



For Immediate Release

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AAMA's Co-Masters of Ceremonies for 2019 Illumine Gala

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.

Jacob Rascon with KPRC2 will serve as M.C. along with his father **Art Rascon**, ABC13's Emmy award-winning reporter.

From NBC News, Jacob worked as a correspondent based in Dallas. His assignments for NBC Nightly News, Today, MSNBC and NBC News digital platforms took him to nearly every state in the U.S., as well as Europe, the Middle East and Latin America.

Rascon has reported from Orlando, Dallas and Oregon after recent mass shootings; from Mexico for the capture of the world's most notorious drug kingpin "El Chapo;" from Turkey during the migrant crisis; from Cuba during their historic shift in U.S. relations; and from Colorado, leading NBC's coverage of the Aurora movie theater gunman's capital murder trial.

Rascon grew up in the Houston area and graduated from The Woodlands High School. He is an alumnus of Brigham Young University and is fluent in Spanish. He and his wife, Ashley, live in Houston with their four children and he is happy to finally work in his hometown.

Art Rascon

Prior to joining KTRK in Houston, Art Rascon worked as a CBS News correspondent on assignments that included international reporting for the Evening News with Dan Rather and *48 Hours*. He also reported for CBS Radio, earning a national Edward R. Murrow award. As a reporter at KABC-TV in Los Angeles, Rascon covered the 1994-95 O.J. Simpson case. Earlier, Rascon worked as a producer, reporter, and anchor in San Antonio, El Paso, Abilene and Salt Lake City.

Art has been nominated for 27 Emmy awards and has won 20. He has received numerous reporting awards from press clubs in Houston, Los Angeles and Miami and a host of national awards, including three National Association of Hispanic Journalists' awards, two National

'Headliner' Awards, and 18 Associated Press Reporting awards. He was recognized in 1997 as one of only five Latino correspondents appearing on national television networks in the U.S. reporting major events for the evening news. He is a former vice president of the National Association of Hispanic Journalists, and was named one of the one-hundred most influential Hispanics in America by Hispanic Business Magazine.

Art Rascon has reported on major events throughout the world covering civil unrest, wars and conflicts throughout the Middle East and Central America. He has covered terrorists' attacks from New York City to other major cities and has reported on natural disasters, from hurricanes along the Gulf States to tsunamis in Asia, and earthquakes, being one of the first to report from Haiti. He has traveled to more than 75 countries on five continents and reported from nearly every State in the Union.

Born in El Paso, Texas, Rascon grew up in Denver, Colorado, and graduated from Brigham Young University. He also studied Spanish, Humanities, and European Politics/History in Madrid, Spain. Rascon is happily married with seven children.

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/.