

Media Contact:
Brienne Miers
617-391-5621
bmiers@mlac.org

MEDIA ALERT

Associate Justice Gants, BBA & MBA Leaders to Speak at 13th Annual Walk to the Hill *Hundreds of Attorneys to Gather at State House on January 26 to Ask for Increased Funding for Civil Legal Aid*

BOSTON (January 19, 2012) – Associate Justice Ralph D. Gants of the Supreme Judicial Court will join hundreds of private attorneys from more than 50 Boston-area law firms at the Massachusetts State House on Thursday, January 26, for Walk to the Hill for Civil Legal Aid. The goal of this annual lobby day, one of the best attended in the state, is to ask for increased state funding for programs that provide civil legal aid to low-income Massachusetts residents.

Gants will kick off the speaking program at 11:30 a.m. in the Great Hall of Flags (The full list of speakers is below). Following the speaking program, attorneys will visit their legislators and ask them to increase funding for the Massachusetts Legal Assistance Corporation line item (MLAC, 0321-1600) by \$5 million to \$14.5 million in the FY13 budget. Increased funding is critical to restore service levels and prevent further cuts to legal aid programs, as they have been struggling to meet demand due to a 78 percent decrease in revenue since FY08 from the Interest on Lawyers' Trust Accounts (IOLTA) program, the other major funding source for civil legal aid.

Walk to the Hill is sponsored by the Equal Justice Coalition, Boston Bar Association and Massachusetts Bar Association, and it is co-sponsored by 30 county and specialty bar associations.

SPEAKING PROGRAM:

11:30 a.m. to 12:00 p.m.
Great Hall of Flags

The order of speakers is as follows:

- Associate Justice Ralph D. Gants of the Supreme Judicial Court
- Massachusetts Bar Association President Richard P. Campbell
- Boston Bar Association President Lisa C. Goodheart
- Remon Jourdan of Randolph – former client, Greater Boston Legal Services

Sandy Moskowitz, chair of the Equal Justice Coalition, will serve as the program's emcee, and Jacquelynne Bowman, executive director of Greater Boston Legal Services, will provide lobbying instructions to the participants.

NOTE: Members of the media are welcome to attend all or part of the speaking program.

About the Equal Justice Coalition

The Equal Justice Coalition, a collaboration of the Boston Bar Association, Massachusetts Bar Association and the Massachusetts Legal Assistance Corporation, works to increase state funding for civil legal aid. For more information, visit <http://www.equaljusticecoalition.org>.

###