

**Walk to the Hill  
January 26, 2012**

**MBA President Richard Campbell's Remarks**

GREETINGS FROM THE MASSACHUSETTS BAR ASSOCIATION . MY  
NAME IS DICK CAMPBELL. I AM INCREDIBLY PRIVILEGED TO SERVE  
AS PRESIDENT OF THE STATE BAR ASSOCIATION AT A TIME WHEN  
THE COLLECTIVE WEIGHT AND INFLUENCE OF THE  
COMMONWEALTH'S LAWYERS IS SO DEMONSTRABLY NEEDED.  
INDEED, IN MY 38 YEARS OF PRACTICE, I CANNOT BRING TO MIND  
ANY COMPARABLE PERIOD WHEN OUR CITIZENS AND OUR COURTS  
NEED US ON THE FRONT LINES FOR THEM.

THANK YOU ALL FOR TAKING THE TIME OUT OF YOUR BUSY  
PRACTICES TODAY TO PARTICIPATE IN THIS IMPORTANT EVENT.

LIKE ALL OF YOU, I UNDERSTAND THE OBLIGATION THAT EACH OF  
US HAS TO ADVOCATE FOR LEGAL ASSISTANCE FUNDING.

THE ORGANIZED BAR SIMPLY MUST ACT AS THE VOICE OF OUR  
MOST VULNERABLE CITIZENS.

WE MUST SPEAK FOR THEM TO ENSURE EACH PERSON, WHETHER IN  
DANGER OF FORECLOSURE OR NEEDING ASSISTANCE OBTAINING A  
PROTECTION ORDER, OR NEEDING ACCESS TO VETERANS BENEFITS,  
HAS A QUALIFIED LAWYER STANDING BY THEIR SIDE.

LIKEWISE, WE MUST ALL ADVOCATE FOR A FULLY STAFFED AND  
ADEQUATELY FUNDED JUDICIARY OR THE AVAILABILITY OF  
SUPPORTING LAWYERS WILL BE OF NO CONSEQUENCE.

IT IS NO SECRET THAT OUR JUDICIARY HAS BEEN DEVASTATED BY  
CRIPPLING BUDGET CUTS YEAR AFTER YEAR.

NONETHELESS, I COMMEND THE GOVERNOR, FOR STEPPING UP AND  
FUNDING LEGAL SERVICES. BUT WE ARE ONLY HALF WAY THERE.

HOWEVER, LEGAL SERVICE ORGANIZATIONS THROUGHOUT THE  
STATE ARE BEING PUSHED TO THEIR BREAKING POINT AS THEY ARE  
FACED WITH DRASTIC CUTS IN IOLTA FUNDS AND AN EVER

INCREASING NEED FOR SERVICES. INDEED, RICHARD MCMAHON,

THE HEAD OF SOUTH COAST LEGAL SERVICES HAD TO MISS THE MBA  
HOUSE OF DELEGATES MEETING LAST WEEK BECAUSE HE WAS BUSY  
ISSUING LAY OFF NOTICES.

THE SAD TRUTH IS THAT THE RESOURCES FALL FAR SHORT OF THE  
NEED FOR LEGAL AID.

WE MUST REMAIN VIGILANT THROUGHOUT THE BUDGET PROCESS,  
IMPLORING THE LEGISLATURE AND GOVERNOR THAT MORE FUNDS  
ARE DESPERATELY NEEDED.

ON BEHALF OF THE MASSACHUSETTS BAR ASSOCIATION, I THANK  
YOU FOR YOUR PARTICIPATION IN TODAY'S IMPORTANT EVENT,  
AND I ENCOURAGE YOU TO CONTINUE TO SPEAK ON BEHALF OF OUR  
FELLOW CITIZENS WHO NEED CIVIL LEGAL ASSISTANCE.