

MEMBERS ANSWER THE CALL(S) FOR ASK A LAWYER

➤ 6

NOTABLE QUOTABLE

MBA MEMBERS IN THE MEDIA

➤ 9



KENNEY JOINS OFFICER SLATE

➤ 17

SEE PAGE 2 FOR A COMPLETE LISTING OF THIS ISSUE'S CONTENTS.

MASSACHUSETTS LAWYERS JOURNAL



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VOLUME 21 | NUMBER 1 | SEPTEMBER 2013

MBA to provide professionalism course for new attorneys



MBA President-elect and Education Chair Marsha V. Kazarosian

The Massachusetts Bar Association has been approved by the Supreme Judicial Court's Standing Advisory Committee on Professionalism to administer

a mandatory Practicing with Professionalism course for new lawyers admitted to the Massachusetts bar, pursuant to the new SJC Rule 3:16.

Effective Sept. 1, 2013, Rule 3:16 requires all newly admitted Massachusetts lawyers to complete a day-long program to assist in the transition from law school to the practice of law. The Practicing with Professionalism course will pro-

vide new attorneys with an understanding of their duties in the legal profession as members of the bar.

Starting in 2014, the MBA will offer the course in partnership with the University of Massachusetts School of Law, and with the assistance and collaboration of county bar associations. The course will be held in five UMass campus locations across the commonwealth: Amherst, Boston, Dartmouth, Worcester and Lowell.

"The MBA has always been in the forefront in providing affordable continuing legal education to lawyers in the commonwealth. We felt it was natural for us, as the only statewide bar association, to offer the programs," MBA President-elect and Education Chair Marsha V. Kazarosian said. "It is important to the MBA to participate in the excellence of our practicing attorneys." ➤10

New age to dawn under juvenile justice bill

BY MICHAEL F. KILKELLY

MBA-supported legislation is expected to raise the age of Juvenile Court jurisdiction to 18, providing 17-year-old defendants access to the benefits of the juvenile justice system.

As of the writing of this article, House Bill 1432 had passed both the House and the Senate unanimously. At press time, the bill awaits action by the governor. With final passage of the legislation and

the governor's signature expected soon, practitioners need to understand the impact of the law on 17-year-olds and some of the subtle changes in Juvenile Court practice contained in the bill.

House Bill 1432 provides that the age of Juvenile Court jurisdiction for delinquency and youthful offender cases will be 18, instead of 17. The bill makes no changes for minors charged with first- or second-degree murder.

Seventeen-year-olds will not be allowed in adult prison or ➤5

PRESIDENTIAL PROFILE

Sheff in double time



BY JASON M. SCALLY

Douglas K. Sheff is a drummer, but no one could ever accuse him of just marking time.

"I do everything double," says Sheff, whose style of drumming involves hitting twice on the down stroke. "I can get two for the price of one and create a fuller sound."

Sheff, the new president of the Massachusetts Bar Association, has taken a similar approach to his profession, combining his deep commitment to client service with his strong dedication to the bar to forge a fuller — and more fulfilling — career as a lawyer.

A senior partner at Sheff Law, Sheff is nationally renowned in the areas of personal injury, wrongful death, construction site, trucking and brain injury litigation. For nearly 30 years, he has forcefully advocated for work-

ing families through his own personal injury practice, using the civil justice system to recover millions of dollars for injured clients and improve public safety.

With a majority of his cases received through attorney referrals, Sheff's results for his clients have often come with a two-fold benefit. "The best checks I write are those to referral counsel," he says. "I regard it not only as an investment in my firm, but a reinvestment in the legal community."

Sheff is committed to being "the trusted lawyer of the trusted lawyer," and he has frequently embraced the call from fellow lawyers to serve as an advocate for the profession, as well as the justice system. He is the first attorney in Massachusetts to serve as president of the MBA, president of the Massachusetts Academy of Trial Attorneys (MATA), governor of the American Association of Justice (AAJ) and trustee of the AAJ's ➤8

PRESIDENT'S VIEW
DOUGLAS K. SHEFF



When Oliver Wendell Holmes and Louis Brandeis founded the Massachusetts Bar Association more than 100 years ago, the law was believed to be the noblest of professions. Many years later, my first impression of the law was one of respect for lawyers. My dad was a trial law-

yer, and wherever he went, people asked for his opinion as a trusted expert on just about everything. It was a time when lawyers and judges enjoyed a public image of honor and integrity. Unfortunately, over the last 40 years our profession's reputable standing has been severely eroded in the eyes of the public.

Today, our image is stigmatized as elitist, greedy and deceitful. Lawyers are often demonized by the media. This also reflects poorly on our clients, whether they may be individuals or businesses.

But I am optimistic. Now is the time to purge this negative stereotype from our profession. It's not too late to recapture the public's trust and to restore our honorable image.

THREE INITIATIVES TO RESTORE THE PUBLIC TRUST ON PAGE 3

The negative connotations plaguing our profession emanate from an impression that lawyers are uncaring, self-cen-

tered and exclusionary. The public views us as takers. In my experience, nothing could be further from the truth. The finest people I have known have been attorneys. Some of the most selfless acts I have witnessed were those of attorneys. Many such attorneys are members of the MBA. The majority of these good deeds are recognized and revered by the legal community, yet never seen or appreciated by the general public.

According to a 2013 report by the American Bar Association, 80 per- ➤2

PRESIDENT'S VIEW

Continued from page 1

cent of practicing attorneys perform an average of 56 hours of pro bono work each year. Applying that metric to the roughly 60,000 lawyers in Massachusetts, it means our legal community is giving back over 1,000 years of free legal service each year to people who can't afford a lawyer. I cannot think of another profession that does as much *pro bono* and charitable work as lawyers.

