

5/28/04

Dear Nominating Committee:

It is with pleasure that I submit the name Winner Laws to be considered as a nominee for the Extra Mile Award. Over the past years Ms. Laws has actively been involved in community service to all facets of the GLBT community. Her involvements have included advocacy for GLBTs at Electronic Data Systems (EDS), the Cathedral of Hope, Legacy of Success and the Human Rights Campaign. As you review her resume, you will know that she excels as a leader and a team player. She has had an outstanding history of accomplishments, which have focused on addressing current and pressing agenda issues impacting the GLBT community. Her actions have embodied what the spirit of the Extra Mile Award is all about. It is without reservations that I highly recommend Winner Laws for the Extra Mile Award.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Alpha Thomas". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal stroke at the end.

Alpha Thomas

What has been the impact of the person's activities on our community and in the organizations served? Please be specific about why you consider this person outstanding and deserving of this award:

See Cover Letter

Please enclose additional comments, information and/or biographical data you feel would be helpful to the committee in evaluating the contribution of the person you have nominated:

Person making this nomination: (please complete each blank)

Name: Alpha Thomas

Address: [REDACTED]

Home Phone: [REDACTED]

Work Phone: _____

Email Address: [REDACTED]

Please list the name of another person familiar with the accomplishments of the person being nominated.

Name: Sue Schrader

Home Phone: _____

Work Phone: [REDACTED]

Email: _____

THANK YOU VERY MUCH for assisting us in honoring the deserving women and men who have provided services to our community. This process could not continue without your support! Please call Lory Masters, Randy Sprabary or Tim Fortenberry at (214) 902-9999 (Master Realtors), if you have any questions. More detailed information about this event will be sent next month. This event is open to ALL! Please plan to join us to show appreciation and gratitude to those who have given so much. Scholarship dinner tickets will be available.

MAIL NOMINATIONS TO: OR

FAX/EMAIL TO:

Lory Masters

[REDACTED]

Fax No. [REDACTED]

Email: DallasExtraMile@aol.com

May 24-04 04:29P EDS DSSC (Plano, TX)

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Winner A. Laws



Volunteer Objective:

To make a positive contribution in the community through consistent and compassionate volunteerism.

Experience Summary and Strengths:

Ten years of volunteer and leadership experience with various organizations including work, church and community organizations. Responsible for multiple business relationships, program design, fundraising, and creating events that appeal, entertain and educate the Dallas/Forth Worth communities. Additionally, provided strategic and tactical support to promote gay and lesbian causes. Strengths include project management, leadership skills, and communication skills.

Expertise Applied in Volunteer Activities:

Project Management	Relationship Management	Community Relations
Sales/Marketing Support	Product Evaluation	Fundraising
Program Design	Business Planning	Customer Focus

Volunteer Experience:

04/95 - present

Organization: EDS

Position: Contributing Member

Years of Service: 8

Accomplishments: Successfully expanded EDS' Equal Employment Opportunity (EEO) statement to include sexual orientation as well as the inclusion of domestic partner benefits like health coverage, adoption assistance, and others, for partners of same-gender couples.

Responsibilities: As a member of the Gay and Lesbian Employees at EDS (GLEE) and an EDS leader, expressed issues to senior leadership about:

- ▶ Employees feeling threatened they would lose their job if it were known they were homosexual
- ▶ Employees desire to have benefit coverage for their life partner equal to that of married heterosexual couples
- ▶ The need for inclusion and acknowledgement of gay and lesbian issues among coworkers.
- ▶ Based on these types of issues, GLEE members collectively adopted the vision statement
- ▶ "EDS will be a corporation that values employee diversity and ensures its gay & lesbian employees equality in policies and benefits"

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Winner A. Laws

- Address employee benefits issues (e.g., health coverage, adoption assistance, and others, for partners of same gender couples)
- Obtain EDS support and sponsorship of gay and lesbian activities and AIDS-related charities/organizations
- Obtain EDS sponsorship by senior leadership enabling employee volunteerism

sustain a support group that has authority to use corporate communication tools (e.g., e-mail) and secure meeting facilities

09/00 – 12/03

Organization: Cathedral of Hope

Position: Black Outreach Ministry (BOM) Co-Chair

Years of Service: 4

Accomplishments: As one of the founding members, facilitated sessions that created the common intent, organizational goals and BOM election process for officers. Led committee to create and deliver the 2002 and 2003 Black History Month's Heritage Celebration for the Cathedral of Hope (CoH) working with the Legacy of Success organization. Worked with the CoH pastoral staff, volunteer coordinators and other ministries to bring quality programs to CoH including Juneteenth, Kwanzaa and many other activities as well as events. As a ministry leader/servant, effectively communicated with the leads of each activity or event and utilized the BOM members' talents/gifts from God to successfully accomplish over 25 BOM projects in 2002 and more than 30 projects in 2003 by soliciting and listening to members' ideas.

