

MBA NEWS



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

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

March 4, 2009

CONTACT:

David L. Yas/Massachusetts Lawyers Weekly
(781) 820-1027
Jennifer Rosinski/Massachusetts Bar Association
(617) 338-0675

EXCELLENCE IN LAW EVENT CELEBRATES MASSACHUSETTS LEGAL PROFESSION'S FINEST

MASSACHUSETTS LAWYERS WEEKLY AND MASSACHUSETTS BAR
ASSOCIATION TO HOST MARCH 5 CELEBRATION

BOSTON, Mass. —*Massachusetts Lawyers Weekly* and the Massachusetts Bar Association will salute a distinguished roster of lawyers and judges at the annual Excellence in the Law celebration at the Copley Fairmont in Boston on Thursday, March 5.

The 13 Lawyers of the Year honored at the event include (see full list below):

- Expert First-Amendment lawyer Jonathan M. Albano, whose 2007 clients included filmmaker Michael Moore and the iconic Yoko Ono;
- Criminal-defense expert and cancer survivor Janice Bassil, who has represented the likes of John Salvi and Richard Sharpe; and
- Robert Kirsch, Stephen Oleskey, and Sabin Willet, who represented the detainees at Guantanamo Bay.

The event will also recognize the Daniel F. Toomey Excellence in the Judiciary Awardee. This year, the **Hon. Herbert P. Wilkins, former Chief Justice of the Supreme Judicial Court**, will receive this high honor. In addition, the Excellence in the Legal Journalism Award will be bestowed to **Gary V. Murray, Worcester Telegram & Gazette's long-time court reporter.**

The full list of honorees:

Daniel F. Toomey Excellence in Judiciary Award

The Hon. Herbert P. Wilkins
Retired, Supreme Judicial Court

Excellence in Legal Journalism Award

Gary V. Murray
Reporter, Worcester Telegram & Gazette

Lawyers Weekly's Diversity Heroes

Ralph C. Martin II, Bingham McCutchen, Boston
Verna Myers, Verna Myers Consulting Group, Newton
E. Macey Russell, Choate, Hall & Stewart, Boston
Andrew R. Urban, Mintz, Levin, Cohn, Ferris, Glovsky & Popeo, Boston

Presentation of Lawyers Weekly's "Lawscars"

Law Professor of the Year
Court Clerk of the Year
Court Officer of the Year
Senior Attorney of the Year
Law Firm of the Year
Best Legal Eatery
Best Courthouse Character

Winners will be announced at the event.

Lawyers Weekly's Lawyers of the Year

Jonathan M. Albano, Bingham McCutchen, Boston
Janice Bassil, Carney & Bassil, Boston
Claudia L. Bolgen, Bolgen & Bolgen, Woburn
Max Borten, Gorovitz & Borten, Waltham
Laurel H. Brandt, Hampden County District Attorney's Office, Springfield
Shannon Frison, Frison Law Firm, Boston
Robert C. Kirsch, WilmerHale, Boston
Guive Mirfendereski, Newton
Stephen H. Oleskey, WilmerHale, Boston
Steven J. Schwartz, Center for Public Representation, Northampton
P. Sabin Willett, Bingham McCutchen, Boston
Margaret C. Winchester, Committee for Public Counsel Services, Worcester
K. Nathaniel Yeager, Middlesex County District Attorney's Office, Woburn

The presentation of the Lawyer of the Year Award will occur at the event.

In connection with the March 5 Excellence in Law celebration, a donation will be made to the Massachusetts Bar Institute Public Service Fund.

Massachusetts Lawyers Weekly has been the state's leading legal publication for decades. Published since 1972 and read by more than 30,000 attorneys, it contains case summaries, reports on verdicts and settlements and articles geared towards informing lawyers about the law and about how to run a profitable law practice in a competitive market.

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.