Clearly, to restore our profession's honorable posture, we must mend this discernible disconnect. We must demonstrate that we are not takers, but rather *caretakers*. To foster this undertaking, we must reach out and deliver our message, not only to attorneys, but to the public at large. We need to serve the public as only the statewide bar association can, and to celebrate our contributions throughout the commonwealth. If we can serve the public while earning its gratitude, we will have turned the corner.

I have taken the first step toward regaining the public's trust by implementing three initiatives — the "Working Families Initiative," the "Consumer Advocacy Initiative," and the "Justice For All Initiative." (See related story, page 3.) If we can succeed in these new initiatives, they will have a powerfully positive influence on existing ones.

It is an honor and privilege to assume the role of the president of the MBA. I know that my fellow MBA officers feel similarly honored, and I look forward to working with President-elect Marsha V. Kazarosian, Vice President Martha Rush O'Mara, Vice President Christopher P. Sullivan, Treasurer Robert W. Harnais and Secretary Christopher A. Kenney.

Inspired by your trust, we will make vast strides in vital areas for our organization and our communities. Such strides can only be made with your participation and support. I challenge each of you to think of one way to contribute to the cause through an initiative, project, committee, program or other means, and do it to your best ability. It is time to recapture that positive public image possessed by Holmes, Brandeis and the many MBA members who followed. ■



Last month MBA President Douglas K. Sheff promoted the positive image of lawyers during a guest appearance on WBZ Radio's "NightSide with Dan Rea."

Bar Seen Snapshots from around the MBA

West Street to Hollywood Boulevard



The exterior of the Massachusetts Bar Association's Boston headquarters was remade to look like a Russian restaurant for the filming of *The Equalizer*, a new thriller starring Denzel Washington. The movie is based on the 1980s television series of the same name. The transformation took place over the course of several days before and after Labor Day. The film crew used intricate paneling to transform the façade into one that resembled an upscale eatery, and they added a new entranceway. The temporary transformation culminated with the film crew shooting a nighttime scene in front of 20 West Street on Sept. 5, complete with fake police cars, a Lamborghini and dozens of onlookers hoping to get a glimpse of Hollywood in action.

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INSIDE THIS ISSUE

MASSACHUSETTS
LAWYERS JOURNAL

EXPERTS & RESOURCES
10, 11, 12, 13, 14

ON THE COVER

- PRESIDENT'S VIEW
- MBA TO PROVIDE PROFESSIONALISM COURSE FOR NEW ATTORNEYS
- PRESIDENTIAL PROFILE
- NEW AGE DAWNS UNDER JUVENILE JUSTICE BILL

SPECIAL FEATURES

- 2 BAR SEEN: WEST STREET TO HOLLYWOOD BOULEVARD
- 3 THREE INITIATIVES TO RESTORE THE PUBLIC TRUST

LEGAL NEWS

- 4 NEWS FROM THE COURTS

BAR NEWS

- 6 MEMBERS ANSWER THE CALL(S) FOR ASK A LAWYER
- 6 SHEFF GOES 'NIGHTSIDE' TO PROMOTE LAWYERS
- 7 MBA MEMBERSHIP ADVANTAGE
- 9 NOTABLE AND QUOTABLE
- 10 CONNECT, SHARE AND COLLABORATE ON MY BAR ACCESS
- 11 MEMBER SPOTLIGHTS

- 12 BAR CELEBRATES JUDICIAL YOUTH CORPS GRADUATES

- 13 CALENDAR OF EVENTS

- 14 MBF AWARDS \$2.15M IN IOLTA GRANTS

- 15 MBA CLE AT-A-GLANCE

- 17 MBA 2013-14 LEADERSHIP

- 18 MBA MEMBERS NETWORK ON THE BOSTON WATERFRONT

FOR YOUR PRACTICE

- 19 VOLUNTEER TO BUILD CREDIBILITY — AND YOUR BUSINESS

Three initiatives to restore the public trust

BY DOUGLAS K. SHEFF

Improving the public perception of lawyers hinges on the successful implementation of three related Massachusetts Bar Association-driven initiatives that incorporate three of the most popular words in the English language: family, consumer and justice. Each of these initiatives — the “Working Families Initiative,” the “Consumer Advocacy Initiative,” and the “Justice For All Initiative” — is designed to assist critical elements of our society, while advancing the image of attorneys and the MBA.

Working Families Initiative

The “Working Families Initiative” is well underway and has already made a substantial difference in our communities. Three years ago, the MBA created the Workplace Safety Task Force for the purposes of reducing injuries and deaths in the workplace. Since its inception, the Task Force has studied trends throughout the state and made educational presentations about workplace safety in working-class communities.

With representatives from law, business, labor, medicine, aca-

demia, and other professions, the Task Force’s cross-industry composition demonstrates the reality that attorneys are often bridge builders. Our message of inclusivity has even affected lawmakers on Beacon Hill, most recently with the passage of a bill in our Legislature supporting fair pay and appropriate safety measures for workers. The MBA has created a powerful message — its attorneys work hard to protect working families throughout the commonwealth.

The concept of working families also encompasses businesses, often run by families, sometimes for generations. It includes parents struggling to pay exorbitant tuition, without a significant tax break, as well as families who are victims of predatory lending, struggling to keep their homes. The Working Families Initiative will address these sorts of concerns by using the same effective principles and models utilized by the Workplace Safety Task Force.

