

BAKER & MCKENZIE



For Immediate Release: Dec. 1, 2016

Event Date: Thursday, Dec. 8, 2016

Texas' Homeless Youth Handbook to Launch in Houston

WHAT: A new statewide resource to aid youth experiencing homelessness is launching Dec 8. The Texas Homeless Youth Handbook — fourth in a national series following Minnesota, Washington and Illinois — will be available in print and online at www.HomelessYouth.org. The 18-chapter handbook focusing on ages 14-24 was written to specifically reflect Texas law, featuring details for youth on their rights, responsibilities, and available resources. It covers a range of topics including, but not limited to, education, healthcare, housing, parenting, and consumer credit issues, and is designed in a youth-accessible question-and-answer format.

WHEN: Thursday, Dec. 8, 2016, at 3 p.m. (check-in and interview availability); 3:20 p.m. (speakers' remarks); 4:30 p.m. (event ends)

WHERE: Covenant House Texas, a shelter for homeless youth, 1111 Lovett Blvd. Houston, TX 77006

WHY: Texas is home to approximately 10 percent of the nation's homeless youth. During the 2014-15 school year, Texas districts identified 113,294 students as homeless. Nearly 16,000 of these were "unaccompanied" by a parent or guardian.

WHO: A combined team of more than 50 attorneys and staff with law firm Baker & McKenzie, public interest justice center Texas Appleseed, and international company Weatherford dedicated hundreds of hours to research, write, and edit the handbook.

SPEAKERS: Youth who are experiencing or have experienced homelessness will speak, and there will also be brief remarks from Josh McMorrow, General Counsel – NAM/Europe/Africa and Global Head of Litigation (Weatherford), Angela C. Vigil, Pro Bono Partner and Executive Director (Baker & McKenzie), Rick Hammett, North American Managing Partner (Baker & McKenzie), Gabriella McDonald, Pro Bono & New Projects Director (Texas Appleseed), Ronda Robinson, Executive Director (Covenant House Texas), and Pete Rodriguez, Director, HIV Services and Health Care for the Homeless (Thomas St. Health Center).

DETAILS/VISUALS: Eventgoers will be the first to see the online version of the handbook, projected onto a screen at Covenant House. Print versions of the handbook will be available to all guests, and hard copies will be sent to schools, libraries, public agencies, advocates, and other groups across Texas, upon request. The handbook launch takes place during Covenant House's Special Santa holiday gift drive. Gifts for older youth and younger children will be collected and displayed.

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About Baker & McKenzie

Founded in 1949, Baker & McKenzie advises many of the world's most dynamic and successful business organizations through our 13,000 staff in 77 offices in 47 countries. Global revenues for the fiscal year ended June 30, 2016, were US\$2.62 billion. Paul Rawlinson is Chairman of the Executive Committee. (www.bakermckenzie.com)

About Weatherford

Weatherford is one of the largest multinational oilfield service companies providing innovative solutions, technology and services to the oil and gas industry. The Company operates in over 100 countries and has a network of approximately 1,000 locations, including manufacturing, service, research and development, and

training facilities and employs approximately 31,000 people. For more information, visit www.weatherford.com and connect with Weatherford on LinkedIn, Twitter, YouTube and Facebook.

About Texas Appleseed

Texas Appleseed is a public interest justice center that works to change unjust laws and policies that prevent Texans from realizing their full potential. The nonprofit conducts data-driven research that uncovers inequity in laws and policies and identifies solutions for lasting, concrete change. For more information, visit TexasAppleseed.org.

About CHT

Established in 1983, Covenant House Texas is a non-profit human services agency that offers crisis shelter, crisis intervention, outreach and prevention, medical care, transitional housing, educational/vocational training and community-based services to runaway and homeless youth under the age of 21. CHT is part of an international network founded in New York City in 1968. Visit CHT's website at www.covenanthousetx.org.