We are united in the law

As members of the bar, the judiciary, the General Court and the executive branch, we are united in the law. Indeed, the law is the common thread woven through the fabric of our lives. Whether we perceive the law to be a fundamental concept of justice, natural law, common law or statutory authority, it is the law which has brought us to our profession. It is the law which motivates us, inspires us and which creates goals toward which we strive. We hold in common that the law constitutes the pillars which support the weight of our society. As its caretakers, we all share in the responsibility of maintaining the integrity of the law.

It was Abraham Lincoln who stated, “A house divided against itself cannot stand.” While his words resonate within our American heritage, we respect, likewise, the importance of individuality. Quite naturally, reconciling conflicting interests is often difficult. It is sometimes easier to become entrenched in our opinions than to find common solutions to complex problems. Ultimately, however, the measure of our success is the appropriateness of the result and not the vicissitudes of battle.

Our diversity strengthens our unity in the law. The diversity of our experience, opinions and ideals bind us to the law. Without such diversity, we would be devoid of the ability to formulate and

Mason’s 2006-07 agenda includes new program on “Civics in Education,” reorganizing Young Lawyers

by Bill Archambeault

Everythings Mark D. Mason wants to accomplish this year as president of the Massachusetts Bar Association is summed up in his chosen theme, “United in the Law.”

As the first openly gay president in the MBA’s history, Mason recognizes the diversity of the state’s lawyers and judges in terms of race, ethnicity and sexual orientation — not to mention political leanings. But Mason wants to bring these diverse elements together, making the MBA a more unified force.

“It’s important for me to work toward strengthening the ties of the members of the bar and focus on our common goals,” he said. “We’ve set an ambitious agenda designed to bring together many bar associations across the commonwealth with a shared view of accomplishing certain goals and aspirations.”

At the top of that list is Mason’s creation

President’s View

by Mark D. Mason

Young Lawyers seeks H.O.D. approval to become division

by Bill Archambeault

The House of Delegates will be asked to reorganize the Young Lawyers Section Council as a division of the Massachusetts Bar Association, with the goal of increasing participation and philanthropic opportunities.

MBA President Mark D. Mason, who is chairman of the Young Lawyers Task Force and was chairman from 1991-92 of Young Lawyers when it was previously a division, has made the conversion to a division one of his top priorities for this year.

The bylaws were being finalized in early August and sent to members of the section council for review. Once approved by the section council, the changes will be submitted to the House of Delegates for approval at its Sept. 20 meeting.

“We look forward to the House of Delegates endorsing the proposed bylaws in order to create the Young Lawyers Division,” Mason said. “We’ll be very excited about the goals the Young Lawyers Division has set in increasing its activity levels.”

The change would establish an elected leadership with delegates from affiliated bar associations, similar to the Massachusetts Bar Association’s organizational structure. It would also establish a sep-

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Journalist Nina Totenberg to deliver keynote address at MBA’s 2007 Annual Conference

by Kate O’Toole

N

ational Public Radio’s legal affairs correspondent Nina Totenberg will deliver the keynote address at the March 2 Annual Dinner at the Massachusetts Bar Association’s Annual Conference 2007. The dinner serves as the pinnacle of the March 2 event at the Marriott Copley Hotel in Boston.

Totenberg has been a reporter for National Public Radio for over 30 years, and her reports frequently run on NPR’s All Things Considered, Morning Edition and Weekend Edition. She is well known for her 1991 breaking report about Anita Hill’s allegations of sexual harassment by Judge Clarence Thomas, a news story that forced the Senate to reopen Thomas’ confirmation hearings.

During her career at NPR, she has received numerous journalism awards and several honorary degrees, and has been recognized by the American Bar Association eight times for her excellence in reporting. Totenberg has been a contributor to New York Times Magazine, New York Magazine, Christian Science Monitor and Harvard Law Review. She is the only radio journalist who has ever won the National Press Foundation award for Broadcaster of the Year.

“Ms. Totenberg has a breadth of knowledge and experience in legal reporting which is unparalleled nationally,” said MBA President Mark D. Mason. “We are thrilled to have her as our Annual Conference speaker.”

The Annual Dinner will be held on Friday, March 2. Look for further developments on the Annual Conference in future issues of Lawyers Journal and at http://www.massbar.org. The theme of the conference is “United in the Law.”

Young Lawyers Section seeks House of Delegates approval to become a division

Continued from page 1

New York

Sanjay K. Sankaran

The desire for us to move over to a division came from a desire for us to do more than we could as a section council,” said Sanjay K. Sankaran, whom Mason has appointed as chair of the section council. If the change is approved, Sankaran will continue to serve as chair of the division, with officer elections held the following year.

Sankaran credits much of the proposal to Mason, who thought it would be a good way to build on outgoing MBA President Warren Fitzgerald’s goal of increasing the role played by Young Lawyers. Section council members have discussed the plans this spring and summer, and are now reviewing the bylaws.

“We are focused on increasing the Young Lawyers participation at the Bar Association and reaching out through the Internet and our Web site,” Mason said. “We’re increasing communications with our section councils, and I look forward to energizing our membership through the Internet.”

While YLD would continue to sponsor or co-sponsor programs for the MBA’s Continuing Legal Education Department, it would also look to offer a wider variety of programs to appeal to the diversity within the profession.

“This will allow us to be creative with the kinds of activities we want to host,” Sankaran said, with particular emphasis on involving more young attorneys and doing more philanthropic work.

“One major focus I’ve discussed with several members is the desire to be more involved with public service,” he said.

Should the plan be approved, one idea that’s been proposed by Erik D. Scheinfeldt, an attorney with the Law Office of Dennis E. McHugh in Chelmsford, would raise money to offer $3,000 summer internships for law students to work with legal aid groups.

“We are hoping to become more involved in public service work,” Scheinfeldt said, using dinners, auctions and other events to raise money that would benefit legal aid organizations or charities like women’s shelters. “Most of these places can’t afford to hire anyone, and most law students don’t want to work for free.”

Sankaran said that in addition to elected officers, the YLD would have delegates — modeled on the MBA’s House of Delegates — and four standing committees. The new structure would also give young lawyers in the division an opportunity to hold elected office.

“Young lawyers could potentially use YLD to get experience with leadership for future MBA leadership,” he said.

Another focus of the division, Sankaran said, would be on forging strong relationships with law students, with the goal of having a representative from each law school.

Part of that effort, he said, would send members of YLD into law schools to speak with students, in much the same way the Task Force on Diversity is sending teams of lawyers and MBA officers into high schools and colleges to speak with minority students about pursuing a legal career.

“I think that young lawyers are in a good position to talk to law students about what is immediately available to them,” Sankaran said. “Often, they don’t know what it is that younger associates are going through, and it would be helpful for them to learn what techniques young lawyers used to earn their first job or decide what type of law you want to practice. We’d be in a good position to offer those perspectives.”

Overall, Sankaran said that members of the council are excited about the change.

“There is a lot going on, and I’m very excited about some of the new members I’ve spoken with. They all seem very energetic about being part of future of Young Lawyers,” he said. “I think we have a good team on board with some good ideas that will make a name for young lawyers in the legal community.”
Early attention to FMLA, discrimination details benefits LRS client

by Andrea R. Barter, Esq.

What do you do when you suspect your employer of nine years is laying the groundwork to fire you after you’ve requested time off under the Family Medical Leave Act? Contacting the Massachusetts Bar Association’s Lawyer Referral Service was the first resort for “Ellen.” (Due to a confidentiality agreement, neither the plaintiff nor the defendant can be publicly disclosed.)

The LRS put Ellen in touch with Hanover attorney David H. Stillman, Stillman & Associates, who advised her to document, document, document. “It was good she called us early on so she could give us a contemporaneous diary of what was going on,” said Stillman.

Ellen was a customer service representative for large, well-known Massachusetts corporation. She suffered from both Hepatitis C and fibromyalgia before she was hired, but her conditions worsened over time, ultimately forcing her to apply for FMLA leave.

“Right after she filed, things started happening,” said Stillman. Ellen had a previously unblemished record, but after filing, she received reprimands for policy violations that were not enforced against other employees, and her commissions went down dramatically …

Initially, Stillman and his associate, Jill Goodman, filed with the Massachusetts Commission Against Discrimination, alleging discrimination based on Ellen’s disability — her health conditions. But because there was an argument for a violation of FMLA, Stillman and Goodman pulled the case from MCAD after 90 days and filed in Superior Court. The parties ultimately mediated the case to a successful resolution.

Although Stillman could not reveal the details, he said his client received a good settlement. “She was happy with it, but wasn’t willing to just take anything. She felt pretty strongly she was entitled to be compensated for what happened, but she didn’t want her job back.”

“Having the Lawyer Referral Service was a big help to the client, who was having problems and was able to talk to us before she was terminated. We had the opportunity to help her out, to work with her and she was a very nice lady,” said Stillman, who received attorney fees in excess of $86,000. “We would not have had the opportunity to have the case but for the Lawyer Referral Service,” he added.

LRS makes more than 25,000 referrals each year to its 1,200 attorneys across the state. If you are interested in becoming a member of LRS in order to obtain referrals, please call the Lawyer Referral Service at (617) 338-0556 or e-mail lrs@massbar.org.
Beyond the Bar: Thirteen years ago, Boston CASA attorney became 11-year-old boy’s advocate, mentor and friend

by Andrea R. Barter, Esq., and Kate O’Toole

A fter years of hard work and a top-notch education, 24-year-old Alonzo Portlock has earned a job as a wealth administrator at Mellon Trust New England and looks forward to applying to law school in the fall. But having grown up as a foster child, the future did not always seem so promising for Portlock. “Before I met Tim, it was sort of like roller-skating with only one skate. But Tim gave me the extra skate,” Portlock said.

Portlock is talking about Tim Lynch, a Boston attorney who was assigned as Portlock’s court-appointed special advocate through Boston’s CASA program when Portlock was just 11 years old. Since then, the CASA program and their own lives have never been the same.