Consumer Advocacy Initiative

The “Consumer Advocacy Initiative” has the potential to have a tremendous positive effect on the Massachusetts public. Every moment of the day, each of us is a con-

sumer. We are constantly in contact with some type of product or service. In my capacity as MBA president, I intend to appoint a Consumer Advocacy Task Force in an effort to emphasize existing and much-needed consumer rights protections. Our newest officer, Secretary Christopher A. Kenney, will chair the Task Force. We will study areas where the MBA could recognize and acknowledge consumer-friendly businesses within the commonwealth. Conversely, the Task Force will serve as a clearinghouse for consumers seeking information about their rights when entities behave irresponsibly, exposing the public to inadequate or negligent services or defective products.

Justice for All Initiative

Finally, the “Justice for All Initiative” will formalize the MBA’s longstanding history of support for the underprivileged and disenfranchised. The spirit of the initiative and its very title are embodied in our nation’s “Pledge of Allegiance.” The goal of the initiative is to encourage and highlight our *pro bono* and charity work for the less advantaged.

We will support and amplify good deeds performed by attorneys, such as those who serve on our Access to Justice Section

Council, Massachusetts Bar Foundation, Dial-A-Lawyer Program, Tiered Community Mentoring Committee, Lawyer Referral Service, and the MBA’s Marathon Bombing Legal Assistance Program.

The “Justice for All Initiative” will also create extensive public awareness of our support for due process, exemplified by our Crime Lab Task Force, led by Treasurer Robert W. Harnais and Chief Legal Counsel Martin W. Healy, who have worked tirelessly to ensure fairness in cases affected by potentially tainted evidence. We will continue our efforts to support those underrepresented in our society, most recently victims of traumatic brain injury.

We will issue a challenge for public acts of random kindness, and publicize these in a way that will inspire lawyers of all sorts and lay people, young and old. It is imperative that we convey our message in a manner that is meaningful, interesting and in a manner that resonates with the public. It’s a difficult task, but our job will be to make positive stories as appealing and newsworthy as the negative ones.

I firmly believe that if we are successful, the public and the media will respond favorably and ultimately see lawyers in a more positive light. ■

.....
Douglas K. Sheff is president of the MBA.



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LEGAL NEWS

News from the Courts

Committee seeks comment on proposed changes to Rules of Professional Conduct

The Supreme Judicial Court's Standing Advisory Committee on the Rules of Professional Conduct has published, for public comment, proposed revisions to the Massachusetts Rules of Professional Conduct. The committee undertook a comprehensive review of the Massachusetts rules to consider revisions to the American Bar Association's Model Rules of Professional Conduct.

The revisions to the American Bar Association's Model Rules reflect recommendations made by the ABA's Ethics 2000 Commission and the ABA's Commission on Ethics 20/20. The comprehensive amendments proposed by the ABA Ethics 2000 Commission responded to changes in the profession since the Model Rules' adoption in 1983. The targeted amendments proposed by the ABA Commission on Ethics 20/20 addressed changes in law practice resulting from globalization and the profession's increased use of technology.

The Executive Summary to the report of the SJC's Standing Advisory Committee on the Rules of Professional Conduct summarizes the committee's major proposals and identifies the recommendations that have generated dissents from a minority of committee members. Visit www.mass.gov/courts/sjc

for the complete report and proposals.

The committee will make its recommendations to SJC following receipt and review of public comments. Comments are due by Monday, Dec. 2.

SJC appoints new public information officer

Jennifer Donahue

Kennedy on July 22.

The overall mission of the Public Information Office is to educate and assist the media and the public to understand the role and function of the Massachusetts courts. The public information officer is the media liaison and spokesperson for the judicial branch and advises various court officials on communications issues and strategies for dealing with complex issues.

Donahue has covered national and New England politics for more than 24 years as a journalist and communications professional. Most recently, Donahue was the communications director for the New England Clean Energy Council. She be-

The Justices of the Supreme Judicial Court have announced Jennifer Donahue as the court's new public information officer. Donahue succeeded Joan

gan her career as an associate producer at C-SPAN, where Donahue covered the Senate Judiciary Committee confirmation hearings of United States Supreme Court Justice Clarence Thomas. Between 1992 and 1995, Donahue was press secretary to U.S. Senator Hank Brown of Colorado. From 1996 to 1999, she worked at CNN in Washington, where she was a producer for Inside Politics and Burden of Proof. During the 2000 presidential election campaign, she covered the race as a political reporter in New Hampshire and as an on-air analyst for MSNBC. From 2002 to 2009, Donahue served as senior advisor for political affairs and director of political communication for the New Hampshire Institute of Politics at Saint Anselm College.

Trial Court issues revised child support guidelines worksheet

Effective Aug. 1, Chief Justice of the Trial Court Paula M. Carey has announced the promulgation of a revised Child Support Guidelines Worksheet. The worksheet was revised to correct formula errors found in the version posted and released on June 20, 2013. Section 3 of the worksheet was also revised to clarify the treatment of available income above \$4,808. Only the revised worksheet, identified on the bottom left corner as "CJD 304 (8/1/13 rev.) CSG" will be accepted for filing after Aug. 1.

The Child Support Guidelines Worksheet and information on the quadrennial review of the state's child support guidelines can be found at www.mass.gov/courts/childsupport/index.html.

Probate and Family Court releases new forms, materials for amended Rule 412

The Probate and Family Court has announced the release of new forms and informational material as a result of recent changes to Rule 412 of the Supplemental Rules of the Probate and Family Court.

Effective Aug. 1, Rule 412 allows parties to jointly request modification of a judgment or temporary order of the Probate and Family Court where the parties are in agreement, the agreement is in writing and all other requirements of the rule are met. The changes to the rule will allow the Probate and Family Court to handle more cases administratively.

