (NACDL). Hyman and Gillette received Champion of Justice Awards for their *pro bono*, humanitarian work in securing asylum for an Eritrean refugee under the Convention Against Torture.

Hyman and Gillette's client had fled Eritrea after being tortured, beaten and arrested simply for engaging in prayer. After her long journey to the United States, she was detained and slated for deportation. That was until a commercial litigator and an intellectual property attorney from Cox Smith's San Antonio office became involved. Their hard work included learning complex immigration law, preparing their client's application for asylum and withholding of removal and obtaining documentation necessary to support the client's identity and credibility. Hyman and Gillette developed this legal competence to help immigrants who are faced with a daunting administrative and legal process and are without resources to engage counsel.

A graduate of Brandeis University and the University of California Hastings College of the Law, Leslie Sara Hyman is shareholder at Cox Smith in San Antonio, Tex. Her practice includes antitrust, intellectual property, business litigation and arbitration, trade regulation counseling and appellate matters. Hyman is the Past-Chair of the Antitrust and Business Litigation Section of the State Bar of Texas and Vice-Chair of the Federal Courts Committee of the San Antonio Bar Association.

A graduate of Brown University and Tulane University Law School, Meagan M. Gillette is an associate at Cox Smith in San Antonio, Tex. Her practice includes copyright and trademark infringement litigation as well as counseling on privacy, internet and technology matters. Gillette has served in various officer posts, including most recently as President, for the Federal Bar Association's San Antonio Chapter. She also serves on the Federal Courts Committee of the San Antonio Bar Association and is Vice-Chair of its Magistrate Judges' Liaison Subcommittee.

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The National Association of Criminal Defense Lawyers is the preeminent organization advancing the mission of the criminal defense bar to ensure justice and due process for persons accused of crime or wrongdoing. A professional bar association founded in 1958, NACDL's 10,000-plus direct members in 28 countries – and 90 state, provincial and local affiliate organizations totaling more than 40,000 attorneys – include private criminal defense lawyers, public defenders, military defense counsel, law professors and judges committed to preserving fairness and promoting a rational and humane criminal justice system.

National Association of Criminal Defense Lawyers

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