Raised in the Rosewood Public Housing Development in Wichita Falls, Texas, Carl S. Richie Jr. has a four-decade career in public service and policy development. He has been a leader in improving public and affordable housing as well as strengthening housing ties to education, job skills and better healthcare. His firsthand knowledge of public housing fuels his passion and commitment to improving the quality of life for public housing residents.

Mr. Richie currently serves as chairman of the Housing Authority of the City of Austin (HACA) Board of Commissioners and senior vice president of the National Association of Housing and Redevelopment Officials (NAHRO). He was appointed to the Board in 1997. Within two years of his appointment, he helped turn HACA from a troubled agency to a high-performing agency.



HACA has been named as a high-performing agency for the past 15 years.

Under his leadership, HACA has reduced the dropout rates among students who live in public housing and created a scholarship program. Since its inception in 2002, HACA has awarded more than \$1 million in scholarships.

Additionally, HACA has created a business incubator to assist residents who want to start their own business. The agency has also successfully created a nonprofit, Blueprint Housing Solutions, to provide housing-related services to troubled housing agencies.

Mr. Richie has been active with NAHRO at the state, regional and national levels. He has chaired the NAHRO Commissioner's Committee and during his tenure he helped rewrite the industry's handbook for public housing board members, The Commissioner's Handbook on Public Housing. Further, the Commissioner's Corner was established in the NAHRO Journal of Housing and Community Development under his chairmanship. In addition, Mr. Richie was among the first commissioners to earn a NAHRO Commissioner Certification from NAHRO and he is certified to teach NAHRO training and educational courses to fellow commissioners. He also assisted in the revision of NAHRO's Code of Conduct. Mr. Richie has represented NAHRO as a delegate to TRI-Country both in 2006 and 2008. He is currently serving his second term as parliamentarian for NAHRO's Board of Governors.

He is a two-time recipient of the Texas NAHRO Commissioner of the Year Award. Southwest NAHRO Regional Council honored Mr. Richie with its Public Service Award and NAHRO presented him with its Elizabeth B. Wells Memorial Award, which recognizes deserving commissioners for excellence in advocacy for housing and community development programs. Most recently, Mr. Richie was inducted into the NAHRO prestigious Fellows program.

Mr. Richie earned a bachelor's degree from Texas A&M University, a master's degree in Public Administration from the Barbara Jordan/Mickey Leland School of Public Affairs at Texas

Southern University, and a Doctorate of Jurisprudence from the University of Houston Law Center. In 1993, he was a Public Policy Fellow at the University of Texas School of Law Center for Public Policy Dispute Resolution.

While earning his master's degree, he received a fellowship from the Congressional Black Caucus Foundation and worked for Congressman Barney Frank (D-MA). This experience allowed him to learn about policies and programs administered by the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development. Later, Mr. Richie worked for a member of the Houston City Council where he assisted in the development of the Houston Urban Homesteading Program, providing approximately 500 homes to first-time homebuyers residing in low-income neighborhoods.

Mr. Richie worked at three major Texas-based law firms, achieving the status of partner before starting his own firm. He has managed large and small external legislative teams for governmental and quasi-governmental clients, corporations, and trade associations on a wide range of public policy issues.

He has used his legislative advocacy expertise to pass state legislation expanding the term of service for Texas Resident Commissioners, and later assisted in passing legislation to eliminate term limits for resident commissioners. More importantly, he has worked to defeat legislation that would prohibit Texas public housing authorities from engaging in public advocacy, as well as ensuring that housing authorities fairly compete for tax credit dollars.

Considered among Texas' top power lobbyists, Capitol Inside recently ranked Mr. Richie as the 23rd top lobbyist. In 2009 and 2011, the publication ranked him second and fourth respectively in the "Corporate In-House Lobbyists" category as the lead lobbyist for energy giant TXU Energy. Mr. Richie was also recognized as one of 2007's Best Lawyers in America by Woodward/White and honored with the Healthcare Heroes Award by the Austin Business Journal.