

MBA NEWS

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MASSACHUSETTS BAR ASSOCIATION FORMS LAWYERS ECO-CHALLENGE TASK FORCE

CONSERVATION LAW FOUNDATION BECOMES ECO-CHALLENGE PARTNER

BOSTON, Mass. — Massachusetts Bar Association President David W. White Jr. today announces the formation of the Energy and Environment Task Force, 13 lawyers from across the state who will oversee the MBA Lawyers Eco-Challenge.

Among the task force members is Susan M. Reid, a staff attorney and director of the Massachusetts Clean Energy and Climate Change Initiative for the Conservation Law Foundation in Boston. Reid will serve as co-chair of the task force along with Nancy Reiner, a partner at Brown Rudnick in Boston. CLF has agreed to collaborate with the MBA on the Eco-Challenge.

“I am so pleased that we are partnering with the Conservation Law Foundation to promote energy conservation and environmental consciousness among the Massachusetts legal community. The effort will combine the expertise of CLF with the broad membership of the MBA,” White said. “Together, we can make a significant impact by reducing energy use and resource consumption.”

CLF is New England’s leading legal advocacy organization working to protect the region’s environment. In Massachusetts, CLF works with government, businesses and communities to develop solutions that reduce the greenhouse gas emissions that cause global warming.

“The Eco-Challenge will provide the state’s legal community with a real opportunity to become leaders in the fight against global warming,” said CLF President Philip Warburg. “We are proud to partner with the Massachusetts Bar Association to create the tools and strategies law firms will use to reduce their carbon footprint and their overall impact on the environment.”

The Lawyers Eco-Challenge – One Planet, One Pledge – was unveiled by White in September, when he took office for the MBA’s 2007-08 association year. The initiative urges lawyers to change the way they think and act while conducting business in order to conserve energy and resources.

“The adverse effects of global warming are becoming more and more evident. Lawyers need to become leaders in the fight against global warming,” White said. “I hope that the business of law will become a leader among all Massachusetts businesses by aggressively conserving energy, paper and other resources.”

The task force will compile and publish Green Guidelines for lawyers and law firms later this fall.

Next year, the Eco-Challenge will begin. Lawyers and law firms will be asked to sign a pledge to implement the Green Guidelines. Lawyers and law firms who take the most profound steps toward improvement, or who have already made the commitment, will be honored with the Eco-Challenge Green Stamp of Approval.

“I am proud that the lawyers of the Massachusetts Bar Association will be on the forefront of one of the most important environmental efforts of our generation,” White said.

The Energy and Environment Task Force:

- **Brian D. Bixby is chair of the MBA's Taxation Law Section.** Bixby is a state planning, fiduciary administration and probate court litigator at Burns & Levinson LLP in Boston, where he chairs the Private Client Group. Bixby is a Cohasset resident.
- **David A. Cetola** is an environmental litigation and land use associate at the law firm of McRoberts, Roberts & Rainer LLP in Boston. Cetola lives in Somerville.
- **Susan J. Crane** is in private practice in Sudbury, where she lives. She specializes in environmental law.
- **David J. Dennis** is the managing member of the Law Office of David J. Dennis and Associates, LLC. in Fall River, where he lives. His areas of practice include elder law and estate planning, domestic relations, personal injury, criminal defense and business law.
- **Scott W. Foster** is a partner at Bulkley, Richardson and Gelinas LLP in Springfield. A resident of Longmeadow, Foster specializes in corporate and business law with a focus on mergers and acquisitions.
- **Jeffrey S. Glassman** is a personal injury attorney with his own practice in Boston, where he lives. Glassman has practiced personal injury law since 1991. He formed the non-profit, RanforestMaker, and created Lawyers Accountable to the Earth, or LATTE
- **Elizabeth Brody Gluck** specializes in providing risk management, contracting and liability advice as a partner at Verrill Dana LLP in Boston. Gluck lives in Newton.
- **Paul R. Kennedy** is an associate at the law firm of Cornell & Gollub in Boston. Kennedy focuses his practice in automotive products and asbestos and lives in West Roxbury.
- **Susan M. Reid is co-chair of the Energy and Environment Task Force** and staff attorney for the Conservation Law Foundation in Boston. She also serves as the Massachusetts Clean Energy and Climate Change director. Reid specializes in environmental law, focusing on cases related to climate change, and lives in Brookline.
- **Nancy B. Reiner is co-chair of the Energy and Environment Task Force** and a partner at Brown Rudnick in Boston, where she concentrates in the areas of litigation, insurance litigation, energy and utilities and environmental, zoning and land use. Reiner lives in Lexington.
- **Leah A. Rochwarg** is a partner at Seyfarth Shaw LLP in Boston, where she specializes in all aspects of construction law and litigation. Rochwarg, a LEED Accredited Professional, is a member of Seyfarth's Alternative Energy and Climate Change Group and counsels clients on risk management issues, including unique issues arising on Green building projects. Rochwarg lives in Boston.
- **Debra L. Smith** is a solo practitioner in Watertown. Smith concentrates her practice in the area of family and juvenile law.
- **John E. Tener** is a partner at Robinson & Cole LLP in Boston, where his practice emphasizes complex litigation in state and federal courts. Tener lives in Newton.
- **David W. White Jr. is president of the MBA** and a partner at Breakstone, White & Gluck PC in Boston, where he specializes in civil litigation. White lives in Westwood, where he founded the non-profit Westwood Land Trust Inc. and has chaired the town's Organization for the Preservation of the Environment and Nature.

For more information on the initiative, visit www.massbar.org

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.

The Conservation Law Foundation works to solve the most significant environmental challenges facing New England. CLF's advocates use law, economics and science to create innovative strategies to conserve natural resources, protect public health and promote vital communities in our region. Founded, in 1966, CLF is a non-profit, member-supported organization with offices in Maine, Massachusetts, New Hampshire, Rhode Island and Vermont.