The Boston CASA Program recruits, trains and supervises volunteers from the community to advocate for abused and neglected children. CASA volunteers (“court appointed special advocates”) are appointed by judges as guardian ad litem (GALs). These GALs conduct thorough ongoing investigations, present relevant facts to the judge and provide advocacy. CASA/GALs work to ensure that services are being provided to the children while they are in placement.

Lynch initially became interested in CASA after flipping through the MBA’s Pro Bono Opportunities Guide. “I always wanted to work with children,” said Lynch, a personal injury and consumer rights attorney and partner at Boston’s Swartz, McKenna & Lynch LLP. “I didn’t have a background in it, but that’s the beauty of the CASA program. It pulls people from all walks of life to advocate for children, which is great.”

He became a volunteer with Boston CASA in 1991 and hasn’t looked back. Since then, he has not only served as a court-appointed special advocate, but currently sits on the board of directors for MassCASA and is the president of Friends of CASA Inc., which provides support to Boston CASA.

“The issues facing these children are overwhelming, and the beauty of CASA is that it connects one volunteer to one case,” Lynch explained. “There are over 900 CASA programs in operation, including seven in Massachusetts. The program is so instrumental in the administration of justice in the juvenile court system that, to me, it is indispensable.”

Rosemary Connolly, chief of the trial division at the Attorney General’s Office and fellow board member at CASA, also believes strongly in the mission of CASA and the impact of volunteers like Lynch. “I’m an adult and could never put up with the conditions these kids suffer every day. CASA offers a wonderful opportunity to provide the structures and resources to allow people to make an impact on kids’ lives.”

She met Lynch at a law firm before he began volunteering at CASA and described him as having a “heart of gold.” Connolly admires the relationship that he and Alonzo developed and the ways in which Lynch became such a beneficial influence in his life. “Tim really worked with Alonzo in a big brother/father kind of way. He taught him how to dress, write his resume and fill out applications. He made sure Alonzo had a place to go over the holidays.”

Portlock said that Lynch “kept me from being a stereotypical ‘hood kid. I became someone who could do things on his own.” Along the way, Lynch has helped Portlock apply for and gain admittance to Boston College High School and Boston College. When funding was short for Portlock’s education, Lynch convinced his business partners to contribute to his tuition.

Today, Portlock remains invested in CASA. “I wanted to help,” Portlock said, “and they needed someone.” Portlock also joined the board of directors in January, and has also been a spokesman for CASA on a national scale. On a DVD released by the National CASA Association, Portlock talks about his childhood in foster care and Lynch’s impact on his life.

“Alonzo is quite an accomplished person and is truly remarkable,” Lynch said. “Both Lynch and Connolly urge other attorneys to become involved with CASA. ‘There are so many success stories in the program,’ Lynch explained. ‘There are no disappointments. Just walking into these kids’ lives and volunteering, making them realize that someone is out there for them, makes a difference.’

CASA Volunteers come from all walks of life. They have a variety of professional, educational and ethnic backgrounds. They are selected on the quality of their objectivity, competence and commitment. For further information, contact (617) 788-6390 or e-mail mccafferty_p@jud.state.ma.us.
Section council members and chairs prepare for year at annual orientation

by Kate O'Toole

Over 100 attorneys and MBA staff members attended the annual Section Council Orientation on July 26 at the John Adams Courthouse in downtown Boston. The event gave the 2006-07 section council chairs and members the opportunity to meet one another and learn about their roles for the upcoming year.

MBA Executive Director Marilyn J. Wellington welcomed everyone to the event and highlighted the important work of the section leaders that ranges “from educational programs to legislative advocacy to policy development to support for our profession.” She continued, “These are the reasons that attorneys join the Massachusetts Bar Association and view their membership as a necessary tool to their successful professional life.”

Wellington then introduced incoming MBA President Mark D. Mason, who expressed high hopes for the new leaders. “We have assembled an extremely talented, energetic and experienced group of section council chairpersons and section council members. With the support of the MBA’s officers and dedicated staff, we look forward to moving the MBA to new heights in promoting the mission of the association.”

After a networking luncheon, MBA staff members spoke about the interaction between section council leaders and the MBA. General Counsel Martin W. Healy opened the conversation, describing the “unique role” of the section council chairs and urging them to “act as advisors” to the Legislature and the House of Delegates. Later in the afternoon, MBA Vice President and former Family Law Section Chair Denise Squillante addressed the group, along with longtime Criminal Justice Section Chair Lee J. Gartenberg. Squillante noted what an “honor” it is to be selected as either a chair or member of a section council, and that the new council members should look forward to becoming “part of the voice of the MBA.”

Gartenberg and Squillante talked about the friendships they have formed with one another and with other members of their respective section councils over the years. As a result, they both emphasized the value of discussion and collaboration within the councils. They encouraged the members to use all of the resources around them by reaching beyond their own councils, and to utilize their sections as a whole.

“The MBA relies on your expertise and experience,” Gartenberg said, “and accomplishments should occur collaboratively. Encourage consensus and be open to differing views.”

Squillante agreed, and recalled that she and Gartenberg were purposely placed on a committee together because their views were so different. “Good debate leads to good work,” Squillante concluded.

Also at the meeting, Director of Programs and Services Lisa A. Ferrara discussed the role of the section leaders in developing new CLE programs; Director of Media and Communications Tricia M. Oliver spoke about media outlets and the place of the section leaders in forming the MBA’s positions on various issues; and Public Services Director Elizabeth A. O’Neil highlighted the major service programs of the MBA, including the Lawyer Referral Service, Dial-a-Lawyer, Elder Law Education and Mock Trial.

This year’s section council chairs include: Julio Hernando (Access to Justice); Peter D. McDermott (Business Law); Jeffrey N. Catalano (Civil Litigation); Lee J. Gartenberg (Criminal Justice); Fern L. Frolin (Family Law); Susan G. Anderson (Health Law); Kevin G. Powers (Individual Rights & Responsibilities); Kathy Jo Cook (Judicial Administration); Rosemary Pye (Labor & Employment); Denise M. Guerin (Law Practice Management); Edward Notis-McConarry (Probate Law); Sabrina K. Lanz (Property Law); Robert Lawrence Quinan Jr. (Public Law); Michele E. Randazzo (Public Law); Patricia Ann Metzer (Taxation Law); and Sanjay K. Sankaran (Young Lawyers).

The new section council members and chairs officially begin their terms on Sept. 1.
CLE professional development programs on the horizon

by Kate O’Toole

Law Practice Management Series and “How to Start and Run a Successful Solo or Small-Firm Practice” to offer valuable advice to lawyer-entrepreneurs

The Continuing Legal Education Department’s new luncheon roundtable series on Law Practice Management (to take place Sept. 13 and Oct. 11) will focus on the entrepreneurial aspects of being an attorney. For an attorney thinking about starting his/her own practice, many factors have to be weighed, and countless business issues will inevitably arise. For instance, what kind of accounting software should your firm use? Will your firm have a Web site, and, if so, who should maintain it? What are the most effective ways to market your law practice? How will you decide which cases to accept? What about malpractice insurance?

“This luncheon roundtable is for attorneys who are not ready to go out on their own yet and need more information, or for those who recently started their own practice and want to make sure they’re doing it right,” said program chair Michael R. Siddall of Siddall & Siddall PC in Springfield. “This is an opportunity to speak informally with other lawyers to hear what others have been through.”

The Law Practice Management Series will take place at the MBA office in Springfield on Wednesday, Sept. 13 and Wednesday, Oct. 11 from 1-2 p.m.

On Oct. 25, attorneys will have the chance to hear from experienced attorneys at CLE’s annual “How to Start and Run a Successful Solo or Small-Firm Practice” seminar. The all-day event, which is being held at the Sheraton Needham, has been attended by over 200 attorneys in the past. Like the Law Practice Management Series, the seminar will focus on the mechanics of running a law firm. The seminar will feature attorneys from around the Boston area who are highly experienced and familiar with the difficulties of launching a small practice.

“This seminar is a full-service opportunity that will cover everything you need to know to start a practice, including how to take care of yourself so you don’t get burned out or dissatisfied,” said program co-chair and MBA President-elect David W. White-Lief of Breakstone, White-Lief & Gluck PC in Boston. He added, “The networking lunch is also a great opportunity to sit with people in the area of practice that you wish to pursue and make connections that will last a lifetime.”

Some of the highlights of the program include how to properly maintain your bank accounts; critical hiring and firing practices; viral marketing tips; and how to wisely obtain the hardware you need for your practice.

The “How to Start and Run a Successful Solo or Small-Firm Practice” seminar and the Law Practice Management Series especially fit in with one of President Mark D. Mason’s goals for the coming year, which is to restore a focus on law practice management, small firms and solo practitioners. Several initiatives are being considered to meet the needs of solo and small-firm attorneys.

More than 25 experienced judges and attorneys to speak at 16th Annual Family Law Conference

The Family Law Conference is always one of the more popular CLE programs of the year. This fall, the panels will feature an impressive array of talent and experience, including 15 judges. President Mark D. Mason will be at the conference to offer welcoming remarks, as will Fern L. Frolin, the chair of the Family Law Section Council.

The topics at the conference range from the ins and outs of tax law and tips on litigating alimony to an anticipated panel titled, “When There is Little or No Money: Limited Representation Pilot Projects.” This panel will address the pilot programs in the Hampden and Suffolk County Probate and Family Courts that allow attorneys to represent clients for specific legal tasks rather than for the duration of the litigation. This initiative, which probate judges and attorneys have been developing, will make more lawyers available to more people in need and will help to speed the delivery of justice. This panel will feature two judges and four attorneys who will discuss the mechanics of limited representation and what it means for the courts and family law attorneys.

The conference is Friday, Oct. 13 to Saturday, Oct. 14 at the scenic Chatham Bars Inn on Cape Cod.

