



For Immediate Release

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2019 AAMA Illumine Gala Co-Chairs announced

Houston, TX - 8/10/2019 – The **2019 Illumine Gala** benefitting AAMA (The [Association for the Advancement of Mexican Americans](#)) will be held at the Marriott Marquis on Friday, October 25, 2019 from 6:30 p.m. to 11:30 p.m. Houstonian Michele Leal Farah and husband George Farah are serving as Gala Co-Chairs. The 2019 Illumine Gala will be their first event chairing together.

Michele Leal Farah's community involvement includes a passion for Latino community empowerment, women's rights and LGBTQ equality. Well regarded for providing leadership to charitable and civic organizations, Michele was recognized by the Houston Chronicle an "IT" Girls of 2018 for her philanthropic contributions and by the Greater Houston Women's Chamber of Commerce as a "Woman in the Fast Lane of STEAM." She is immediate past President and board member of Latin Women's Initiative, where she has served as Co-Chair of its annual LWI Fashion Show & Luncheon. Michele is also the Co-Chair of Latino Texas PAC and serves on the boards of the Houston Arts Alliance, the Museum of Fine Arts Houston Latino Art Advisory Committee and on the Mayor's Hispanic Advisory Board. She is currently a Fellow in American Leadership Forum's Class XLIX. Professionally, Michele leads communications and marketing strategy as a Consultant for EnFocus Group. She has 15 years of experience in the public, nonprofit and corporate sectors. She has led capital campaigns, consulted on a \$26.5 million LGBTQ senior housing project, and worked with El Centro de Corazón, a community health center serving predominantly underserved, uninsured Latino patients.

George K. Farah is founding partner at Houston-based firm, Farah Law, a civil law practice. The eldest son of Middle Eastern immigrants and originally from El Paso, George moved to Houston to attend law school and, embracing the entrepreneurial spirit of his parents, established his firm in 2007. Farah Law has offices in Houston, El Paso, McAllen, Brownsville, and Las Cruces, New Mexico. George has served as general counsel to public school districts, and handled high level grievances and appeals to the Texas Commissioner of Education. During his career, George is proud to have recovered millions of dollars in financial compensation for his personal injury clients, many of whom are already economically disadvantaged. George was invited to join the Multi-Million Dollar Advocates Forum, and named as a Texas Super Lawyers Rising Star in 2015 and 2016 and a Texas Super Lawyer in 2017, 2018 and 2019. He has been actively involved in both the Houston and Texas Trial Lawyers Association, as well as Houston Young Lawyers. George is committed to serving the communities in which by Farah Law operates and has supported numerous educational, youth development and social services organizations across Texas.

Please contact Debbie Ortiz, Director of Development, at 713-929-2322 or dortiz@aama.org for sponsorship opportunities and to reserve a table.

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AAMA was founded in 1970 as the Association for the Advancement of Mexican Americans. For 49 years, AAMA has been helping families to attain their potential.

To arrange an interview, contact (713) 929-2317. For more information about the Illumine Gala visit www.aama.org/gala/.