The new forms include a Joint Petition/Motion (CJD 124), an Agreement (CJD 311) and a Judgment/Temporary Order (CJD 446). The new Joint Petition/Motion (CJD 124) replaces the Joint Petition for Modification of Child Support Judgment (CJD 114). The informational material includes a Checklist of Required Forms (CJD 901) and a General Information (CJD 903) sheet that includes filing fee information.

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Save the date

The new forms will be accepted for filing on or after Aug. 1 and are available at www.mass.gov/courts/courtsandjudges/courts/probateandfamilycourt/index.html.

Trial Court locations return to full public office hours

Chief Justice of the Trial Court Paula M. Carey and Court Administrator Harry Spence have announced that all Trial Court offices will return to a full schedule of public hours, effective Sept. 3. All Clerks' Offices will resume a Monday through Friday schedule of 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m., which are standard hours of operation statewide.

Staffing levels, caseloads and public concerns about extended backlogs compelled the decision to adjust office hours to facilitate case processing in more than 30 court locations, beginning in September 2011. The scheduling of court sessions was not affected by the changes in office hours and access was available for emergency matters. The reduction in counter and telephone hours provided uninterrupted time for staff to prepare cases for court sessions and execute court orders, as well as to complete filing, docketing, scanning and other case processing.

The Trial Court experienced an 18 percent staff reduction during a four-

year hiring freeze that began in 2008. The staffing shortages created critical delays in case processing, which required the restricted public hours. As a result of the Legislature's stabilization of the court budget, the Trial Court began to fill critically needed positions. In addition to improved staffing, expanded electronic data exchange and other operational efficiencies have enabled the restoration of full operations.

Tauro to take senior status



Joseph L. Tauro

U.S. District Court Judge Joseph L. Tauro has advised President Barack H. Obama that he intends to retire from regular active service as a U.S. District Court judge on Sept. 26. Tauro plans to continue his service at the court as a senior judge. This year, with more than 40 years of active service on the bench, Tauro became the longest serving active judge on the court since its creation by the first Congress in 1789. ■

JUVENILE JUSTICE BILL


Continued from page 1

jail. Instead of going to county jail or state prison, 17-year-olds will be detained at and committed to the Department of Youth Services (DYS). Much of the impetus for this new law is the federal Prison Rape Elimination Act, which places restrictions on holding minors in the same facilities as adults.

Seventeen-year-olds will no longer receive an adult criminal record. The House bill also changes access to all criminal records of 17-year-olds, allowing access only to cases that involved those 18 or over when the crime was committed. This appears to change access even for those who were 17 when their cases were handled previously in adult court.

Because the Juvenile Court will have jurisdiction over crimes committed by youth before their 18th birthday, jurisdiction will be expanded to allow the court to process those cases up to the child's 20th birthday, as long as the case begins before their 19th birthday. If a child is not apprehended until after their 19th birthday for a crime committed before their 18th birthday, the court will have to proceed under the provisions of G.L.c. 119, §72A, which is the law that determines if a case should be transferred to adult court. There would seem to be the possibility for more proceedings to be brought under §72A, for crimes committed while someone is 17, when a young person is not initially brought to court until after they have turned 19.

The bill provides that juveniles whose cases are disposed of before their 18th birthday will be committed to DHS until their 18th birthday. Those whose cases are disposed of after their 18th birthday, but before their 19th birthday, will be committed until their 19th birthday. And those whose cases are disposed of after their 19th birthday, but before their 20th birthday, will be committed to their 20th



MICHAEL F. KILKELLY is the immediate past chair of the Massachusetts Bar Association's Juvenile and Child Welfare Section. He is an attorney in private practice in Malden, concentrating in the areas of domestic relations and juvenile delinquency law.

birthday.

The mandatory commitment to DHS for certain gun offenses is changed to provide that those under 18 will be committed for six months or until their 18th birthday, and those committed who are already 18 will be committed for six months or until their 19th birthday, whichever occurs first.

The bill also raises the jurisdictional age for harassment orders, providing that all requests for such orders where the defendant is under 18 shall be brought in the Juvenile Court.

House Bill 1432 provides that it will go into effect immediately upon passage, so as soon as the governor signs the bill charges brought against 17-year-olds will be in Juvenile Court instead of adult court. There is no discussion in the bill of transitional provisions for cases pending in adult court or charges brought for crimes committed before the effective date of the bill's passage, but there is a section that would allow sheriffs to transfer 17-year-olds now being held in adult jail to DHS.

The unanimous vote of Massachusetts legislators demonstrates that they are looking forward to the benefits of having 17-year-olds in Juvenile Court. Lawyers who represent juveniles are also hailing this new law, which will keep their 17-year-old clients out of adult court and adult jail. ■

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BAR NEWS

Members answer the call(s) for Ask A Lawyer

BY JASON M. SCALLY

Massachusetts Bar Association members offered free legal advice to more than 120 Massachusetts residents through Ask A Lawyer, a call-in program presented jointly by the MBA and WBZ Call For Action on Aug. 14.

Eight volunteer lawyers took phone calls on the Ask A Lawyer hotline from 7 to 9 p.m., answering questions on topics ranging from divorce and child support to landlord-tenant, employment law, Social Security disability benefits and consumer issues. Staff from the MBA and WBZ Call For Action also helped facilitate calls.

MBA member Richard A. Sugarman, who volunteered for the second year in a row, said call-in programs like Ask A Lawyer increase access to legal advice for those who need it. "It is a great way to help a large of number of people in a short period of time," he said.

