



**Date:** May 17, 2008  
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## NEWS ADVISORY

### HARRIS COUNTY JUDGE EMMETT TO RECOGNIZE STUDENT FINALISTS IN “DO THE WRITE THING CHALLENGE”

- WHO:** Harris County Judge Ed Emmett,  
Houston/Harris County Do the Write Thing Challenge Chair  
Former Harris County Judge Robert Eckels,  
Do the Write Thing Texas Challenge Chair  
Ken Nicolas,  
Executive Director, Office of the Texas Governor – Juvenile Justice Division  
Jim “Mattress Mack” McIngvale,  
Owner of Gallery Furniture, Keynote Speaker
- WHAT:** 2008 Houston/Harris County *Do the Write Thing Challenge* recognition ceremony
- WHEN:** 11 a.m. – 2 p.m., Saturday, May 17, 2008
- WHERE:** Minute Maid Park  
501 Crawford Street  
Right Field Gate (only entrance to event)  
Free parking at Diamond Club and Lot A

Harris County Judge Ed Emmett will honor nearly 300 student finalists in the 2008 Houston/Harris County *Do the Write Thing Challenge* along with their parents and teachers at an annual recognition ceremony. Jim “Mattress Mack” McIngvale will be the keynote speaker.

The *Do the Write Thing Challenge* is an educational initiative of the *National Campaign to Stop Violence*, which encourages seventh- and eighth-grade students in the community’s public and private school systems to examine the impact of violence on their lives and to write about their experiences. The *Challenge* gives the students the opportunity to share their stories and ideas with a large audience in hopes of making a difference in their community.

Coordinators for the local 2008 *Challenge* received submissions from 17,876 students attending 149 schools in 46 school districts. Among the 298 student finalists, two were chosen as national finalists and two runners-up as state finalists. The national finalists are invited to attend recognition events in Austin and in Washington, D.C., along with one parent/guardian and teacher of each student.