For more information, or to register for any of these programs, call Member Services at (617) 338-0530 or visit http://www.massbar.org/cle.

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MBF announces record $3.6 million in IOLTA grant awards for 2006-07

The Massachusetts Bar Foundation recently awarded nearly $3.6 million in grants through its annual Interest on Lawyers Trust Accounts (IOLTA) Grants Program. Exceeding last year’s grant awards by over $300,000, this year’s grants will fund 131 programs conducted by 94 nonprofit organizations throughout Massachusetts.

“We are thrilled to report that this year’s award total is the highest in the history of our IOLTA Grants Program,” said MBF President Francis A. Ford, Esq. “We are all so proud of the fact that, through the heroic efforts of our grantees, this record year will result in a direct increase in the number of citizens helped across the commonwealth.”

Funds for these grants are provided by the Massachusetts Supreme Judicial Court’s Interest on Lawyer’s Trust Accounts (IOLTA) Program. The MBF is one of three charitable entities in Massachusetts that distributes IOLTA funds. Additional information about the MBF and its IOLTA Grants Program, as well as a complete listing of the 2006/2007 IOLTA grant recipients is available on the MBF Web site at www.MassBarFoundation.org.

SAVE THE DATES! Massachusetts Bar Foundation grantee receptions to be held Sept. 21, Nov. 2

The Massachusetts Bar Foundation will honor the 2006/2007 IOLTA grant recipients at two separate MBF grantee receptions this year. The first, to be held in Boston, is scheduled for Thursday, Sept. 21, from 5-7 p.m. at the MBA offices at 20 West St. The second, to be held in Springfield, is scheduled for Thursday, Nov. 2, from 4:30-6:30 p.m. at the offices of Bulkley, Richardson & Gelinas LLP, located at 1500 Main St.

All MBF grantees, Fellows and friends are welcome at these celebrations, which will include hors d’oeuvres and cocktails, as well as a brief program presented by MBF President Francis A. Ford, Esq. At the Boston reception, Ford will present the 2006 MBF President’s Award.

Through its 2006/2007 IOLTA Grants Program, the MBF awarded nearly $3.6 million to support 131 programs at 94 nonprofit organizations to provide civil legal services to the state’s low-income population, or to improve the administration of justice in the commonwealth.

To RSVP, call (617) 338-0648 or e-mail Foundation@massbar.org.

MBF calls for Society of Fellows nominations

The Massachusetts Bar Foundation is seeking nominations of outstanding members of the bar to join the MBF Society of Fellows. We would like to encourage all MBF Fellows to submit nominations of lawyers and judges who have demonstrated exemplary dedication to the legal profession and to the mission of the MBF.

Established in 1964, the Society of Fellows consists of over 1,400 distinguished lawyers and judges working together to promote access to justice in the commonwealth. Membership is limited to just 5 percent of the practicing bar in Massachusetts. The MBF’s greatest strength lies in the leadership, commitment and expertise of its Fellows. Their support enables the MBF to play a leading role in keeping the promise of justice in Massachusetts. In 2006, the MBF Fellows awarded nearly $3.6 million to support access to justice in the state.

Submit your nomination at www.MassBarFoundation.org. For more information, contact Susannah Thomas at (617) 338-0647.
Mark Mason’s story of endurance

by Tricia Oliver

Mark Mason is not your typical attorney. A gritty work ethic, keen intellect and a solid appreciation for serving the greater good have all gradually guided him into his current role as a highly regarded litigator and the attorney tapped to assume the highest elected office of the Massachusetts Bar Association.

Mason’s story to date is one of consistently making the right choices, which were sometimes the most difficult.

Legal re-considerations

Mason grew up with an appreciation for the law. “My parents really nurtured a sense of respect for the law,” he said. Although his father was an attorney, Mason swore he’d never follow suit.

He studied psychology and French at Columbia University, graduating with a bachelor’s degree in psychology in 1980. His father tried to sway him, sending him American Bar Association materials, but Mason was convinced he would not become a lawyer.

“I had no interest and I was being rebellious,” he said.

After working a bit in advertising, Mason eventually changed his mind and entered Boston University School of Law, where he graduated in 1984. It still was not until he started his third year of law school that he knew he was where he wanted to be.

“I then saw how meaningful and fun it was to practice law,” he said.

Mason did well at Boston University School of Law, where he was president of the International Law Society and assistant editor of the American Journal of Law and Medicine. He passed the bar the first time he took it, but despite sending out “hundreds and hundreds” of resumes, Mason had difficulty with finding a job in mid-to-large-sized firms.

For that following year, Mason secured temporary jobs, writing legal treatises and doing administrative work. It was a time that he admits was difficult both professionally and financially.

Finally, Mason landed an interview at Graham & Albano, a two-person firm in Hadley, Mass. He had so little money that he remembers taking the bus and a cab to the interview. The return trip was even more humbling. “I actually hitchhiked back to the bus station.”

It paid off, as he was offered and took the job, working for 10 months there before setting out on his own, doing general trial practice as a bar advocate out of Holyoke for two-and-a-half years.

An Early Connection with the MBA

During this time in his early career, he was involved with the MBA’s Young Lawyers Division, eventually serving as a representative on the House of Delegates and serving as chair from 1991 to 1992. He was also very active in

Finally, Mason landed an interview at Graham & Albano, a two-person firm in Hadley, Mass. He had so little money that he remembers taking the bus and a cab to the interview. The return trip was even more humbling. “I actually hitchhiked back to the bus station.”

Mason speaks at the MBA-Lawyers Weekly gubernatorial event on June 20.

Mason’s MBA highlights

MBA President Mark D. Mason has been heavily involved in MBA activities since joining in 1985. In addition to participating in 10 seminars from 1988 to 2006, he has held a number of offices and served on numerous committees and task forces.

2006
MBA president (2006–07)

2005
MBA president-elect (2005–06)
Young Lawyers Task Force, chair (2005–present)

2004
MBA vice president (2004–05)

2003
MBA treasurer (2003–04)
Budget and Finance Committee, chair (2003–04)
Same Gender Marriage Task Force, chair (2003–present)
Anniversary Fee Task Force, co-chair (2003–04)

2002
MBA secretary (2002–03)
Committee on Diversity in the Profession, chair (2002–03)
Gala Dinner Committee (2002–present)

2001
Executive Management Board (2001–present)
House of Delegates, At-Large Delegate (2001–02)
Bylaws Committee (2001–02)

1998
Judicial Administration Section Council (1998–99)

1995
Board of Delegates, Hampden County Delegate (1995–98)

1994
Board of Delegates, At-Large Delegate (1994–95)

1993
Individual Rights and Responsibilities Section Committee on Gay and Lesbian Legal Issues, co-chair (1993–94)

1992
Judicial Administration Section Council (1992–96), secretary (1992–96)
Long Range Planning Committee (1992)

1991
Board of Delegates, Young Lawyers Division Delegate (1991–92)
Alternative Dispute Resolution Committee, vice chair (1991–92)
Subcommittee on Alternative Dispute Resolution Legislation, chair (1991–92)
Young Lawyers Division, chair (1991–92)
Drunk Driving Video Tape Committee, co-chair (1991–92)

1990
“IT’s Your Law” radio program series, Alternative Dispute Resolution (1990)
Young Lawyers Division, chair-elect (1990–91)

1989
Project Development Committee, chair (1989–91)

1988
Young Lawyers Division, secretary (1988–90)

1986
Law-Related Education Committee (1986–88)
Law-Related Education Committee, chair (1986–88)
Committee on the Bicentennial of the Constitution (1986–87)
American Bar Association, Young Lawyers Division Liaison (1986–87)

1985
Young Lawyers Division Board of Directors, Hampden County Director (1985–88)

Continued on page 22
Mason's goal for 2006-07 term is to be “United in the Law”

Continued from page 1

of a program that will bring enhanced civics education into high school classrooms across the state with teams of attorneys, judges and possibly legislators.

“It is terrifically important for me to get the Civics in Education program off the ground in a big way,” Mason said. He hopes to eventually send 1,000 lawyers or more into Massachusetts classrooms on a regular basis.

Second, this year, Mason wants the MBA to establish or strengthen relationships with law schools across the state to improve programming, law practice management and recruitment of minority students. There have been discussions about increasing the pro bono and mentoring opportunities available to law school students, he said.

Mason wants to build on the model established in 2006 by the MBA Task Force on Diversity, which sends teams of minority attorneys, MBA officers and judges into high schools and colleges to encourage greater minority involvement in the profession.

“As part of our thematic approach of the year, we are continuing with the wonderful work the Task Force on Diversity has started. We are focusing on ways the Massachusetts Bar Association can increase minority enrollment in law schools, as well as increase minority membership in the bar.”

Mason’s final top goal is re-organizing the Young Lawyers Section Council as the Young Lawyers Division, reflecting the significant role it plays in the MBA. As the chairman of the Young Lawyers Task Force and a past chairman of the Young Lawyers Division, Mason said he is committed to increasing the participation of the Young Lawyers group.

With the change, Young Lawyers will no longer be a section council, but will be elevated to a division of the MBA, meaning it will have more autonomy and its own budget. In its place, Mason is creating the General, Solo and Small Practice Section Council.

For all of the section councils, Mason is intent upon improving communication with members, especially online.

“We’re increasing communications with our section councils,” he said, “and I look forward to energizing our membership through the Internet.”

Other plans on his agenda for the 2006-07 year include:

• Creating a Standing Committee on Membership Development, which Mason says will creatively enhance membership recruitment. “Our membership is very much unaware of the depth to which we’re engaged. We’re certain that by increasing communication with our members through the section councils that members will better understand the value of the work we’re doing.”

• Improving relationships with county and specialty bar associations. “Our goal is to serve as the bar association which unites the other bar associations across the state.”

• Lawyers in Transition: providing assistance to those who are re-entering or temporarily exiting the profession.

• Creating a Solo and Small Practice Section Council, modeled on the American Bar Association’s program.