During the second hour, MBA President Douglas K. Sheff helped promote Ask A Lawyer as a guest on WBZ News Radio's "NightSide with Dan Rea." (See below, "Sheff goes 'NightSide' to promote lawyers.") Sheff's appearance rounded out an overall successful night for the MBA at

WBZ News Radio 1030.

Thank you to the following MBA members who volunteered and answered calls during the Ask A Lawyer event:

- **Kwadwo Frimpong**, Fidelity Investments, Boston
- **Mary K.Y. Lee**, Law Office of Mary K.Y. Lee, Boston
- **Francis K. Morris**, Law Office of Francis K. Morris, Brookline Village
- **James F. Norton**, Law Office of James F. Norton, Braintree
- **Stuart I. Rosnick**, Law Office of Stuart I. Rosnick, Salem
- **Samuel Adam Segal**, Breakstone, White & Gluck, PC, Boston
- **J. Daniel Silverman**, J. Daniel Silverman, Attorney at Law, Wakefield
- **Richard A. Sugarman**, Boston Medical Center, Office of the General Counsel, Boston

The MBA and WBZ Call for Action revived the Ask A Lawyer program last year. It had been a regular program from 1978 until 2005. WBZ Call For Action, in existence for 42 years, is a non-profit telephone information, referral and action service dedicated to resolving people's problems. A free service, it is a member of the national organization, Call For Action, Inc. ■



Eight MBA volunteer lawyers staffed the MBA/WBZ Ask A Lawyer program, answering calls on a variety of legal topics.

Sheff goes 'Nightside' to promote lawyers



President Douglas K. Sheff discusses MBA initiatives as guest on WBZ Radio's "NightSide with Dan Rea."

Massachusetts Bar Association President Douglas K. Sheff appeared as a guest on WBZ Radio's "NightSide with Dan Rea," where he publicized the MBA and the positive work that lawyers do for the public.

Refuting the public misconception of lawyers as "takers," Sheff cited a 2013 report by the American Bar Association, which found 80 percent of attorneys nationwide perform some kind of pro bono during the year at an average of 56 hours per year.

Applying those figures to the close to 60,000 attorneys in Massachusetts Sheff said, "That would mean in Massachusetts alone ... the legal community is giving back over 1,000 years of free legal service to our underprivileged, to folks who can't afford a lawyer. That's an amazing figure." He said the legal community stands out as a model profession, noting that only 26 percent of the general public does volunteer work, according to a 2012 study by the Corporation for National Community Service.

Sheff touched on several topics during the hour-long discussion, from his own background handling traumatic brain injury cases to the MBA's Working Families, Consumer Advocacy and Justice for All initiatives, which support Massachusetts communities. He also recalled the MBA's involvement in the passage of the "Workers' Right to Know" bill last year as an example of how the association's legislative advocacy efforts have excelled at bringing people with diverse interests together for the public's benefit.

Both Sheff and Rea took questions from callers, which opened several opportunities to promote the MBA's Lawyer Referral Service. By the end of the interview, Sheff told the "NightSide" host that he hoped the listening audience no longer viewed lawyers by their often negative stereotypes. "We're really caretakers," said Sheff. "We really do care, and we do a lot of good things for the communities in the commonwealth."

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The MBA's Mentoring Circles program will start a new session in September 2013.



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SHEFF IN DOUBLE TIME

Continued from page 1

National College of Advocacy.

Sheff has enjoyed many successes, but he is most proud of the ones that have brought the most bang for the buck, especially those that led to improvements in public safety. In one case, Sheff's \$7 million recovery for a family of a worker killed in an explosion led Exxon, which was not a party in the case, to make safety improvements to its facilities worldwide. Through his bar work, Sheff founded the MBA's Workplace Safety Task Force, which, along with a coalition, just last year successfully spearheaded a new worker safety law that provides essential protections to more than 100,000 temporary workers in the commonwealth each year.

As Sheff often says, "We do the most good as lawyers when we help those whom we do not represent."

MBA members can expect Sheff to approach his year as MBA president with the same up-tempo rhythm that has driven him throughout his career, as he focuses on three initiatives: the Working Families Initiative, Consumer Law Initiative, and Justice for All Initiative. And, like his drumming, Sheff expects to deliver something twice as nice — providing service to the community while also showcasing the positive work that lawyers do for others.

"I can't think of a better ambassador to deliver the ambitious programs aimed at serving the public and promoting the positive image of lawyers," says MBA Chief Legal Counsel Martin W. Healy. "Always leading by example, Doug Sheff shows the value that lawyers bring to our communities every day."

Different drummer

Looking back on his career, Sheff says becoming a trial lawyer was, in many ways, a natural progression from his love of the drums, which began at age 4. He learned early on that there was gratification from being heard and seen by other people. "I got addicted to that, and I like to perform," he says. "Every trial lawyer has a little of that in them."

Sheff says the lessons learned as a percussionist still guide many aspects of his work each day. "Drumming has a rhythm and a cadence to it that I find helpful in the course of a presentation, a talk or an argument," he says.

The same can be said about Sheff's other outside interests in language, writing and sports competitions. Sheff is also an avid martial artist and practitioner of Tai Chi, which he'll use even on breaks when he's in court. "It gets me centered," he says. And being an accomplished traveler who has been to more than 50 countries "definitely helps me understand the cultures of witnesses, or how to relate to a client's family," he says.

Having a life outside the profession provides an important contrast, says Sheff. "You can't be a great trial lawyer if you don't have experiences somewhere else," he says. "When you go into a courtroom, you have so much more you can represent a client with if you're well rounded."

'Chick' off the old block

A lot of who Sheff is as a lawyer can be traced to his father, Irving "Chick" Sheff. A well-respected, tenacious advocate who was passionate about representing working families, Chick was also widely regarded as one of the classiest and best-dressed lawyers in Boston.

