

MBA NEWS



20 West Street, Boston, MA 02111-1204 • communications@massbar.org

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CONTACT:

Jennifer Rosinski for the MBA (617) 338-0675

Mike Murphy for Verizon Wireless (781) 932-1213

Massachusetts Bar Association collects hundreds of cell phones as part of Lawyers Eco-Challenge recycling program

BOSTON, Mass. — In celebration of Earth Day, the Massachusetts Bar Association is wrapping up its Lawyers Eco-Challenge cell phone recycling program, which collected hundreds of cell phones and accessories from the legal community in the state over the past year.

The MBA has collected and recycled 239 phones, 254 phone chargers and 90 other accessories that would have otherwise been tossed in garbage cans since starting the cell phone recycling program in February 2009. The program was launched in conjunction with Verizon Wireless' HopeLine program (www.verizonwireless.com/hopeline).

“Our cell phone recycling program kept hundreds of cell phones out of landfills that contained dangerous hazardous chemicals, and it provided a service to our members who sought a way to recycle their unwanted phones,” said Nancy B. Reiner, co-chair of the Energy and Environment Task Force, which oversees the Eco-Challenge. Reiner co-chairs the task force with Susan Reid, senior attorney and director of the Massachusetts Clean Energy and Climate Change Initiative for the Conservation Law Foundation, which partnered with the MBA in 2007 to launch the Lawyers Eco-Challenge.

The phones and accessories were collected at five locations:

- MBA headquarters, Boston;
- MBA Western Mass. office, Springfield;
- CLF Massachusetts headquarters, Boston;
- The Green Roundtable's NEXUS Green Building Resource Center, Boston;
- Seyfarth Shaw, Boston.

HopeLine has collected more than 7 million phones and kept more than 200 tons of electronic waste and batteries out of landfill since the national recycling program began in October 2001. The proceeds – including more than 7.9 million in cash grants – benefit organizations running domestic violence awareness and prevention programming, including YWCA of Western Massachusetts, the Norfolk County Sheriff's Department and Boston Area Rape Crisis Center.

Since the 2007 launch of the Eco-Challenge, the MBA and CLF have issued the MBA Lawyers Environmental Pledge, and published Green Guidelines for the office, home and landscaping. More than 100 firms, attorneys or organizations throughout the state have joined to become Pledge Partners.

For more information on the MBA Lawyers Eco-Challenge, visit www.massbar.org/ecochallenge.

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.