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**REAL ESTATE**

**Tower foes enlist  
trial lawyer Hardin**

Residents of Southampton and Boulevard Oaks have hired trial lawyer Rusty Hardin to help them oppose a 23-story high-rise proposed for the corner of Bissonnet and Ashby.

Houston-based Buckhead Investment Partners plans to develop the residential tower at 1717 Bissonnet, a site currently home to the Maryland Manor Apartments.

"We've done everything that the rules, regulations and ordinances have required us to do to bring this project to this point," developer Matthew Morgan said.

Last week, Mayor Bill White wrote in a letter to area civic groups that the city will use "any appropriate power under law" to alter the development, which opponents say would tower over single-family homes and worsen traffic congestion.

— NANCY SARNOFF