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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

**Jury Confirms Real Estate Valuation by Deal Sikes & Associates in Houston Eminent Domain Case, Resulting in 150 Percent Increase in Compensation to Land Owner**

**HOUSTON, TEXAS, Tuesday, July 9, 2013** — Deal Sikes & Associates, a Houston-based real estate valuation and consulting firm, has represented the Chana Family, a West Houston land owner who won a recent lawsuit against Harris County in an eminent domain trial.

Harris County, acting on behalf of the Texas Department of Transportation (TxDOT), exercised the power of eminent domain to obtain land for expansion of FM 529, east of Fry Road.

The Chana Family filed contended that the purchase price paid by the governmental entity did not represent fair market value. The Chana Family retained the services of Deal Sikes & Associates to determine the value of the land.

A Deal Sikes valuation of the property determined the land was worth just under \$1 million. Harris County appraisers contended the property was worth less than half that amount.

A jury in Judge Teresa Chang's Harris County Court at Law No. 2 affirmed the Deal Sikes valuation of the property. The property owner received payment for the land that was approximately 150 percent more than what the governmental initially offered to pay.

"By law, property owners must receive just compensation when their property is taken through the government's power of eminent domain," said Mark Sikes, principal, Deal Sikes & Associates. "In eminent domain takings, we encourage property owners to retain expert representation to ensure that just compensation is paid for the loss of their property and for damages to their remaining adjacent property."

Deal Sikes & Associates, a national leader in eminent domain counseling, has been involved in thousands of eminent domain situations and right-of-way acquisitions in Texas and other states.

Deal Sikes & Associates is a Houston-based firm that provides real estate valuation and counseling services for eminent domain initiatives, and real estate counseling and valuation services for governmental agencies, real estate companies, law firms, estates and corporate clients across the nation.

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