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## **Braintree attorney Francis C. Morrissey accepts Mass. Bar Association President's Award at MBA Annual Dinner on April 24**

BOSTON, Mass. — Attorney Francis C. Morrissey, a partner at Morrissey, Wilson & Zafiropoulos in Braintree, received the Massachusetts Bar Association 2018 President's Award at the MBA's sold-out Annual Dinner on April 24, at the Westin Boston Waterfront.

The President's Award is bestowed upon those individuals who have made a significant contribution to the work of the MBA, to the preservation of MBA values, to the success of MBA initiatives, and to the promotion of the MBA leadership role within the legal community of Massachusetts.

Morrissey was honored for his role in the MBA's Student Loan Bankruptcy Assistance Project, which launched this year. Recognizing that unmanageable student debt is a growing social problem in the commonwealth and that the students most likely to be eligible for an "undue hardship" discharge in bankruptcy will not have the resources to hire a trial lawyer, the MBA's Student Loan Bankruptcy Assistance Project matches distressed student borrowers with attorneys and law firms willing to represent them on a pro bono basis in bankruptcy.

Morrissey accepted the award in front of a capacity crowd that included his family, fellow firm partners and more than 1,000 members of the legal community. MBA President Christopher P. Sullivan hailed Morrissey as a man of impeccable character and a visionary leader on several MBA boards and committees.

"Frank is a superb lawyer and a truly special person. He has done an incredible amount of good for our profession, and we are especially grateful for the dedication he has shown to the Massachusetts Bar Association over the years," said Sullivan. "His strong leadership as chair of the MBA's newly launched Student Loan Bankruptcy Assistance Project is indicative of the passion he brings to every endeavor. When it comes to the MBA, Frank is all-in, and our community is all the better for it."

Long active in the MBA, Morrissey is the current chair of the Complex Commercial Litigation Section's Bankruptcy and Insolvency Litigation Committee, and he previously chaired the Business Law Section Council and served as an active member of the MBA's House of Delegates. He is also an

MBA delegate to the American Bar Association's House of Delegates and a Massachusetts Bar Foundation fellow. In 2013, Morrissey led the MBA's successful efforts to update Massachusetts' version of Article 9 of Uniform Commercial Code, which governs secured transactions.

In addition to his MBA service, Morrissey teaches bankruptcy and commercial law at Boston University School of Law and New England Law | Boston. Morrissey has also served, by appointment of the Supreme Judicial Court, as vice chair of the Clients' Security Board, and he recently started his third term as a hearing committee member for the Board of Bar Overseers.

The Annual Dinner also included a keynote address by CNN Senior Political Analyst David Gergen, the presentation of the Oliver Wendell Holmes Jr. Scholarship to Boston University law student Mario N. Paredes, and the presentation of the 2018 Access to Justice Awards to six attorneys and one law firm.

A photo of Morrissey receiving his award is available upon request.

*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.*