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## **Mass. Bar Association Statement on Lawsuit Over Immigration Actions at Local Courthouses**

**BOSTON, Mass.** — The following is a statement from Massachusetts Bar Association Chief Legal Counsel and Chief Operating Officer Martin W. Healy on behalf of the MBA in reference to the federal lawsuit filed today by Middlesex District Attorney Marian Ryan, Suffolk District Attorney Rachael Rollins, the Committee for Public Counsel Services, and the Chelsea Collaborative against U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement:

“Today’s lawsuit is unprecedented and reflects the escalating tensions between state and federal law caused by ICE’s law enforcement activities around local courthouses. As demonstrated by the disruptions cited by both state prosecutors and public defenders, this strategy is not only interfering with the proper administration of justice, but also impeding the state’s interest in enforcing its rule of law and chilling access to justice for defendants, witnesses and others with business before the state courts. It was for these compelling reasons that the MBA voted in 2017 to support the principle that courthouses should be considered sensitive locations — a stance also adopted nationally by the American Bar Association.”

*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.*