

NEWS



MASSACHUSETTS
BAR ASSOCIATION

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Sept. 20, 2006

CONTACT:

Tricia Oliver: (617) 338-0677

Kate O'Toole : (617) 338-0678

MASSACHUSETTS BAR ASSOCIATION VICE PRESIDENT, VALERIE A. YARASHUS, HONORED BY *LAWYERS WEEKLY* AS HALL OF FAME INDUCTEE

BOSTON, Mass. — MBA Vice President Valerie A. Yarashus was inducted into the *Lawyers Weekly* Up & Coming Lawyers Hall of Fame as part of a Sept. 20 reception at the Omni Parker House in Boston. In addition to Yarashus' honor, 15 Up & Coming Lawyers from Massachusetts were recognized at this annual event, including nine MBA members.

The award was presented by *Lawyers Weekly* Publisher and Editor-in-Chief David L. Yas, who praised Yarashus as "one of the most genuine lawyers you'll meet" and noted that those who work with her professionally quickly consider her a personal friend.

Yarashus urged the 15 inductees to be involved in their bar associations, saying, "If you really care about shaping the future of the legal profession, it's essential that you get involved with one or more bar associations."

An active leader in the MBA, Yarashus is serving as vice president for a second consecutive year. This past year, she spearheaded and led the Task Force on Diversity, a committee that works to increase diversity in the law profession and encourage young, minority students to consider legal careers. She has also been the chair of the Health Law Section and served on the Civil Litigation Section Council from 1994-97.

"Our congratulations to Valerie," said MBA President Mark D Mason. "She has become one of our foremost leaders. Her dedication and commitment to the bar are exemplary, while her ability to so successfully balance her professional life and personal life is admirable."

In addition to her involvement with the MBA, Yarashus has been heavily involved with the Massachusetts Academy of Trial Attorneys, including serving as its president in 2002-03. In 2005, Yarashus was recognized by *Boston* magazine, in conjunction with *Law and Politics*, as one of the top 50 female attorneys in Massachusetts and as a "Super Lawyer" in the area of personal injury law. Yarashus has been listed in the 2004-07 editions of *Best Lawyers in America* and is the editor of MCLE's *Massachusetts Personal Injury Sourcebook*.

The nine MBA members honored as Up & Coming Lawyers at the Sept. 20 event include: Elayne N. Alanis, Boston; Robert D. Dimler, Plymouth; Jessica A. Foster, Boston; Daniel C. Hill, Cambridge; Leiha Macauley, Boston; Mala M. Rafik, Boston; Barbara A. Robb, Boston; Julie A. Rougeau, Franklin; and Rheba Rutkowski, Boston.

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.