



TL Opinion

12-11-2006

**Yea:**

On Dec. 6, 82 first-graders from Hilliard Elementary School in the North Shore Independent School District attended a holiday party sponsored by Locke Liddell & Sapp in Houston. The children, most dressed in their holiday best, were treated to a view of the city from the 60th floor of the J.P. Morgan Chase Tower, ate lunch, heard Mrs. Claus and her sister read "The Night Before Christmas," had their photos taken with one of four Santa Clauses — actually Locke Liddell partners — and received a bag full of gifts. "This means a lot to them," says Hilliard assistant principal Russell Avery, who notes that 95 percent of the Hilliard students come from low-income families and may not receive other holiday gifts. "To the students, it is something they will never forget. It's like a miracle," says teacher Joyce King. The students submit "wish lists" to their teachers, and staff and lawyers at Locke Liddell buy the gifts and organize the party. It's the eighth year for the event in Houston; staff and lawyers in the firm's Dallas and Austin offices organize similar events. King says her students learn about the spirit of giving from the generosity of the firm's lawyers and staff. That makes us happy. We know Locke Liddell isn't the only Texas firm bringing joy to children during the holidays, and that makes us even happier.