Chick founded his own firm more than 60 years ago, and worked with his son up until he passed away in 2007. Through his own work representing union and non-union workers, Sheff continues to build upon his father's legacy of protecting the workplace. "He was a mentor and a father, and my best friend," says Sheff. "I miss him."

Sheff drew much inspiration from his father, but perhaps Chick's greatest gift was allowing his son to find his own way. As Sheff told *Trial* magazine in 1997: "He always allowed me choice, autonomy and respect. I'll always be grateful for that and recommend a similar approach to any parent of an aspiring lawyer."

Those closest to Sheff see many similarities between father and son, but also how Sheff has forged his own impressive identity.

"Doug is a *Chick* off the old block, an utter gentleman," says MBA President-elect Marsha V. Kazarosian with pun intended. "He's very much like, yet still very much different from, his father. Both are superb lawyers, but they have different styles."

Kazarosian says "committed," "ingenious" and "perfectionist" are some of the first words that come to mind when she thinks of Sheff, who is also a close friend. "He has to have every single angle considered and covered," she says.

"When he's in, he's all in," Kazarosian adds. "He'll give you the shirt off his back and you wouldn't even have to ask for it. If he's representing you, he's the kind of person you want."

Donald Grady, Sheff's longtime law partner who worked with both father and son, makes similar observations. He adds: "Chick could really see an issue, and Doug inherited that. But Doug takes that to another level. He is able to see through or around an issue probably better than anybody I know."

Sheff's abilities as a trial lawyer are an inevitable by-product of the meticulous and innovative approach he brings to his work. Nowhere is this more apparent than in his work on behalf of victims of traumatic brain injury (TBI). A nationally recognized authority on TBI, Sheff has been a pioneer in developing methods of demonstrating traumatic brain injury, integrating cutting edge medical resources, the latest technology and renowned experts from around the country to help clients and educate attorneys and the public. Sheff is passionate advocate for those with "invisible injuries."

Sheff also has deep experience on product liability cases, where his latest focus has been in the field of mass tort. Representing consumers from around the country, it's an area that allows Sheff's firm to help many victims of a defective product or drug through a single case.

Like he does in his practice, Sheff brings an almost scientific-approach to people, as well. He is a staunch believer in the value of focus groups as a way to understand juries—especially in the absence of voir dire. Sheff is often asked to run other lawyers' focus groups, Grady says, adding that Sheff is good at using them to determine not only how one person might react to a situation, but also how a collective group of people might react to a situation.

Sheff is particularly gifted at connecting with his clients, many of whom come to Sheff in pain or >16

NOTABLE AND QUOTABLE

MBA MEMBERS IN THE MEDIA

Independent investigation into Remy case

“We commend District Attorney Marian Ryan for heeding the calls of the Massachusetts Bar Association and others in seeking an independent review of the Jared Remy matter. Ryan’s pick of two highly respected prosecutors, former Essex District Attorney Kevin Burke and Norfolk County Assistant District Attorney Jeanmarie Carroll, will ensure a transparent review and help instill public confidence in the administration of justice.”

**MBA CHIEF LEGAL COUNSEL MARTIN W. HEALY
BOSTON HERALD, AUG. 22**

Healy applauded Middlesex District Attorney Marian Ryan’s appointment of outside investigators to look into the decision not to request bail on a repeat offender in the Jared Remy case. Healy was also quoted in *The Boston Globe* and the *Salem News*, and he appeared as a call-in guest on “NightSide with Dan Rea” on WBZ Radio.

Drug lab report

“The depth of the crisis is unfathomable and reveals what can only be described as an unconscionable level of gross negligence at the state drug lab. The crisis will continue to negatively impact the state’s budget and reverberate throughout the commonwealth’s judicial system for years to come.”

**MBA CHIEF LEGAL COUNSEL MARTIN W. HEALY
BOSTON GLOBE, AUG. 20**

Healy was quoted in *The Boston Globe* and several other news outlets after Gov. Deval L. Patrick’s administration announced that 40,323 criminal cases may have been impacted by the actions of Annie Dookhan, a chemist who worked in the William Hinton State Drug Laboratory.


Religious headwear during bar exam

“I’ve never heard about this happening before, but this is clearly an affront to Iman’s constitutional rights, and freedom of speech.”

MBA MEMBER KEITH MINOFF, WGGB, AUG. 13

Minoff appeared on ABC40 in Springfield, after Iman Abdulrazek’s was asked to remove a religious piece of headwear during the Massachusetts bar exam in July. The Board of Bar Examiners has since updated its rule, which now permits the wearing of religious headwear without requiring prior approval.

Where available, news clips – including audio/video – can be found on our website at www.massbar.org.



Lawyers give back

“We’re really caretakers. We really do care, and we do a lot of good things for the communities in the commonwealth.”

**MBA PRESIDENT DOUGLAS K. SHEFF
“NIGHTSIDE WITH DAN REA,” WBZ RADIO, AUG. 14**

A guest on the show, Sheff countered the myth of lawyers as “takers” while promoting the MBA’s Working Families, Consumer Advocacy and Justice for All initiatives. Sheff’s appearance coincided with the Ask A Lawyer program, co-sponsored by the MBA and WBZ Call for Action.

Massachusetts Anti-Bullying Law

“In my opinion, I would love to see [the law] strengthened. I think that if the laws have real teeth in them, then we are that much closer to fixing a problem, which we know to exist — which is the bullying in our schools.”

