

NEWS



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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

March 9, 2006

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**SEN. BIDEN TO DELIVER KEYNOTE ADDRESS
AT MBA ANNUAL CONFERENCE DINNER**

Full Conference (March 23-25) Offers Timely Programming

BOSTON, Mass. — U.S. Senator Joseph R. Biden Jr. will deliver the keynote address at the March 24 Annual Dinner of the Massachusetts Bar Association's Annual Conference. The dinner serves as the pinnacle of the three-day event (March 23-25) to take place this year at the Marriott Copley Place Hotel in Boston's Back Bay.

A senior member, and former chairman of the Judiciary Committee, Biden took part in the recent Supreme Court confirmation hearings for U.S. Chief Justice John Roberts Jr. and Associate Justice Samuel Alito Jr. He has played a key role in writing the major crime laws of the last two decades, including the 1994 Crime Bill and the Violence Against Women Act. Biden has also served as the chairman or ranking member of the Senate Foreign Relations Committee since 1997 and has helped shape U.S. foreign policy for more than 30 years.

"We are thrilled to welcome Senator Biden to provide the Annual Dinner keynote address," said MBA President Warren Fitzgerald. As a leading voice on the judiciary, foreign relations, crime prevention and terrorism, Senator Biden is always at the center of the most significant activity in Washington. His dynamic speaking style guarantees a fascinating evening."

As the social highlight of the year for MBA members and friends, the Annual Dinner will offer Biden's remarks, unique networking opportunities and MBA's prestigious Legislator of the Year Award. Massachusetts Senate President Robert Travaglini is this year's recipient. Among Travaglini's accomplishments as Senate President are establishing a Court Management Advisory Group, increasing private counsel Bar Advocate compensation, as well as increased funding for legal services and the courts.

The Annual Dinner follows two days of professional programming on Thursday and Friday, March 23 and 24. On Thursday, conference goers can choose from a collection of seminars in three tracks of programming. A new Lawyers in Transition track has been added this year and is designed for attorneys who have taken a hiatus from practice due to lifestyle changes, such as starting a family, but are interested in staying active or getting back into the profession.

Among the list of panelists and presenters for this new track are Professor David Hall, former dean and provost of Northeastern University School of Law, who will present “Re-imagining the Practice of Law;” *Massachusetts Lawyers Weekly* Publisher and Editor-in-Chief David Yas, who will be featured on a “Non-Traditional Legal Paths” panel; and former WCVB-TV anchor/reporter Brian Leary, now partner at Gadsby Hannah LLP, who will join the “Lawyers in Transition Forum” to conclude the afternoon.

Friday’s plenary session begins with a welcome from MBA President Warren Fitzgerald and “Recent Developments in the Law” opening remarks from Judge Wilbur P. Edwards Jr., associate justice, Housing Court, Southeast Division. The hour-long session will conclude with “Significant Legislative Developments in Massachusetts” presented by MBA General Counsel Martin W. Healy. Recent Developments and Briefings are then offered for the remainder of the day—topics include the Patriot Act, intellectual property, the new OUI law, the “Firm, Fair Trial Date Initiative,” E-Discovery and “environmental justice,” among others.

Friday also features the special Access to Justice Awards luncheon that will honor outstanding members of the legal community who have made significant contributions through their volunteer and pro bono efforts in 2006. James Braude, Esq. of New England Cable News and WTKK-FM. will deliver the keynote luncheon address. The Annual Dinner at 7 p.m. will wrap-up the second day of the conference.

Saturday’s agenda will close the conference in style. A Breakfast with the Judges begins the day’s offerings at 7:30 a.m. Subsequent morning tracks include “The Business of Lawyering”—offering practical tips for practice management—and a “Bench Bar Forum”—examining public perception of the legal system and the media’s effect on it.

The “Bench Bar Forum” will feature respected parties from the bench and the press to lead thought-provoking discussions on this timely topic. Bill Kovach, chairman of the Committee of Concerned Journalists from Washington, D.C., will set the tone with the track’s keynote address. Moderators Judge Gordon L. Doerfer of the Massachusetts Appeals Court, Judge John M. Greaney of the Massachusetts Supreme Judicial Court and American Bar Association President Michael S. Greco of Kirkpatrick, Lockhart, Nicholson & Graham LLP will then lead the much-anticipated forum presentations to conclude Saturday’s professional programming.

The conference's closing lunch will feature remarks from Chief Justice of the Massachusetts Supreme Judicial Court Margaret H. Marshall.

For more detailed information on the MBA's AC06 full program, visit www.MassBar.org or call 617-338-0530.

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.

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