Responsibilities: Served as Co-Chair of the Cathedral of Hope (CoH) Black Outreach Ministry (BOM) since its inception in September 2000 through December 2003. Worked with BOM members to increase the visibility of the African-American community at CoH through the development of cultural programs and participation in CoH ministries including Black History Month, Juneteenth, Kwanzaa, Church Anniversary Gala, Home Renovation projects and many more other volunteer activities. Other responsibilities included

- ▶ Coordinating and overseeing the efforts of the ministry by serving as a Facilitator, Communicator, Go-to-Person, Sounding board, Rumor Stopper, Mentor and Project Manager
- ▶ Working to ensure all ministry tasks are assigned, monitored and executed
- ▶ Establishing standard processes for group tasks such as monitoring progress and acclimation of new members
- ▶ Expanding the mindset of group members to better carry CoH's strategic vision forward
- ▶ Being a team player and role model prepared to support and back-up other ministry officers and be an example to members by maintaining high standards
- ▶ Working with CoH staff and/or BOM members to schedule and facilitate monthly leadership meetings
- ▶ Serving as liaison to the CoH ministry staff assisting with the planning and coordination of special-interest activities and staying abreast of CoH vision to communicate to BOM members
- ▶ Overseeing efforts to increase BOM's visibility within the CoH community
- ▶ Reviewing all proposed events, whether social, educational, financial, or outreach related and approving those events that align with CoH's vision and direction
- ▶ Building and fostering relationship with other CoH ministries and external community groups to combine or support efforts when appropriate to best support the efforts of Community Outreach e.g., Habit For Humanity, Health Fair, Sand Branch Water Drive, Hispanic Ministry, Legacy of Success, and other CoH projects

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Winner A. Laws

11/01 - 04/04

Organization: Legacy of Success

Position: Legacy of Success (LOS) Co-Chair

Years of Service: 3

Accomplishments: As a founding member of the Legacy of Success Board, worked with other Board members and Human Rights Campaign representatives as well as volunteers from the community to help bring a Black history program to the Dallas/Fort Worth area. Under the guidance of the Board, the Black history program has progressed from a partial day event to a full weekend including education and entertainment activities which received positive press and support from the Dallas Voice, a significant accomplishment for an African American Same Gender Loving & Lesbian, Gay and Bisexual Transgendered organization.

Responsibilities: Led the Legacy of Success Board of Directors as the Co-Chair of this non-profit social, business, and cultural organization that was formed to bring the Same Gender Loving & Lesbian, Gay and Bisexual Transgendered Community of Color together to celebrate Black History Month. Specifically responsible for:

- ▶ Creating the strategic plan to review the organization's purpose, priorities, financial standing and goals
- ▶ Conducting and participating in activities to assist in raising funds to pay for the Black History Heritage Celebration events
- ▶ Approving the annual budget and overseeing adherence to it
- ▶ Designing Black History events that would appeal, entertain and educate the residences in the Dallas/Forth Worth communities
- ▶ Developing and maintaining relationships with other businesses in the community to gain support of the organization's vision both conceptually and financially

06/94 - present

Organization: Cathedral of Hope

Position: Contributing Member

Years of Service: 10

Accomplishments: Participated in multiple roles starting with the Spring FaithQuest 2002 - Discipleship Class and in the Fall FaithQuest 2002. Co-led the "Streams of Living Water" with Rev. Kevin McElmore and completed the Cathedral of Hope's Leadership Institute in May 2003. Additionally, led one of the circles for "The Path" during January 2003.

Responsibilities: Supported and participated in Child of Hope, Back to School Supplies Drive for Children, Thanksgiving and Christmas Food Basket Drives, Church Anniversary Gala, Sand Branch Water Drive, Christmas Toy Drives for Children, Home Renovation projects, Juneteenth picnics, and Kwanzaa activities while regularly attending church services and financially supporting other church projects.

Winner A. Laws

09/01 – present

Organization: Human Rights Campaign

Position: Contributing Member

Years of Service: 3

Accomplishments: Currently a member of the organization; volunteered for data entry support for ticket purchasing to the Dallas Black Tie Event for last 2 years; purchased a table to the Black Tie Board Member for the last 3 years.

Responsibilities: Worked with Human Rights Campaign Diversity Council to deliver an empowering series of African American events for the last weekend in February with the Legacy of Success organization for the Dallas Fort Worth community. Delivered awareness sessions to better educate the Black Tie participants on political issues that impact the Gay and Lesbian community as well as to protect the rights of all people.

10/04 – present

Organization: Cathedral of Hope

Position: Board of Directors Member

Years of Service: 0.5

Accomplishments: Serving in an ex-officio capacity for a special appointed committee to facilitate communication between the Board of Directors and the Steinke Action Planning committee providing suggestions on how to improve relationships with all members of the church (e.g., pastors, congregation members and the Board) where we are carrying out the vision of being a liberal church.

Responsibilities: Providing the church with bylaws, which are subject to approval by the congregation, as well as taking charge over matters pertaining to the bylaws and other documents of legal organization, property, risk management and financial activities. In addition, responsible for collecting and disbursing funds, maintaining adequate records and making timely reports to the congregation.

Formal Education:

Carnegie-Mellon University, Pittsburgh, PA

Major: Mathematics

Degree: Bachelor of Science