MBA PRESIDENT DOUGLAS K. SHEFF, FOX 25, AUG. 6

Sheff appeared as a legal expert on FOX 25 to discuss Isabella “Belle” Hankey’s \$2 million federal civil rights lawsuit against the towns of Concord and Carlisle, the Concord-Carlisle school district and three school officials. Hankey’s suit is one of the first to be brought under the Massachusetts Anti-Bullying Law.

High-profile financial fraud case

“They got a big win today.”

MBA MEMBER DAVID MARDER, WALL STREET JOURNAL, AUG. 2

Marder, a securities litigator, commented in the *Wall Street Journal* after a federal jury found former Goldman Sachs Group Inc. GS trader Fabrice Tourre liable for defrauding investors. Marder went on to note that after this verdict, critics are still likely to “question why the SEC never goes after the high-level employees and seems to focus on the lower-level actors.”



War on drugs

“Money spent on education and prevention and treatment returns a far better value than incarceration. For every drug-addicted person we don’t give treatment to, we are guaranteeing there will be more crimes committed.”

MBA PAST PRESIDENT DAVID W. WHITE JR., BOSTON GLOBE, AUG. 13

In a major policy shift, U.S. Attorney General Eric Holder called for lighter sentences for low-level drug offenders. White, who chaired the MBA’s Drug Policy Task Force, which released a 2009 report on “The Failure of the War on Drugs,” called Holder’s remarks a “baby step” toward a system that emphasizes treatment over incarceration for low-level offenders.

EXPERTS & RESOURCES

BAR NEWS

Connect, share and collaborate on My Bar Access



Log in to My Bar Access today and kick off the 2013-14 MBA association year by instantly connecting with fellow section members through My Bar Access discussions (formerly known as listservs), which are *private* and can only be viewed by fellow members.

My Bar Access discussions allow members to enjoy the benefits of a traditional listserv, without clogging their inbox. Members choose how often they wish to receive My Bar Access notifications and connect with colleagues.

By default, MBA members receive only one discussion group e-mail per day. Users can update their subscription settings to change notification frequency.

Questions about a new rule? Post in one of the MBA's 18 practice-specific member group discussions and receive feedback from fellow practitioners. For example, a question about alimony reform laws might start a discussion in the Family Law member group.

Need a referral? Connect with MBA members with specific practice expertise.

Looking for a sample motion? Ask for advice and search My Bar Access for document examples added to resource libraries by other members. For example, a member who is drafting a motion in limine for an upcoming trial might get a sample from a fellow civil litigator.

Curious who is attending an upcoming CLE? Members can enrich their program experience and learn about upcoming MBA seminars and conferences directly from program faculty.

Interested in learning more about fellow members? Strengthen membership connections and put faces with names. Each discussion post includes basic profile information about the person who made the post.

Questions? Visit <http://access.massbar.org> and click "Contact Us." ■

MBA TO PROVIDE PROFESSIONALISM COURSE

Continued from page 1

The MBA's day-long, interactive course will cover all practice areas, including law office management, professionalism and civility, professional ethics, the bar discipline system, managing the attorney-client relationship, the dos and don'ts of social media, the availability of mentoring and continuing legal education, an introduction to general and affinity bar associations and the importance and availability of pro bono opportunities. Course faculty includes judges, experienced attorneys and professors.

Look for more information about the MBA's professionalism courses on www.massbar.org, in future issues of Lawyers Journal, Lawyers e-Journal and in e-mail communication. ■

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BAR NEWS

Member Spotlights

John J. Carroll Jr. named chair of the Equal Justice Coalition



John J. Carroll Jr.

John J. Carroll Jr. has been named the new chair of the Equal Justice Coalition, an advocacy group that promotes the funding of civil legal aid for low-income people in Massachusetts. A trial lawyer since 1974, Carroll is a partner at Meehan, Boyle, Black & Bogdanow

PC. He has been the Massachusetts Bar Association's representative to the Equal Justice Coalition since 2010 and serves on the board of Greater Boston Legal Services.

In his early years as a lawyer, Carroll traveled to South Dakota where he was a staff attorney on the Pine Ridge and Rosebud Indian Reservations. He handles pro bono cases for the Boston Bar Association's Volunteer Lawyers Project and has volunteered at the Catholic Lawyer's Guild's St. Francis House.

Firm donates 1,000 bike helmets to Boston youth programs

MBA Past President David W. White of Breakstone, White & Gluck PC handed out bicycle helmets to Boston-area youth as part of his firm's program to promote bicycle safety for children and bicycling advocacy for adults.

Over the spring and summer, the firm donated nearly 1,000 bicycle helmets through programs in Boston, Somerville, Cambridge and Dedham. Helmets were given to Mayor Menino's Boston Bikes Roll It Forward program, CYCLE Kids of Cambridge, the Winter Hill Community School in Somerville, the Dedham Bike Rodeo and others.

"This is the first year of our project, and we look forward to expanding it significantly in years to come," said

White. "Awareness of head-injury prevention is critical for the health of our children. We hope that our helmet distribution will help increase safety awareness and prevent injuries."

Breakstone, White & Gluck PC, which has extensive experience handling personal injury claims on behalf of injured bicyclists, also created a Bicycle Accident Lawyers App as part of its commitment to bicycle safety. The free app, which is available for both Apple and Android-based phones, provides tips and tools for cyclists who have been in a bicycle accident. For more information on the firm's bike safety program visit www.bwglaw.com.



MBA Past President David W. White Jr. helps a young boy adjust his helmet.

ABA delegation honors Hodge

The Massachusetts delegation to the American Bar Association House of Delegates honored Massachusetts State Delegate Kay H. Hodge for her years of service at a

luncheon on July 25. Her term as state delegate ended at the conclusion of the ABA's Annual Meeting in August. She will be succeeded by Alice Richmond.



