

NEWS



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MBA AND OLD STURBRIDGE VILLAGE PARTNER TO EDUCATE YOUTH, OTHER VISITORS ON THE PRACTICE OF LAW IN EARLY NEW ENGLAND

STURBRIDGE, Mass. — Through the refurbishment of Old Sturbridge Village's (OSV) authentic 1796 law office exhibit, the village—a major draw for tourism in the region—and the Massachusetts Bar Association (MBA)—the largest statewide bar association in the commonwealth—aim to enhance the exhibit's educational impact on the village's more than 250,000 annual visitors. This joint venture will culminate with a ribbon cutting ceremony on Wednesday, Nov. 15, during which the updated exhibit will officially re-open.

“This natural, yet unique partnership is an important component of our efforts to enhance public education on the law,” said MBA President Mark Mason. Mason will be joined by Michael Brockelman, vice chair of the OSV Board of Trustees and attorney with Bowditch & Dewey, LLP in Worcester, as well as other representatives of the MBA and OSV for the ribbon cutting (weather permitting) at 1:45 p.m. on Nov. 15, just prior to the onsite meeting of the MBA House of Delegates.

As part of the restoration, the exhibit will continue its focus on the work of country lawyers in New England, their role in community and political life, and legal issues that affect ordinary people. In addition to the exhibit sponsorship, the MBA looks forward to working with Old Sturbridge Village on additional educational programming.

According to Mason, this collaborative project with OSV is a component of the MBA's recently re-energized law related education (LRE) plans. The MBA has also assembled an LRE working group to develop a statewide strategy to promote “educating for democracy” efforts.

“We very much appreciate the Massachusetts Bar Association's support for this project. Their support is allowing the village to strengthen its educational program on a very important topic, and we look forward to additional opportunities to collaborate with them in the future,” said Paul Wykes, executive vice president of Old Sturbridge Village.

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.

Since 1946, Old Sturbridge Village – a nonprofit educational history museum and learning resource – has welcomed nearly three million visitors. The centerpiece of the museum is a re-created rural New England town of the 1830s set on 240 acres of historical landscape that encompasses a Center Village, Mills Area, Countryside, and Farms. Performances, programs, activities, and both staffed and self-guided exhibits and walking trails are open to the public daily (the village is closed on most Mondays).

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