**Courtroom Dedicated**

**in Honor of**

**DA Mike Anderson**

Today the STAR (Success Through Addiction Recovery) Court courtroom will be re-named the Mike Anderson Memorial Courtroom in honor of the late Harris County District Attorney Mike Anderson, who passed away in August at the age of 57. The Harris County District Attorney’s office along with the Criminal District Judges, the STAR Court Judges, the Harris County Public Defender’s Office, the Houston Bar Association and the STAR Court staff will hold the dedication ceremony at 2 p.m. in room 14144 on the 14th floor of the Harris County Criminal Justice Center.

Mike was a STAR Court judge before he was elected District Attorney in 2013. He was a Harris County Assistant District Attorney for 17 years and District Court Judge for 12 years. After Mike passed, Governor Rick Perry appointed Mike’s wife, District Attorney Devon Anderson to the position.

“Mike had a passion for helping people and believed in giving people second chances. As a judge he would send offenders in need of rehabilitation and treatment to STAR court, even when they thought they didn’t need it,” said DA Anderson. “Mike’s commitment to the program as a judge and as the District Attorney played a major role in the success of the program, so it is fitting to have the courtroom re-named after him.”

The STAR Drug Court Program treats non-violent, repeat drug offenders to reduce the costs of continuing drug abuse and possible future crimes. Similar to other specialty courts, defendants receive innovative and intensive individualized supervision by the court team and treatment providers. Each client’s goals are discussed and monitored to ensure success in both completing the program and conquering the addiction. Currently, there are 144 defendants in the program and there have been more than 400 graduates since 2003.

**NOTE:** Cameras are allowed in the courtroom.