“It is terrifically important for the Massachusetts Bar Association to build on the success of its Committee on Judicial Independence,” he said, noting plans for programs dealing with the interaction between the judiciary and the media and helping build the public’s confidence in the state’s court system.

Mason said the MBA is planning to sponsor a statewide Bench Bar Conference, possibly in November. Currently the Bench Bar Forum is a part of the MBA’s Annual Conference, but Mason said he wants to see it featured more prominently as an individual event, with close cooperation from the Supreme Judicial Court.

“We contemplate a significant collaboration with the Court in providing community services through Civics in Education as well as promoting dialogue between the bench and the bar,” he said.

SJC Chief Justice Margaret H. Marshall will welcome Mason at his President’s Reception at the MFA on Sept. 7.

“It is important to me to ensure that the MBA build as many bridges, establish as many partnerships as are necessary to accomplish some very large goals,” he said. “Together, we can accomplish so much more than any one bar association standing alone.”

Mason is concerned that lawyers devote their energy to emphasizing their similarities, not their differences.

“My observation is that our profession has suffered from some degree of factionalism. It is counterproductive for members of our own profession not to work together,” he said.

“One of my goals is to break down the impediments to a free discussion that have been set up over the last several years.”

The diversity of the state’s attorneys in terms of geographic location, sexual orientation and racial and ethnic makeup needs to be seen as a strength, not a weakness, he said.

“That diversity strengthens our unity, and we need to recognize the significance of our diversity,” he said.

After the MBA announced that it would cosponsor the May 17 event celebrating the second anniversary of the Goodridge decision legalizing same-sex marriage, Mason said the MBA received a number of e-mails and letters from upset members. Regardless of individual members’ feelings on divisive issues, Mason said the state’s lawyers and judges should work in unison toward common goals.

“I want and expect comment on all that we do,” he said. “But differences in philosophy do not change the fact that we’re united by the common thread that is the law.”

Warren Fitzgerald, who just finished his 2005-06 term as MBA president, said Mason, whose term officially begins Sept. 1, has already done an impressive job.

“Mark is already off to a running start with many new and many continuing projects and programs that will add to the MBA’s position in the profession and its contribution to our members and the public,” Fitzgerald said. “I do expect that he and the officers will continue what I hope are the early stages of an upswing in MBA activity and prominence.”

MBA Lawyers Journal September 2006 11

Experience the Value of the MBA

Lawyer Referral Service

Expand your client base

RADIO MARKETING
For the second year, with an effort to expand our outreach to potential clients, the LRS was promoted all season on the New England Patriots Radio Network, reaching more than 2 million people weekly.

YELLOW PAGE ADVERTISING
The LRS advertises the referral program in almost every Verizon Yellow Page Book in the state. The LRS is also expanding its presence in Yellow Book USA™.

CALL-TRANSFER PROGRAM
Staff will directly transfer clients to your office once a referral is made. This ensures immediate contact with you or your office staff.

SCREENING OF CALLS
The LRS has designated full-time staff members answering calls from the general public. They screen more than 40,000 calls a year and make more than 21,000 referrals a year from those calls.

INTERNET MARKETING
The referral service has a presence on a number of Web sites including Verizon SuperPages, Google™ and JSoldMyHouse.com™.

www.MassLawHelp.com

Join online at www.MassBar.org or call (617) 338-0556.
MBA officers share their goals for the 2006-07 term

**President-elect David W. White-Lief**

Our voices are heard best when we speak with one voice. Over and over again, the MBA has been that voice for the legal profession, for individual lawyers and for the rights of our fellow citizens.

This year, I look forward to continuing our efforts to promote the independence of our esteemed judiciary and to preserve the rights of claimants and litigants. At the same time, I look forward to expanding the dialogue between the bench and the bar to ensure that trial work is both predictable and fair to litigants and their counsel.

With so many demands on our time, it is often difficult to keep up with the changes in the law and practice. I look forward to working with the educational department to address those needs by delivering more educational programs in more places around the state, and by making programs readily available electronically.

I encourage every member to get more deeply involved with the MBA. There are so many opportunities for professional development, for sharing your skills and knowledge, for networking and for volunteering. Donating our time and energy is one of our highest priorities for professional development, for sharing your skills involved with the MBA. There are so many opportunities that are particular to this group of lawyers.

As a solo practitioner for 23 years this year, I am sensitive to the issues of lawyers who are involved in general, solo and small firm practices. I look forward to contributing to the revamping of our Web site, which is expected to be unveiled this fall. We have a very bright future at the MBA with a team of professional staff, officers, House of Delegate members, section councils and other active members contributing to projects too numerous to mention, which will improve the quality of our professional lives as well as those of our clients. It is my privilege to serve as part of this team.

I also look forward to continuing to lead the effort to grow our membership. Last year, 1,000 new members joined the MBA, and there is every reason to believe that trend will continue.

We are starting our new year with the leadership of our energetic new president, Mark Mason, our fine executive director, Marilyn Wellington, and our talented and enthusiastic staff. Under this leadership, we will continue to grow, and our collective voice will be stronger than ever.

**Vice President Valerie A. Yarashus**

We have an exciting year full of opportunity ahead of us at the Massachusetts Bar Association. In the last year alone, the MBA has welcomed more than 1,000 members. Even more importantly, we are reaching out to make sure that we are increasing diversity on the basis of race, gender, ethnicity and sexual orientation, at every level. It has been my privilege this year to co-chair the MBA Diversity Task Force together with Robert Harnais, under the leadership of Warren Fitzgerald. I am delighted that our incoming president, Mark Mason, has committed to giving these issues priority.

We have a full program lineup this fall working with five of the largest minority bar associations in the state, and we will be providing support services to them and discounted joint memberships, which we believe will result in benefiting all of the involved organizations. We will be scheduling numerous programs at middle schools, high schools and colleges in areas with large minority populations to help instill an interest in the legal system and an interest in a future legal career. We have also partnered numerous minority lawyers in the MBA with officers and past presidents in an effort to learn from each other and help move qualified individuals to positions of increased leadership at the Mass Bar. I hope that all of these efforts will result in visibly enriching our bar association, which was founded on the principles of diversity, openness, fairness and inclusion.

As the largest statewide bar, we have a unique opportunity to work on collaborative bench-bar efforts which can change and shape our profession. Through the various section councils and past courses, there are literally hundreds of these projects each year. Just one example is a proposal that I will present to the House of Delegates this fall to work on a Plain English Jury Instruction project.

Finally, the MBA recognizes that the future of our bar association will be to offer dramatically more services and information to members online. I look forward to contributing to the revamping of our Web site, which is expected to be unveiled this fall. We have a very bright future at the MBA with a team of professional staff, officers, House of Delegate members, section councils and other active members contributing to projects too numerous to mention, which will improve the quality of our professional lives as well as those of our clients. It is my privilege to serve as part of this team and I welcome any feedback and information from any of you on how we are doing.

**Vice President Denise Squillante**

As a solo practitioner for 23 years this year, I am sensitive to the issues of lawyers who are involved in general, solo and small firm practices. I look forward to working with the staff at 20 West St. in addressing issues that are particular to this group of lawyers.
The new slate of officers has been actively planning for the next year. After the strong and steady leadership of President Warren Fitzgerald, we will be moving forward, continuing with initiatives established by his leadership and the new ones President Mark Mason will be announcing. I look forward to working with my fellow officers as we move forward with projects and initiatives to assist lawyers, improve our profession, community outreach and developing how we can best work in partnership with the court system under all the new procedures. I look forward to working with the chair of Law Practice Management, Denise Guerin, as we look at ways to help lawyers with the “business of lawyering.”

During the upcoming year, I will be continuing to co-chair the Lawyers in Transition Task Force with Jayne Tyrell. This task force is focusing on how the MBA can address the need of lawyers who have been out of practice due to either health or parenting issues, lawyers who have left the practice for another career and are transitioning back into practice, or senior lawyers who are transitioning out.

As the legal profession is “graying,” as baby boomers get older, we will be looking at how to address the needs of those in our profession. As senior lawyers and bar leaders, we have a responsibility to lead the way for those who are coming behind us. It will be also be my privilege to co-chair the Curriculum Development and Education Committee as we seek to improve programs and resources for lawyers throughout the commonwealth. I am committed to having educational programs take place throughout the state.

Treasurer Robert F. Lucas

As the newly elected treasurer of the MBA, I look forward to dealing with its fiscal responsibilities. The nuts and bolts of MBA finances are rather far down on the glamour list of organized bar responsibilities, but all our programming and member services goals will be meaningless without fiscal support. I anticipate working closely with Marilyn Wellington, our executive director, and Mark Doherty, our director of Finance and Administration.

This will be the first full year under a new and dynamic staff leadership which has already promised to seek ways to pare expenses and reduce costs.

We are indeed a diverse organization with multiple needs and membership demands. Full participation in some MBA-related activities has become prohibitively expensive for many of our newer members and many of our sole practitioners, each of whom comprises a significant part of our constituency. We need to continue to explore additional sources of non-dues revenue.

The MBA is providing unparalleled service to us all. It increasingly seeks out and supports matters of public concern, provides professional education and, among a myriad of other activities, gives us a strong and effective public voice. We cannot afford, nor does our membership want, to diminish the services we provide, but the challenge is to expand them within the limitations of our income. It is my expectation this year that the officers and senior staff will be working diligently toward developing mechanisms to make this happen.

Secretary Edward W. McIntyre

Mark has an ambitious agenda for the coming year and I look forward to supporting these initiatives and doing all that I can to ensure success.

The MBA’s Standing Committee on Evaluation of Judicial Performance continues its work, infusing the practice of using the MBA’s Web-based judicial performance evaluation system into the legal culture.

I am enthusiastic about supporting the MBA’s Task Force on Diversity in the profession and visiting middle and high schools in Central Massachusetts with Perry Wu and Judge John Lu, encouraging students to take seriously their education and to consider a career in the law.

