

# MBA NEWS

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## **MBA opposed to Massachusetts District Attorneys Association plan to reduce the CPCS budget**

BOSTON, Mass. — The Massachusetts Bar Association is opposed to a plan unveiled today by the Massachusetts District Attorneys Association to reduce the budget for The Committee for Public Counsel Services (CPCS).

The MBA is sympathetic to the plight of the state's district attorneys and agrees they deserve additional funding to compensate the assistant district attorneys and staff working in state offices. But the MBA believes the criticism of CPCS is misplaced. The district attorneys should not attack defense counsel because of the lack of funding for prosecutors.

The MBA believes bar advocates are paid a low hourly rate that must account for all of their own expenses. The state's district attorneys have separate line items to cover the costs of their offices, experts, and other expenses.

The MBA has a long-standing history of urging for more funding for both prosecutors and defense attorneys. A blue ribbon commission formed in 1994, the MBA's Callahan Commission, found that both prosecutors and defense attorneys are woefully underfunded.

The MBA was instrumental in starting the private bar advocate system in the commonwealth, and remains fully committed to supporting the role of private attorneys in providing quality representation to citizens.

*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.*