

CHARLES HOUSTON BAR ASSOCIATION
PRESENTS



SAVING
THE
CHILDREN

ANNUAL GALA
DINNER AND DANCE

CLINTON W. WHITE ADVOCACY AWARD

JAMES BELL



James Bell is this year's recipient of the Clinton W. White Advocacy Award for excellence in courtroom advocacy for children. He has been a Staff Attorney at the Youth Law Center in San Francisco for 15 years, representing children confined in adult jails, juvenile detention centers and training schools. Mr. Bell has also provided technical assistance for county commissioners, sheriffs, judges, police departments, probation officers, line workers and administrators in over 30 states on liability, conditions of confinement and other juvenile justice issues.

In addition, Mr. Bell has worked closely with Indian tribal courts in over 15 jurisdictions to help tribal courts become more proficient in handling juvenile justice issues. He has just returned from South Africa where he is providing ongoing assistance to the African National Congress on developing a juvenile justice system for the new South Africa. Mr. Bell is a graduate of California State Polytechnic University, Pomona and Hastings College of the Law.

BENJAMIN TRAVIS COMMUNITY SERVICE AWARD

RALPH C. FRANCIS



Ralph C. Francis is the recipient of this year's Benjamin Travis Community Service Award, for his excellence in creating and implementing mentorship, educational and conflict resolution programs for youth and children. He is a co-founder of the Donald P. McCullum Court, Inc. and president of its board of directors. This innovative program allows first-time juvenile offenders to be judged by their teenaged peers. Project Hope, a second program founded by Mr. Francis, was formed to tutor and mentor Alameda County's homeless children. In addition to serving on the Charles Houston Bar Association's board of directors, Mr. Francis has served on the boards of Volunteers in Parole, Inc., and Youth Advocates, Inc.

Mr. Francis also serves as a judge pro tempore for Alameda County Superior Court - Juvenile Division. He received his B.S. (Cum Laude) from University of Illinois and an M.S. (Magna Cum Laude) and J.D. from the University of Michigan. He is married to Lori Francis and has two children, son, Derek, who is seven and daughter, Taylor, who is four.

Mr. Francis has also been a mentor to Dennis Richardson, who he thinks of as a son, for ten years. When Mr. Francis met Dennis, the youngster had not attended school in nearly two years. Mr. Francis helped get Dennis back in school and promised to pay his way through college if Dennis graduated from high school. Today Dennis attends the University of Pittsburgh.