Our membership will see a new look with fresh offerings on our Web site as the MBA strives to enhance our online learning opportunities.

An initiative that will be getting considerable attention involves a collaboration of the bench, bar and law schools in identifying issues, assessing trends and setting a coherent and coordinated direction for the profession. I see this initiative as identifying competencies that are not necessarily law-related but essential nonetheless in developing life-learning leadership curricula for the 21st century bench and bar.

I am a strong advocate of raising lawyers’ compensa-
Rainmaking seminar attracts full house

Gideon Grunfeld talks about “Rainmaking” techniques at the MBA’s Boston office on July 26.

About 70 people attended “Rainmaking – Becoming a Trusted Advisor” on July 26 at the MBA’s offices in Boston. Gideon Grunfeld, Esq., a speaker with Successful Career Strategies Inc. in Los Angeles, spoke on “establishing and growing a thriving legal practice in today’s turbulent times,” the first in a series of “Rainmaker” programs.

Grunfeld spoke from 6 to 8:30 p.m. about ways to grow a law practice ethically and professionally. After the program, he spent more than an hour answering people’s questions. Look for information on upcoming “Rainmaker” programs at www.MassBar.org/cle and in the monthly Continuing Legal Education brochure.

Tuesday, Sept. 19

The Basics of Divorce Practice
4-7 p.m.
Best Western Royal Plaza, Marlborough
Course #: FLB07

This course will teach you how to determine the facts of your client’s case, select appropriate avenues of relief and parry your opponent’s strategies while you become familiar with relevant statutes, rules and leading cases that you can use to achieve positive results for your client.

Faculty: Deborah M. Faenza, Esq., program chair, Ryan & Faenza. Additional faculty to be announced.

Representing the OUI Client
4-7 p.m.
Western New England College School of Law, Springfield
Course #: CJA07

Review how to successfully represent a client charged with OUI with the stars of the profession. Specific topics include: assessing the case; discovery; use of experts; motions to suppress; motions in limine; and proof needed for a multiple offender-bifurcated trial.


Wednesday, Sept. 20

House of Delegates luncheon/meeting
12:30-5 p.m.
The first House of Delegates (HOD) meeting for the 2006-2007 association year is scheduled for Wednesday, Sept. 20 at the Southern New England School of Law in Dartmouth. For more information, contact Gwen Landford at glandford@massbar.org or by phone at (617) 338-0694.

Trial Practice Luncheon Roundtable Series: Post-trial Issues
 Noon-2 p.m.
MBA, 20 West St., Boston
Course #: CLA07

Part three of our trial practice series will conclude with a discussion of all post-trial issues. Practitioners will walk away with the skills and strategies necessary to give them the competitive edge in the courtroom.

Specific topics will include post-trial motions and appeals.

Faculty: Jeffrey N. Catalano, Esq., program chair, Todd & Weld LLP; Andrew M. D’Angelo, Esq., Carney & Basil PC; Terrance J. Hamilton, Esq., Casner & Edwards LLP; Diana K. Lloyd, Esq., Choate, Hall & Stewart LLP.
Making and Breaking Noncompete Agreements
4-7 p.m.
MBA, 20 West St., Boston
Course #: BLA07

In today’s knowledge economy, an increasing number of companies are finding themselves embroiled in noncompete litigation. In Massachusetts, noncompete law is rapidly evolving. Our panel of noncompete experts will help you steer your clients around the many landmines in this fast-moving, fast-changing area of law.

Faculty: Jay Shepherd, Esq., program chair, The Shepherd Law Group; Tracy Thomas Boland, Esq., Morgan, Brown & Joy; Christopher M. Mirabile, Esq., General Counsel, IONA Technologies Inc.; Richard C. Van Nostrand, Esq., Mirick O’Connell; Hon. Allan van Gestel, Suffolk Superior Court, Business Litigation Session.

Thursday, Sept. 21
Mediation & Collaborative Law in Divorce
Luncheon roundtable (lunch provided)
1-2 p.m.
MBA Western Mass. office, 73 State St., Springfield
Course #: FLE07

At this luncheon roundtable, we will explore how mediation and collaborative law are revolutionizing divorce, examine the differences between the processes and discuss with participants how to help our clients choose the method that best meets their needs and interests.

Faculty: Eileen Z. Sorrentino, Esq., program co-chair, Collaborative Attorney & Mediator PC; Douglas D. Nichols, Esq., program co-chair, Law Office of Douglas D. Nichols.

Co-sponsors: The Berkshire, Franklin, Hampden and Hampshire county bar associations.

MBF grantee reception
5-7 p.m.
MBA, 20 West St., Boston

The Massachusetts Bar Foundation will honor the 2006/2007 IOLTA grant recipients on Sept. 21 in Boston and Nov. 2 in Springfield. All MBF grantees, Fellows and friends are welcome to join in these celebrations, which will include delicious hors d’oeuvres and cocktails, as well as a brief program presented by MBF President Francis A. Ford, Esq. At the Boston reception, Ford will also be presenting the 2006 MBF President’s Award. To R.S.V.P., please call the MBF R.S.V.P. line at (617) 338-0648, or e-mail Foundation@massbar.org.

Tuesday, Sept. 26
Effective Legal Writing Strategies
4-7 p.m.
MBA, 20 West St., Boston
Course #: YLA07

This seminar will provide practical tips that you can apply to your daily work. Whether you are handling cases on your own or drafting documents for a partner in a law firm, a large portion of your day will be spent researching and writing.

Faculty: Thomas P. Gorman, Esq., program chair, Sherin and Lodgen LLP; Thomas J. Carey Jr., Esq., Carey Law Office; Hon. Elizabeth M. Fahey, Associate Justice, Superior Court; Francis C. Morrissey, Esq., Edwards Angell Palmer & Dodge LLP.

Additional faculty to be announced.

Wednesday, Sept. 27
Retaliation Claims in the Wake of Burlington Northern Luncheon roundtable (lunch provided)
Noon-2 p.m.
MBA, 20 West St., Boston
Course #: LEA07

The Supreme Court recently held in Burlington Northern & Santa Fe Railway Co. v. White that the application of Title VII’s anti-retaliation provision is not limited to employer actions that affect the terms, conditions or status of employment or occur at the workplace. We will explore the implications of the decision.

Faculty: Catherine E. Reuben, Esq., program co-chair, Robinson & Cole LLP; Elizabeth A. Rodgers, Esq., program co-chair, Rodgers, Powers & Schwartz LLP.

Thursday, Sept. 28
Drafting and Negotiating Prenuptial Agreements and Postnuptial Agreements
4-7 p.m.
MBA, 20 West St., Boston
Course #: FLC07

Learn to draft prenuptial and postnuptial agreements that work. Despite increasing usage, postnuptial agreements are not necessarily enforceable in Massachusetts. Thus, it is paramount for practitioners to understand how to draft an enduring document and develop strategies for litigating it.

Faculty: Lisa M. Cukier, Esq., program chair, Burns & Levinson LLP; John A. Fiske, Esq., Healy Fiske & Richmond; Hon. Spencer M. Kagan, Middlesex Probate and Family Court; Mark T. Smith, Esq., Arwood & Cherny PC; Peter F. Zupcofska, Esq., Burns & Levinson LLP.

Friday, Sept. 29
2006 Bar Leadership Institute
8 a.m.-5 p.m.
Glen Ellen Country Club, Millis
Are you a bar executive, officer or key staff member looking to do more to build your bar? Improve the operations and outreach at your bar by spending a day with our expert panelists and your colleagues. For more information or to register, call Pat Plasse, bar services liaison, at (617) 338-0596.

MBA Calendar

Experience the Value of the Massachusetts Bar Association
ANNUAL HEALTH LAW CONFERENCE
Health Care Reform in the 21st Century

Part I:
Massachusetts “Health Insurance for All” Legislation
Perspectives on the legislation provided by expert representatives from government agencies, medical practice management organizations, corporations and consumer law advocacy groups.

Part II:
Medical Malpractice Tort System Reform
Discussions and debates on timely published research on medical negligence and the pros and cons of various medical tort reform proposals.

Continued on page 16
Continued from page 15

MBA changes

Over the last several months, the MBA has hired and promoted several staff members, and others have changed departments and job duties. The MBA congratulates everyone on their new positions as it continues to improve the services provided to members and the community.

New hires:
Jared Correia, publications attorney
Elaine M. Estano, LRS Public Services representative
Michele A. Himes, CLE program attorney
Kate O’Toole, communications assistant
Victor A. Sirois, MBA Insurance client service associate
John Ward, LRS/Public Services representative

Promotions and department changes:
Jeanine M. Barlow, systems analyst
Joseph Caci, business activities manager
Emily R. Fournier, events development and project manager
Claudia J. Staten, LRS/Public Services program manager
Elizabeth A. Varney, CLE manager

Learn techniques to deal with the real estate market slump. Specific topics to include: methods for using real property legal skills in related areas; retaining existing clients and marketing for new clients; making your office IT efficient; and dealing with employee matters during a slowdown.

Faculty: Philip Feinzeig, Esq., program chair, Law Office of Philip Feinzeig; Michael P. Krone, Esq., First American Title Insurance Company; James A. Siffard, First American Title Insurance Company.

Co-sponsor: Worcester County Bar Association.

Thursday, Oct. 24
Current Issues in Bankruptcy
4-7 p.m.
Western New England School of Law
Springfield
Course #: BLCO7

Experts and members of the judiciary will review the impact of new bankruptcy legislation, rules and case law, with particular emphasis on domestic relations issues in consumer cases and real estate law in consumer and business cases.


Co-sponsors: Western New England College School of Law and the Berkshire, Franklin, Hampden and Hampshire county bar associations.

Wednesday, Oct. 25
How to Start and Run a Successful Solo or Small-Firm Practice
9 a.m.-5 p.m.
Sheraton Needham, Needham
Course #: LPC07

Our faculty of experienced lawyers will provide guidance and insight on every aspect of starting a law firm while sharing practice pointers on growing their own firms.

