

Attorney receives Velasquez award

Isaias Torres was the recipient of the 1993 Willie Velasquez Excellence Awards, last Friday night at the Westin Oaks Galleria Hotel, hosted by KTMD Channel 48 and the Southwest Voter Registration and Education Project.

The honoree was selected by secret ballot from a group of 48 outstanding people who have been recognized by the Hispanic community in the "Profile of the Week" program produced and broadcasted by KTMD-TV Channel 48.

Torres, an attorney, was recently named to the Clinton/Gore Transitional Team and was appointed to the Texas Ethics Commission in 1991 and was recently named Chairman of the Commission.

Torres won two landmark cases, one before the Supreme Court and another before a federal court in Houston. Torres fought for the right of an education of undocumented workers' children living in the United States and won the case on the Supreme Court level. In the federal case, he won a 1987 class-

action suit challenging the dismissal of several maintenance workers based on their immigrant status. This was the first case in the United States using the anti-discrimination provision of the Immigration Reform and Control Act of 1986. Torres obtained reinstatement of the workers with backpay. Torres received no compensation for the work in this suit.

Torres, a descendant of Mexican immigrants, was born in New Braunfels and received his Bachelor of Arts degree from the University of Houston in 1975 and his law degree from Georgetown University in Washington, D.C. in 1978.

He has taught Immigration and Civil Rights Law at several universities and has published articles, law reviews and presented speeches dealing with civil rights issues. Torres is also involved in numerous civic organizations locally.

This prestigious award was named after the late Willie Velasquez who was involved most of his life trying to better the quality of life for Hispanics and other minorities through voter registration.

Velasquez was the founder and president of Southwest Voter Registration and Education Project and Southwest Voter Research Institute.



**TORRES:
Honored**



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At KTMD Channel 48's Willie Velasquez Excellence Awards at The Westin Oaks Galleria, from left, Andy Hernandez, Chairman of the Board for Southwest Voter Registration and Education Project; Miriam Santos, Treasurer of the City of Chicago; Isaias Torres, attorney, recipient of the Willie Velasquez Excellence Award; John Sharpe, Texas state Comptroller, and Marcelo Marini, public affairs Director for KTMD Channel 48.



Charles Perez Photo

Also in attendance at the Willie Velasquez Excellence Awards were, from left, Judge Lupe Salinas, Memo Villarreal from Memo's Records, and Municipal Judge Sylvia Garcia.