

MBA NEWS



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MBA to host Jan. 26 forum on “Gateway Cities” at UMass School of Law

Rep. Cabral, Sen. Rodrigues and other community leaders to participate

BOSTON, Mass. —As part of a prioritized initiative on “Gateway Cities,” the Massachusetts Bar Association will host a forum on Thursday, January 26 beginning at 5 p.m. at the University of Massachusetts School of Law in Dartmouth.

“The focus will be to identify ways in which attorneys can lend their expertise with issues affecting Gateway City communities across Massachusetts,” MBA President Richard P. Campbell said.

Massachusetts' Gateway Cities are those mid-sized cities whose residents are experiencing significantly higher rates of unemployment and a stalemate in social, economic and civic innovation. Some examples are Brockton, Fall River, Lawrence, New Bedford, Springfield and Worcester.

Following a meet-and-greet reception, the speaking portion of the forum will feature insight of leaders who have long worked with the issues impacting the state's Gateway Cities. Among the featured event speakers are MBA President-elect Robert L. Holloway Jr.; UMass School of Law Dean Michael G. Hillinger; Rep. Antonio Cabral (D-New Bedford) and Sen. Michael J. Rodrigues (D-Westport), chairs of the Gateway Cities Caucus; representatives from MassINC and UMass Dartmouth's Urban Institute; as well as other leading voices on the academic, economic and cultural aspects impacting Gateway Cities.

The final leg of the event will be devoted to pinpointing ways in which the legal community can help address such issues.

Campbell has tapped Margaret D. Xifaras, who practices in New Bedford, and Francis A. Ford, who practices in Worcester, to lead the MBA's Gateway Cities initiative.

Xifaras will serve as moderator at the event.

Incorporated in 1911, the Massachusetts Bar Association is a non-profit organization that serves the legal profession and the public by promoting the administration of justice, legal education, professional excellence and respect for the law. The MBA represents a diverse group of attorneys, judges and legal professionals across the commonwealth.