This lively program, which has been one of the most popular and valuable MBA seminars to date, also includes a working networking lunch for a chance to meet with colleagues who can help get you started.

MBA Calendar
Mason: We are united in the law

Continued from page 1

interpret the law. Indeed, we encourage debate on such diversity of opinion. Diversity is our birthright; it enriches our ability to ensure that the law is just and fair to all.

On June 13, 1771, John Adams wrote in his diary of the “Harmony prevailing between the Governor and the House,” adding, “Behold how good and pleasant it is, for Brethren to dwell together in Unity.” John Adams’ words rang true when, in 1910, the Massachusetts Bar Association was incorporated declaring Fiat Justitia — “Let Justice Be Done.” Nearly 100 years later, we have expanded upon our founding purpose in calling for “diversity and unity in the legal profession and respect for the law,” as set forth in our bylaws. There is no doubt that our founders, Justice Oliver Wendell Holmes Jr., Justice Louis D. Brandeis and Chief Justice Moorfield Storey would be proud to see the growth we have experienced in uniting the diversity of the bar.

The Massachusetts Bar Association is unique in its partnerships with bar associations across the commonwealth. Not all may realize that our statewide bar associations maintain an important voice in the governance of the Massachusetts Bar Association. The spectrum of bar association representation, as exemplified in our House of Delegates, unites us in the law through the diversity of our backgrounds. Together, we support our individuality as well as our commonality.

Our programming for this year reflects the Massachusetts Bar Association’s commitment to unity in the law. Through our sections, committees and task forces, we have dedicated ourselves to ensuring diversity in the profession, judicial independence, civility in the practice of law, the transition of lawyers through the various stages of their lives, civics in education and the development of programming for new lawyers. Through our Bar Leadership Institute, scheduled for Sept. 29, we have invited the leaders of bar associations from across the commonwealth to participate in a dialogue promoting bar association activity in a broad range of programs.

All of our programs are of extraordinary merit. I would like to highlight, however, our initiative to enhance civic education in our public schools. The importance of such teachings is clear. Our public schools will benefit from assistance from the bar in providing such education. Accordingly, I am establishing the Massachusetts Bar Association Committee on Civics in Education. The committee will work to promote and ensure the availability of civics education in our public schools and communities at large. In working with the courts and bar associations across the commonwealth, we will serve our communities to ensure their understanding of the role of the law in our lives.

As we embark on a new bar year, it is my distinct pleasure to serve as your president. As we become better acquainted, I am certain you will learn that, for me, unity in the law is more than a theme for the year, it is a way of life. Please join us, as together, we are united in the law.

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Dashiel appointed Trial Court’s director of planning and policy development

Chief Justice for Administration and Management Robert A. Mulligan recently announced the appointment of attorney Pamela M. Dashiel of Boston as the director of planning and policy development for the Administrative Office of the Trial Court. Dashiel began her new position on July 10. As director, she is responsible for the development of new plans and initiatives to improve the management and operations of the Trial Court and for gathering and analyzing data to support existing initiatives.

Dashiel has more than 25 years of experience in the practice of law. Since 1999, she has served as general counsel to the Massachusetts attorney general, where she represented and advised the attorney general and his staff on diverse legal and policy issues. She also spent three years as an assistant attorney general in the Public Protection Bureau and as general counsel to the Executive Office of Elder Affairs for three years.

She has extensive experience drafting, reviewing and interpreting state and federal contracts, legislation and regulations and working with public and private sector agencies. Dashiel also has worked in municipal government and has practiced law with a high technology company.

A native of Chicago, Dashiel is a graduate of Simmons College and Northwestern University School of Law and is licensed to practice law in Massachusetts and Illinois. In addition to the MBA, she is a member of the American Bar Association, Boston Bar Association, Massachusetts Bar Association and Massachusetts Black Women Attorneys Association.

Active on various boards and commissions, including the Boston Human Rights Commission, Dashiel is currently co-chair of the MBA’s Task Force on Diversity and is vice president of the Codman Square Health Center in Boston. In 1994, she was a recipient of the Boston YMCA Black Achievers Award. Dashiel and her husband reside in Boston and have two adult children.

WMLS’ Andrew J. Steinberg honored at retirement dinner

Andrew J. Steinberg, retiring executive director of Western Mass Legal Services, was honored on June 29. Steinberg, who was executive director for 26 years, was toasted (and roasted) by colleagues, members of the judiciary and staff. Steinberg’s dedication to legal services for the poor has been extraordinary, and he will continue to work as a consultant to legal services organizations in the future.

The WMLS’ new executive director, Cristina P. Elzeneiny, started on May 1. A graduate of Dartmouth College and the University of Washington School of Law, Elzeneiny brings 15 years of experience providing services to disenfranchised populations through her work as an attorney and as a clinical instructor. She has worked as an assistant attorney general for Massachusetts; as a clinical instructor and supervising attorney at Northeastern University School of Law and Harvard University Law School; and most recently as a field attorney for the National Labor Relations Board in Boston.

SJC appoints members to Advisory Committee on Massachusetts Evidence Law

The justices of the Supreme Judicial Court recently announced the appointments of 17 members to the newly established Advisory Committee on Massachusetts Evidence Law. Appeals Court Justice R. Marc Kantrowitz was named as chair. The Court created the Advisory Committee to prepare a guide to the Massachusetts law of evidence at the request of the Massachusetts Bar Association, the Boston Bar Association and the Massachusetts Academy of Trial Attorneys. The committee’s mandate is to compile existing Massachusetts evidence law into an easy-to-use document, organized similarly to the Federal Rules of Evidence. The Guide to Evidence in Massachusetts is expected to be completed within a year.

Superior Court Judge Peter W. Agnes Jr. and Superior Court Judge David A. Lowy will serve as assistant editors. Other MBA members on the committee include professor Mark Brodin, Boston College Law School; Hon. James W. Coffey, Boston Municipal Court; Hon. Patricia G. Curtin, acting First Justice; Dedham District Court; Hon. Michael F. Edgerton, Essex Juvenile Court; Assistant Attorney General Steven L. Hoffman, Business & Labor Protection Bureau; Elizabeth N. Mulvey, Esq., Crowe & Mulvey LLP; Hon. Geoffrey G. Packard, Malden District Court; Katherine A. Robertson, Esq., Bulkley, Richardson & Gelinas LLP; and Hon. Catherine P. Sabaitis, First Justice, Plymouth Probate and Family Court.

Attorneys McCormack and Reyes re-appointed to LCL Oversight Committee

The justices of the Supreme Judicial Court have re-appointed attorneys William A. McCormack of Weston and Lucy E. Reyes of Milton to the Lawyers Concerned for Lawyers Oversight Committee for four-year terms. The committee, made up of six lawyers appointed by the Supreme Judicial Court, oversees the appropriate use of the fund for the operation of Lawyers Concerned for Lawyers Inc.

Of counsel at the Boston law firm of Sally & Fitch LLP, McCormack was previously a partner at Bingham McCutchen LLP for more than 35 years. He has taught as an adjunct faculty member of Boston College Law School since 1989, and has been a lecturer for Massachusetts Continuing Education Inc. since 1972. He is a fellow of the American College of Trial Lawyers and is a member of the Board of Overseers of Boston College Law School. He is also a member of the Boston Bar Association and the American Bar Association.

Reyes has been a field attorney at the National Labor Relations Board in Boston since 1995. She is a board member of the Massachusetts Law Reform Institute and a former board member of the Jamaica Plain Community Law Center. She is also a former board member and former president of the Massachusetts Association of Hispanic Attorneys, and a member of the American Bar Association.

Founded in 1978, Lawyers Concerned for Lawyers is an independent, nonprofit Massachusetts corporation. The state’s sole lawyer assistance program, Lawyers Concerned for Lawyers assists lawyers, judges and law students who are experiencing any level of impairment in their ability to function as a result of addiction, mental health, personal or medical problems.

Barrett receives MATA lifetime achievement award

This past May, Concord attorney Charles W. Barrett Jr. was presented with the Lifetime Achievement Award by the Massachusetts Academy of Trial Attorneys. Barrett has been with Esdaile, Barrett & Esdaile since 1959, right out of law school. He has remained at Esdaile, Barrett &
Pro bono opportunities guide now available online:

For many years, the MBA has offered to its membership an opportunity to access statewide and local organizations that are in need of pro bono services from attorneys, law students and paralegals. These services can range from actual client representation to the training of staff. The MBA and Massachusetts Bar Foundation support attorneys in the commonwealth in their efforts to provide pro bono services to those of limited means. Listed online are more than 100 agencies with a wide range of legal needs.

To identify a volunteer opportunity that meets your needs, you may search by keyword, category and/or county. To access this information, please visit: http://www.massbar.org/publications/pbog/.

Please be sure to check back throughout the year to stay aware of seasonal opportunities or updates to the guide.

Other ways to Get Involved

Over the course of the fall, the Community Services Department will be recruiting volunteers for the Mock Trial Program and Job Shadow Day 2007:

Mock Trial

In preparation for the 22nd Annual Statewide Mock Trial Program, the MBA invites you to volunteer as an attorney coach or judge.

Open to all public and private high school students in Massachusetts, Mock Trial is a rich curriculum that promotes the development of fundamental knowledge, sound judgment and critical thinking skills. In Mock Trial, students are placed in a simulated courtroom where they assume the roles of lawyers and witnesses in a hypothetical case.

Members are needed to coach a team in their community or to serve as judges in the trials that take place throughout the state. To volunteer, call (617) 338-0570 or e-mail mocktrial@massbar.org.

Job Shadow

On Friday, Feb. 2, 2007, the MBA’s annual Job Shadow Day will provide students with an opportunity to “shadow” an attorney for the day. The purpose of Job Shadow Day is to broaden the students’ understanding of the law, introduce them to the variety of careers available in the legal field and foster their respect for the legal system.

