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Kenneth Feinberg, Film Screening Highlight Free Conflict Resolution Week Events, Oct. 16-20

Mass. Bar Association programs to showcase ‘peacemakers,’ benefits of dispute resolution

BOSTON, Mass. — In honor of Conflict Resolution Week, Oct. 16-20, the Massachusetts Bar Association (MBA) will present a series of informational and educational programs around Massachusetts to bring attention to the many dispute resolution options available within and beyond the justice system. A different event is scheduled for each day of Conflict Resolution Week, and all programs are free and open to the public.

Among the highlights of Conflict Resolution Week is the reception at the John Adams Courthouse in Boston on Thursday, Oct. 19 — the date Governor Charlie Baker has officially proclaimed to be Dispute Resolution Day in Massachusetts. It will feature a keynote address by Attorney Kenneth Feinberg, a Brockton native and nationally recognized dispute resolution industry leader best known for his special master work on the September 11 Victim Compensation Fund and his administration of the One Fund Boston. A screening of “The Peacemaker,” a documentary film about international Irish peacemaker and Cambridge resident Padraig O’Malley, will also take place on Friday, Oct. 20, at Harvard Law School.

“Dispute resolution, historically known as ADR or alternative dispute resolution, is now widely used to resolve conflicts that arise in all facets of life, from legal and business disputes to disagreements at school or between one’s own family. But it is vital to choose the dispute resolution process that is best suited for each situation,” said Michael A. Zeytoonian, chair of the MBA’s Conflict Resolution Week Committee and a member of the MBA’s Dispute Resolution (DR) Section, which is presenting Conflict Resolution Week. “Our programs will look at mediation, arbitration, collaborative law, conciliation, neutral case evaluation, ombuds services, litigation and other DR options. Whether you’re a DR professional, a member of the legal community, a student or just interested in learning more, there is something for everyone.”

Information for all Conflict Resolution Week events is available below and at www.MassBar.org/CRWeek.

Conflict Resolution Week Schedule of Events

Monday, Oct 16: Western Mass. Court-Connected Dispute Resolution Programs, Hampden County Hall of Justice, 2nd floor (former County Commission room), Springfield, 12:45-2 p.m.

The MBA’s DR Section will present, honor and acknowledge the work of court-connected dispute resolution programs in the four western counties. Featured speakers include State Senator Eric P. Lesser; Hon. Mark D
Tuesday, Oct 17: Youth Mediation and Juvenile Justice Panel, Massachusetts School of Law, Andover, 4:30-6:30 p.m.

The MBA’s DR Section will present a panel discussion focusing on youth mediation and juvenile justice. The panel will include Hon. Amy L. Nechtem, chief justice, Juvenile Court Department; Hon. Jay D. Blitzman, first justice, Middlesex County Juvenile Court Division; Hon. Mark Newman, first justice, Essex County Juvenile Court Division; Cynthia McClorely, executive director, North Shore Community Mediation Center (NSCMC); Anya McDavitt, director of youth programs, NSCMC; Mary Mitchell, Amesbury Middle School, peer mediation coordinator and teacher.

Wednesday, Oct 18: Beyond the Courthouse, Dispute Resolution Options for Families in Transition, Ventress Memorial Library, Marshfield, Noon-1:30 p.m.

The MBA’s DR Section will present a panel discussion on family and collaborative law options. Offered in partnership with the Massachusetts Council on Family Mediation and the Massachusetts Collaborative Law Council, it will feature moderator Amy H. Martell, Esq., Whole Family Law & Mediation, Marshfield; and panelists Justin Kelsey, Esq., Skylark Law & Mediation, Southborough; and Crystal Thorpe, MSW/MBA, Elder Decisions, a Division of Agreement Resources LLC, Norwood.

Thursday, Oct 19: Conflict Resolution Day Reception, Adams Courthouse, Second Floor, Boston, 5:30-7:30 p.m.

The MBA’s DR Section will host a reception in celebration of Conflict Resolution Day, featuring keynote speaker Kenneth Feinberg, Esq., and remarks from Hon. Ralph D. Gants, chief justice, Supreme Judicial Court; and Hon. Paula M. Carey, chief justice, Massachusetts Trial Court. It is co-sponsored by Massachusetts Dispute Resolution Services, JAMS, and Northeast Mediation and Arbitration.

Friday, Oct 20: Documentary Film Screening: “The Peacemaker,” Harvard Law School, Ames Courtroom, Austin Hall, Cambridge, 7-9 p.m.

The MBA’s DR Section will present a special screening of The Peacemaker, a documentary film about Padraig O’Malley, “an international Irish peacemaker who helps make peace for others, but struggles to find it for himself.” A panel discussion will follow with Mr. O’Malley and the film’s director/producer, James Demo. It is co-sponsored by the Harvard Program on Negotiation, Massachusetts Dispute Resolution Services, Commonwealth Mediation, Sarah E. Worley Conflict Resolution, P.C. and The Mediation Group.

Be a #peacemaker. Join us for Conflict Resolution Week.

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.