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Mass. Bar Association to Present Programs Examining Bias, Restorative Justice During Conflict Resolution Week, Oct. 14-18

Brockton, Boston events are free and open to the public

BOSTON, Mass. — In honor of Conflict Resolution Week, Oct. 14-18, the Massachusetts Bar Association (MBA) will present a series of informational and educational programs to bring attention to the many dispute resolution options available within and beyond the justice system. All programs are free and open to the public.

Among the highlights of Conflict Resolution Week is the reception at the MBA's Boston office on Thursday, Oct. 17. During this reception, the MBA will honor the memory and legacy of Frank Sander, a luminary in the field of conflict resolution, by presenting its MBA Professor Frank E.A. Sander Award in Dispute Resolution to Christine W. Yurgelun, manager of administrative services for the Probate and Family Court Department. Special guest Douglas C. Reynolds, Esq., of The New Law Center, will provide a keynote on restorative justice.

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

2019 Conflict Resolution Week Schedule of Events

Tuesday, Oct. 15 (12:45-2 p.m.): Southeastern Mass. Court-Connected Dispute Resolution Programs, Brockton Trial Court, 215 Main St., Third Floor, Room 301, Brockton

Join us as we celebrate Conflict Resolution Week by presenting, honoring and acknowledging the work of the court-approved conciliation/mediation programs in the Southeastern Massachusetts area, including New Bedford Face to Face, Mediation Works Inc. (MWI), UMass Graduate Program in Conflict Resolution, Harvard Mediation Program, Metropolitan Mediation Services, ACC Northeast Mediation Program, Greater Brockton Center for Dispute Resolution, Southeast Housing Court, Bristol Probate Probation, Norfolk Probate Probation, Plymouth Probate Probation, Bristol County Bar Court Conciliation Program, Norfolk County Bar Court Conciliation Program, Plymouth County Bar Conciliation Program, and Agreement Resources / Elder Decisions. Featured speakers will include State Rep. Claire Cronin (D-11th Plymouth), House Judiciary chair, and Hon. David G. Sacks, Probate and Family Court judge.

Wednesday, Oct. 16 (5:30-7:30 p.m.): Perspectives: Exploring Prejudice, Cultural Bias and Individual Experience, MBA, 20 West St., Boston

Prejudice has been defined as a “feeling, favorable or unfavorable, toward a person or thing, prior to, or not based on, actual experience.” Contrary to this definition, our biases and prejudices are informed, if

not defined, by our actual life experiences. Understanding these differing perspectives and the idea that two individuals may perceive the same exact experience in vastly different ways because of their race, gender, cultural background, socioeconomic status, and/or life experience can be critical to achieving results in conflict resolution. Our panelists bring a vast array of experience in conflict resolution and will discuss how to recognize and acknowledge differing perspectives.

Thursday, Oct. 17 (6-8 p.m.): Conflict Resolution Day Reception, MBA, 20 West St., Boston

During this reception, the MBA will honor the memory and legacy of Frank Sander, a luminary in the field of conflict resolution, by presenting its MBA Professor Frank E.A. Sander Award in Dispute Resolution to Christine W. Yurgelun, manager of administrative services for the Probate and Family Court Department. For decades, she has worked as a collaborative partner to raise awareness, establish standards, enhance understanding and promote the use and availability of DR services.

Special guest Douglas C. Reynolds, Esq., of The New Law Center, will provide a keynote on restorative justice. Reynolds has more than 40 years of experience in private law practice. As a neutral mediator and arbitrator, he has acted as facilitator for conflict resolution and group processes, and developed and conducted training programs in collaborative law and restorative justice. Reynolds has a special focus on the use of Circle Practice for dispute resolution.

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.