Attorneys from all areas of law are welcome to participate. We are especially seeking attorneys who are located (or can spend the day) in the cities of Boston, Worcester or Springfield. During Job Shadow Day, attorneys are encouraged to visit their local courthouse and introduce the young people to other legal professionals in and outside of their offices.

To volunteer, call (617) 338-0695 or e-mail community-services@massbar.org.

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Esdaile throughout his legal career.

Barrett graduated from Dartmouth College in 1956 and from Boston University Law School in 1959. He was an instructor in law at Boston University Law School’s Voluntary Defender Program from 1960 until 1963. Aside from his membership in the MBA, Barrett has been a member of the Boston Bar Association, Middlesex Bar Association and the American Bar Association. He served as treasurer of the Massachusetts Chapter of the Association of Trial Lawyers of America from 1972 to 1974, and from 1988 to 1990, he served as the president of the MATA. He has been listed in “The Best Lawyers in America” since its inception. Within the firm of Esdaile, Barrett & Esdaile, he has been partners since 1973 with Norman I. Jacobs, whose practice is exclusively in the field of domestic relations. Throughout his career, Barrett has concentrated his work exclusively in the tort field, always representing plaintiffs.

In one of his favorite cases, he represented a man who was depicted in a book on the sinking of the Oklahoma at Pearl Harbor as someone who left his post during the attack, abandoning his shipmates to die before dying himself. That man, now 80 years old, calls Barrett on the anniversary of their first meeting every year to thank him for clearing his name and setting the record straight for his family.

Married for more than 50 years to his wife, Jane, Barrett has four children: Bill, who practices law with him, and three daughters, Betsy, Ann and Jennifer. He also has 10 grandchildren.

Charles W. Barrett Jr. (right) stands with his friends and past MBA presidents Camille F. Sarrouf (left) and Michael E. Mone (center).

Member Spotlight


Before his appointment to the bench in 2001, Payne was an attorney at the Springfield law firm of Keys & Donnellan PC for nine years. He also worked at the Springfield law firm of Kelly, Pessolano & Withers from 1991 to 1992, and at Egan, Flanagan & Cohen in Springfield from 1984 to 1991. From 1981 to 1984, he served as assistant district attorney in Hampden County. Payne taught as an adjunct professor at American International College for four years and has taught on the adjunct faculty of Western New England College School of Law since 1991. He is a former member of the board of directors of the Hampden County Bar Association. Payne received his J.D. from Northeastern University School of Law and his B.A. from American International College.
Massachusetts Bar Association welcomes new members

Naila M. Attal of Choate, Hall & Stewart LLP
Michael C. Akshian of Landman & Akshian
David B. Albeck
Rebecca Lynn Andrews of Davis, Malm & D’Agostine LLP
Jonathan W. Andron of Wilmer, Cutler, Pickering, Hale & Dorr LLP
J. George Anetakis of Bartlett, Hackett & Feinberg PC
Winifred F. Annes of Kerry Gerts, Esq.
Tarig I. Arif of Foresight Science and Technology
Susan C. Atherton of Suffolk County DA’s Office, Boston
Suzanne T. Atryzek of Schwartz & Atryzek
Barry J. Barkow of Barry Barkow
Judith E. Beals of Oxfam America
Thomas H. Belknap of Ropes & Gray LLP
Christine J. Benway of Law Office of Christine J. Benway
Robert S. Berger of Goodman & Shapiro
Jennifer A. Berman
Inga S. Bernstein of Zalkind, Rodriguez, Lunt & Duncan LLP
Ellen E. Bisson of Suffolk County DA’s Office, Boston
Chris Blazejewski of Choate, Hall & Stewart LLP
Samuel C. Bodurtha of Higgins, Cavanagh & Cooney
Katherine A. Bohan of Fletcher, Tilton & Whipple PC
Amanda Rose Bozza of Cape Cod Healthcare Inc.
Andrew S. Breines of Menard, Murphy & Walsh
Ermina D. Brodsky of Law Office of J. Whitfield Larrabee
Daniel Buckley of D’Ambrosio Law Office
Synth Buer-Neauv of Synth Buer, Attorney at Law
Jessica Burke-LeClair
Devon M. Bush of Choate, Hall & Stewart LLP
Jennifer A. Buyak of Law Offices of Frank Prokos
James Richard Carroll of Skadden, Arps, Slate, Meagher & Flom LLP
Paul J. Canuso
Joseph M. Cheney Jr. of Joseph M. Cheney Jr., Attorney at Law
Janet Choi
Betsy Cohen of SJ Spero & Associates PC
Don J.J. Cordell of Seegel, Lipshutz & Wilchins PC
Daniel R. Cox Jr. of Daniel R. Cox Jr.
Kona C. Cullen of Cullen Law Office
Joseph P. Curran of Curran & Berger
Roslyn G. Daum of Choate, Hall & Stewart LLP
Kathleen R. Dayan of Martin, Magnonson, McCarthy & Kenney
Brett Dillon of Frank P. Fitzgerald PC
Richard C. DiMare of American Association for Lockean Liberty Inc.
Gerard F. Doherty of Gerard F. Doherty & Associates
Caren A. Donovan
Christine A. Dorchak of Grey2K USA
Christopher Drinan of Christopher W. Drinan, Esq.
John C. Emery of Sullivan & Worcester LLP
Philip Bryan Evans of Law Office of Philip B. Evans
Susette A. Ferreira of Consiglio & Brucato PC
Michael B. Fox of Fidelity Investments
Jonathan H. Gabriel of Choate, Hall & Stewart LLP
Mary C. Gallagher of Law Office of William J. Brisk
Suzanne Garrow of Heister, Feldman & McCormick PC
Christopher Geenen
Sandra L. Gencarelli
Laura T. Godine of Steffensen, Herman & Doggett LLC
Michael A. Goldstein of Goldstein & Clegg
William Gramer of O’Neill & Associates LLP
Holly Elayne Harben of Bartlett, Hackett & Feinberg PC
Holly K. Harris of Law Office of Holly K. Harris
Kath L. Hartman of Houghton Milfoin Co. Legal Dept.
Rees McCrea Hawkins of Choate, Hall & Stewart LLP
Mary T. Henderson
Christopher T.A. Henderson of Henderson & Henderson PC
Matthew T. Heshnok of Alleaton Law Group PC
Peter Herbert of Hinckley, Allen & Snyder LLP
Marisa W. Higgins of Fletcher, Tilton & Whipple PC
Maryanne T. Hodgkins
Ilisa Cara Horowitz of Bingham McCutchen LLP
D. Troy Horton of Pacific Financial Printing
Kelly Huffman of Choate, Hall & Stewart LLP
Thomas C. Hullien of Law Offices of Thomas Hullien PC
Barbara E. Indech of Barbara E. Indech and Associates PC
Jean-Paul Jallet of Choate, Hall & Stewart LLP
Pamela M. John of Law Office of Pamela M. John
Randy S. Jones of Cricket Communications
Richard J. Joy of GES Exposition Services
Gary G. Kalajian of Readron & Associates
Mitchell H. Kaplan of Choate, Hall & Stewart LLP
Denise J. Karlin of Massachusetts Office of Child Care Services
Steven J. Kirchner
Monique Kornfeld of Law Office of Monique Kornfeld
Michelle G. Kopol of Choate, Hall & Stewart LLP
Gina M. Lagana
John Donald Lanza of Choate, Hall & Stewart LLP
David A. LaPointe of John A. Mishir, Attorney at Law
Benjamin C. Larkin of N.E.D.P.B. Inc.
Laura J. Lattman of Shearman & Sterling LLP
Peter M. Lauriat of Superior Court, Massachusetts
Phillip Lee of Harvard Law School
Edouard Charles LeFevre of Foley & Lardner LLP
Jennifer B. Levy of Bonsignore & Breuer
Pamela Lindmark of Law Offices of Pamela Lindmark
Karen Lodigiani of Martin, Magnonson, McCarthy & Kenney
Michael Joseph Luzzo
Peter T. Maray of Law Offices of Peter T. Marano
Suzanne B. Matthews
Ruth Alane Mattson of Edward George & Associates
Richard K. Mazow of Mazow & Mazow
Kevin McCafferty of McLeo Law Office
Kathy Lynn McCarty
Loretta M. McClary of Loretta M. McClary LLC
Valerie McComb of Law Office of Rhonda F. Gelfman PA
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John McMaster of Ballin & Associates
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Rising of Choate, Hall & Stewart LLP
Edward J. Neville III of Edward Neville
Angela Newman of Oracle USA Inc.
Brian M. Nguyen of Hamilton, Brook, Smith & Reynolds PC
Muriel Ine and Nichols III of U.S. Trust Co. NA
Krivavina B. Offo-Abba of Mintz, Levin, Cohn, Ferris, Glovsky & Popeo PC
Shannon J. O’Leary of University of Providence Corp.
Robert Oatesick Jr.
Kenneth R. Ormes
Dawn M. Paddock
Gerard A. Palma of Palma Law Office
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Diane F. Paulsen of Greater Boston Legal Services
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Maggie Pastuszak
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Shannon J. O’Leary of Unum PROVIDENCE Corp.
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Maggie Pastuszak
Edvin H. Paul of Caesar & McKenna
Diane F. Paulson of Greater Boston Legal Services
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Julie Rising of Choate, Hall & Stewart LLP
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Douglas S. Straskey of PricewaterhouseCoopers
Brian J. Strasnick of Willow Laboratories
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Stephen W. Sutton of Law Office of Stephen W. Sutton PC
Jessica M. Tamarin of Adelphia Communications Corp.
Rebecca A. Toffolo of Lash & Associates PC
Sheldon C. Topliff of Law Offices of Bruce A. Bierhans LLC

“Rules of Engagement” roundtable in Springfield

Participants converse following the “Rules of Engagement, Conflicts and the Duty of Loyalty” luncheon roundtable, which was held on July 19 in Springfield. From left; James J. Martin, a law student working at the Law Office of Hal Etkin in Springfield; attorney Buffy Lord of Donovan & O’Connor LLP in North Adams; attorney William Travaun Bailey of Springfield; and Lindsay Dupuy, also a law student working with the Law Office of Hal Etkin.

