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Probate and Family Court Judge Angela M. Ordoñez Receives President’s Award from Massachusetts Bar Association

Honored for founding innovative MBA Tiered Community Mentoring Program

BOSTON, Mass. — The Massachusetts Bar Association presented the MBA President's Award to Hon. Angela M. Ordoñez of the Barnstable Probate and Family Court at the MBA Annual Dinner on Thursday, May 2, at the Westin Boston Seaport District, 425 Summer St., Boston. 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.

Ordoñez has been a judge since 2000, when she was initially appointed by Gov. Paul Cellucci as an associate justice of the Nantucket Probate and Family Court. In 2008, Gov. Deval Patrick appointed Ordoñez as an associate justice of the Norfolk Probate and Family Court. Ordoñez served as first justice in Nantucket and Norfolk divisions. Prior to joining the Barnstable Probate and Family Court, she served from 2013-2018 as chief justice of the Probate and Family Court Department.

Ordoñez initiated and implemented, and is co-chair of, the MBA Tiered Community Mentoring Program, which began in 2008. The mentoring program matches attorneys with law students, college students and high school students. The TCM Program has been honored on two occasions by the American Bar Association: the 2011 ABA Partnership Award and the 2019 Embracing Diversity Challenge.

“As the founder of the Tiered Community Mentoring Program, Judge Ordoñez has played a critical role in demystifying and opening pathways to legal career opportunities for countless students from diverse communities around the commonwealth,” said MBA President Damian J. Turco. “In creating and advancing this innovative program for the benefit of aspiring attorneys, she has embodied the spirit of public service that is central to the mission of the MBA.”

Ordoñez has served on numerous committees, including the Supreme Judicial Court’s Access to Justice Commission and Committee on Judicial Performance Evaluation; and the Trial Court’s Strategic Leadership Team, Committee for Administration of Interpreters, Public Outreach Committee, and Transgender Training Development. As chief justice of the Probate and Family Court, she initiated and launched the Fiduciary Litigation Session, Family Court Answer Center, and Child-Focused Facilitation Team. Ordoñez is currently the co-chair of the Committee for Diversity, Equity, Inclusion and Belonging in the Probate and Family Court.

Ordoñez is a graduate of Northeastern University School of Law.

In addition to the presentation of the President's Award, the 2024 MBA Annual Dinner featured a keynote address by Sean K. Ellis, director of the Exonerated Network of the New England Innocence Project, and the presentation of the Legislator of the Year Award to State Sen. Michael J. Rodrigues, the Oliver Wendell Holmes Jr. Scholarship to Suffolk University Law School student Johanna Merlos, and the Outstanding Young Lawyer Award to Mariana Medeiros of Sobosik Law in Medford.

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.