

CHARLES BACARISSE

Harris County District Clerk

Charles Bacarisse is serving his fourth term as the District Clerk of Harris County -- an office that is custodian of the records for 80 courts. In addition, he manages a jury system and records conversion projects that are among the largest in the nation.

First sworn-in as Harris County's 16th District Clerk in January 1995, Charles has brought a business-like approach to the office that has resulted in numerous upgraded programs, improved constituent service and financial savings to the taxpayer.

The most recent award recognizing his leadership is another Best Practices award from the Texas Association of Counties Leadership Foundation. This is the third Best Practices award won in the past six years. Presented in August 2006, this award recognizes the District Clerk's document imaging project. The Best Practices awards are made for "extraordinary innovations, achievements and effective management in county government," the association said.

In 2001, Charles was honored for the District Clerk's Criminal Collections Program, which has netted over \$60 million in court fines and fees that otherwise would not have been collected from persons convicted of misdemeanors in Harris County. In 2000, the same group awarded him a County Best Practices Award for strategic planning

Charles received the Greater Houston Preservation Alliance's 2004 Stewart Title Award. The award, one of the alliance's Good Brick Awards, honored him and his office's records team for preserving historic court documents.

Houston's Wesley Community Center honored him in 2000 as a "Champion for Children" for numerous improvements in the administration of child support collections and payments, including extraordinary efforts to locate custodial parents for unclaimed payments.

The Southern Methodist University graduate came to the county office with a varied and extensive background in government. His resume includes a position in the White House Office of Media Relations for President Ronald Reagan and Assistant Director of the Office of Public Liaison for President George H.W. Bush.

Charles returned to Houston in 1990 to serve as Administrative Assistant to then County Judge Jon Lindsay. Charles was responsible for the county's economic development initiatives and criminal justice matters.

For his efforts as District Clerk and as a contributing member of various organizations, including the Kiwanis Club of Houston, Charles was named one of the *Five Outstanding Young Texans* and one of the *Five Outstanding Young Houstonians* of 1999 by Junior Chamber of Commerce organizations. He has also twice received the Local Government Council's *Samuel Adams Award for Outstanding Leadership in Local Government*.

Charles and his wife, Jana Fay, are the parents of two children. They are active in their church and serve on various boards throughout the community.