Board of Bar Overseers Assistant Bar Counsel Bruce Eisenbud presented the July 19 roundtable program.

Photos by Christine Baronas
Procrastination habits have lawyer scrambling to meet deadlines

Q: I have been practicing law for nearly 10 years. I enjoy my career and have been successful, but I have a terrible habit of procrastinating, particularly with work deadlines. Many times I am able to meet my deadlines, but not without great anxiety, frustration and shame about my habit. And when I can’t meet my deadlines, it inevitably affects others (those with and for whom I work) as well as myself. Despite my intentions to change these habits, history usually repeats itself, and I find myself scrambling at the last second. Do you have any advice?

A: While many of us tend to procrastinate in one area of life or another, when lawyers put off key tasks, there can be serious consequences for their clients, their colleagues and themselves. Naturally, the tendency to avoid tasks is greatest when we anticipate a certain amount of unpleasantness, as, for example, when we see the task at hand as beyond our current knowledge, or it is likely that our efforts will elicit negative reactions.

Patterns of procrastination may also reflect fundamental beliefs about ourselves. In her book *It’s About Time*, Dr. Linda Sapadin gives labels to six procrastination patterns that convey the kinds of thinking/motivation involved: the perfectionist, the crisis-maker, the dreamer, the defier, the worrier and the overdoer. Along similar lines, Dr. William Knaus’ book, *Do It Now! Break the Procrastination Habit*, addresses the need to identify thoughts that promote task-avoiding behaviors and replace automatic responses with conscious choice.

Putting off a task is rewarding on an immediate level (i.e., “I’ll worry about that tomorrow” means an immediate decrease in pressure even if it makes for more pressure later on), so the behavior can easily be learned — but it can also be unlearned. There are many ways to tackle procrastination, and what works best for one person might not work for another. Try these approaches:

- **Start with small steps.** For example, in a writing task, one might initially settle for one poorly-worded paragraph or sentence, just to get some kind of process rolling. If you expect too much of yourself at one sitting, avoidance becomes very appealing.
- **Impose a schedule** on yourself. For example, “I will work on my most difficult cases every day from 11 a.m. to noon.” If an hour produces too much discomfort, try 30 minutes; over time, your “tolerance” will probably increase.
- **Reward yourself** for time spent on tasks that have not yet reached their “last minute.” You might allow yourself some unstructured Internet time after spending time on a target activity.
- **Limit avoidant behaviors** to a certain schedule as well. For example, “I will only check my e-mail or surf the Web, etc., from 9 to 10 and 3 to 4.”
- **Involves someone else**, like a colleague, spouse, therapist or coach. You might meet weekly to review your progress on the work that you tend to avoid. You are much more likely to sustain changes in your habitual behaviors if you have someone to “answer to” over an extended time.

Certainly kinds of professional coaches are particularly accustomed to this role. At Lawyers Concerned for Lawyers, we’d be glad to help you brainstorm on which strategies might best fit your own situation, and, if desired, to refer you to an appropriate professional.

Questions quoted are either actual letters-mails or paraphrased and disguised concerns expressed by individuals seeking assistance from LCL. Visit LCL online at www.lclma.org.
The MBA staff thanked MBA President Warren Fitzgerald for his work during his 2005-06 term with a reception at Vinalia Restaurant, Lounge & Wine Bar in Boston on Aug. 15. In addition to the staff, MBA President-elect David W. White-Lief, Vice President Denise Squillante and past President Kathleen M. O’Donnell (2004-05) attended.

MBA Executive Director Marilyn J. Wellington thanked Fitzgerald for his accomplishments over the past year and his support in building a stronger foundation for the operations of the MBA.

“We really were able to rebuild this year,” Wellington said. “We’ve done some amazing things this year, and we couldn’t have done any of it without Warren’s leadership.”

White-Lief praised both Fitzgerald’s low-key style and his ideas for improving the MBA.

“The trajectory has been so wonderful to watch,” White-Lief said.

Fitzgerald said he has high expectations for what the MBA staff and an ambitious and talented group of officers can accomplish. “I am absolutely certain that each year, this organization is going to get better and better,” he said.

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Mark Mason’s story of endurance

Continued from page 10

In 2002, Mason won the nomination for MBA secretary. In addition to serving as an officer over the course of the last four years, Mason chaired a number of key MBA committees and task forces, including the Budget and Finance Committee, the Same Gender Marriage Task Force, the Committee on Diversity in the Profession and the Alternative Dispute Resolution Committee.

An MBA first

While Mason isn’t the first openly gay bar association president in the country, he will be the MBA’s first openly gay president.

“We are fortunate to live in a state whose constitution respects marriage equality,” said Mason, who has displayed his commitment to equality with his work on key initiatives addressing equality and diversity. Mason has served as the chair of MBA’s Same Gender Marriage Task Force and the Committee on Diversity in the Profession.

Today, Mason is on the top of his game. Still armed with the same admirable work ethic, focus and appreciation for community service he possessed as a young attorney, Mason is now in a position to positively impact the legal community and the citizens of Massachusetts on a much larger scale.

A man committed to his community

Beyond his progressive commitment to the MBA, Mark Mason has shared that commitment with his local community.

- **Leadership service:** Mason has served on the executive committee of the Hampden County Bar Association (1987-89), the board of directors for the Massachusetts Lesbian and Gay Bar Association (1998-2000 and 1993-95) and co-founded the Gay & Lesbian Civic Association of Greater Springfield.

- **Loyal volunteer:** For more than 10 years, he has volunteered at the Hampden County Volunteer Mediation Program, the HIV Law Consortium of Western Mass., Gay and Lesbian Advocates and the Western Mass. Volunteer Lawyers Service.

- **An eye on education:** He’s taught at Cambridge College in Springfield as an adjunct professor since October 2000.

- **Enhancing the arts:** Mason has also been a violinist since 1992 with the one of the oldest community orchestra in the country, the Pioneer Valley Symphony and Chorus in Greenfield, playing in the first section.
Bar Leadership Institute

Please join us for the Massachusetts Bar Association’s Bar Leadership Institute for MBA affiliated bar associations on Friday, Sept. 29, 2006 at the Glen Ellen Country Club in Millis. The purpose of the institute is to provide bar leaders with an opportunity to meet and learn from each other while supplying ideas and information to help you guide your association even more successfully.

Registration is free for presidents, presidents-elect and executive directors of the MBA affiliated bar associations. Other current board members of the MBA affiliated bar associations can participate for a fee of $125 per person. We also welcome officers of bar associations not affiliated with the MBA, who can attend for $125 per person.

The schedule calls for the program to run from 8:30 a.m. to 4 p.m. Topics include:

- Motivating Volunteers
- Planning for the Association Year
- Media and the Legal Profession
- Judicial Independence: Responding to Media Attacks on the Judiciary
- Legislative Update
- Panel of Past Presidents: Things I Wish Someone Told Me Before I Became President
- Roundtable Discussions
  - Executive Director Roundtable
  - Non-Dues Sources of Revenue
  - Volunteer Leadership – Sharing Ideas for the Future
  - Public Image of the Profession and the Role of Local and Specialty Bars
  - Resources

Registration Form

Name: __________________________ Title: __________________________

Association: __________________________ Title: __________________________

Firm: __________________________

Address: __________________________ City/State/ZIP: __________________________

Telephone: __________________________ Fax: __________________________ E-mail: __________________________

I am an Executive Director, President or President-elect of my association and will attend the Bar Leadership Institute free of charge.

I am a Board member of my association and will pay $125 to attend the Bar Leadership Institute.

$______ Amount enclosed Please make check payable to Massachusetts Bar Leadership Institute

Credit Card #: __________________________ Expiration Date: __________ AMEX _ Visa __ Mastercard __

Signature __________________________

Please R.S.V.P. no later than Thursday, Sept. 14, 2006. Forms should be returned by mail or fax to:

Patricia Olier Plasse, Bar Services Liaison
Massachusetts Bar Association
73 State St., Springfield, MA 01103
Telephone: (617) 338-0596 Fax: (413) 731-5915 pplasse@massbar.org

Section Council Spotlight

Bankruptcy Practice Group brown bag lunch

The Bankruptcy Practice Group will be holding its first brown bag lunch meeting on Sept. 19 from noon to 1:30 p.m. at the MBA, 20 West St., Boston. James M. Lynch, clerk of the Bankruptcy Court for the District of Massachusetts, will be our guest speaker on the topic of “Upcoming Changes in ECF and Other Practical Tips from the Clerk’s Office.”

If you are a member of the Business Law Section’s Bankruptcy Practice Group and would like to attend this meeting, please send your attendance response to jstevens@massbar.org. Space is limited.

Section council internships for law students

Each year, the MBA offers four to six internships, which provide an ideal opportunity for law students to work with practicing attorneys. These interns provide support to the 15 section councils by attending meetings, conducting research for educational programs, preparing articles for the MBA's Section Review and tracking and analyzing legislative positions for the sections.

The internship is offered to second- and third-year law students, who work at the association 10 hours a week from September through May. These interns are drawn from law schools around the commonwealth, with four or five working in the Boston office and one intern based in the MBA’s Springfield office. The interns this year are: Marcy Buckner, Jason Chan, Michal Haimov, Jason Peterson and Shannon Ryman. Ryman is in her second year as an MBA intern.

To submit news about your section council’s recent accomplishments or significant upcoming efforts, please contact Sections Administrators Marc D’Antonio or Jean Stevens. Please note that deadlines for Lawyers Journal are usually the first week of every month. For further information, contact Bill Archambeault at (617) 338-0676 or barchambeault@massbar.org.
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