Hodge (center, red) was honored for her contributions to the American Bar Association House of Delegates on July 25.

EXPERTS & RESOURCES

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 10

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MEMBER SPOTLIGHT

Continued from page 11

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 11

CRIMINAL APPEALS

CRIMINAL APPEALS

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MBA Past President Squillante joins Court Management Advisory Board



Denise Squillante

The Supreme Judicial Court has appointed MBA Past President Denise Squillante to the Court Management Advisory Board, which was created by the Legislature in 2003 to advise and assist on judicial administration and management reform. Squillante will serve a three-year term, ending in June 2016.

Long active in the MBA's Family Law Section Council and its committees, Squillante has lent her energy to the MBA's Presidential Task Force on Terrorism, the Amicus Committee and the Joint Bar Committee. A former recipient of the MBA's Pro Bono Publico Award, Squillante is a longtime member of the MBA's House of Delegates and a Massachusetts Bar Foundation Life Fellow.

In addition to her work with the MBA, Squillante is a member of the Probate Court Modification Task Force, a trustee of Massachusetts Continuing Legal Education Inc. and on the Program Committee of the National Conference of Bar Presidents.

Since starting as a solo practitioner in Fall River more than 30 years ago, Squillante has grown her practice into a small firm concentrating in family law, corporate law, personal injury and trusts and estates. She also provides business and legal consulting services to corporations.

MBA members honored among 'Top Women of Law'

Massachusetts Lawyers Weekly will honor 52 women, including 16 MBA members, as Top Women of Law on Wednesday, Oct. 23, at the Boston Park Plaza Hotel. The award recognizes

those "who have made great professional strides and demonstrated outstanding accomplishments in private practice, the corporate arena and social advocacy."

Three MBA members will be among five women inducted into Massachusetts *Lawyers Weekly* Circle of Excellence. The honor, which is new this year, salutes those women who continue to exemplify the continued professional, civic and mentoring achievements year in and year out in the Massachusetts legal community. Each inductee is a two-time honoree of the Top Women of Law.

The MBA members honored as Top Women of Law are:

- **Juliane Balliro**, Nelson, Mullins, Riley & Scarborough LLP
- **Maryann Civitello**, Mintz, Levin, Cohn, Ferris, Glovsky & Popeo PC
- **Kimberly A. Dougherty**, Janet, Jenner & Suggs LLC
- **Elaine M. Epstein**, Todd & Weld LLP
- **Grace V. B. Garcia**, Morrison Mahoney LLP
- **Monica Halas**, Greater Boston Legal Services
- **Andrea C. Kramer**, Hirsch, Roberts, Weinstein LLP
- **Melissa F. Langa**, Bove & Langa PC
- **Ann Marie Maguire**, Law Office of Ann Marie Maguire
- **Barbara H. Mitchell**, Community Legal Services and Counseling Center
- **Radha Natarajan**, Committee for Public Counsel Services/Roxbury Defenders
- **Michelle R. Peirce**, Donoghue, Barrett & Singal PC
- **Mary H. Schmidt**, Schmidt & Federico PC
- **Sara G. Schwartz**, Schwartz Hannum PC
- **Laura R. Studen**, Burns & Levinson LLP
- **Sarah E. Worley**, Sarah E. Worley Conflict Resolution

The three MBA members inducted into the Circle of Excellence are:

- **Pamela E. Berman**, Adler, Pollock & Sheehan PC
- **Mary L. Bonauto**, Gay & Lesbian Advocates & Defenders
- **Susan J. Cohen**, Mintz, Levin, Cohn, Ferris, Glovsky & Popeo PC

The full list of Top Women of Law honorees is available at www.masslawyersweekly.com. ■

BAR NEWS

Bar celebrates Judicial Youth Corps graduates

BY JASON M. SCALLY

Dozens of lawyers, judges and court personnel joined students and their families to celebrate Judicial Youth Corps Appreciation Day at the John Adams Courthouse on Aug. 16.

This year, 24 students from Boston and Worcester completed the Supreme Judicial Court's Youth Corps (JYC) program, which gives urban high school students an opportunity to experience the judicial system and learn about the law through educational sessions and hands-on internships in the courts. A mock trial and a reception marked the culmination of

this year's program.

The SJC first established the summer program in Boston in 1991. The Massachusetts Bar Association has partnered with the SJC since 2007 to expand the program to Worcester. This year marked the first time that the Worcester program featured students from public, private and charter schools, said attorney James Rosseel, who led the Worcester program.

Speaking on behalf of the MBA, Immediate Past President Robert L. Holloway Jr. congratulated the students and thanked the volunteers and sponsors, including the

EXPERTS & RESOURCES

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 12

Calendar of Events

MONDAY, SEPT. 16

Legal Trends Conference
7:30-11:30 a.m.
MBA, 20 West St., Boston

WEDNESDAY, SEPT. 18

Tax Issues for Immigrant Workers
2-4 p.m. 
MBA, 20 West Street, Boston


THURSDAY, SEPT. 19

MBA House of Delegates meeting
4 p.m.
MBA, 20 West St., Boston

2013-14 "Welcome Back" Member Reception
6-7:30 p.m.
MBA, 20 West St., Boston

THURSDAY, SEPT. 26

MBF Grantee Reception - Boston
5-7 p.m.
MBA, 20 West St., Boston

Representing the Closely-Held Entity
How to avoid disputes and resolve them when they arise
4-7 p.m. 
MBA, 20 West St., Boston

WEDNESDAY, OCT. 2

MBA Monthly Dial-A-Lawyer Program
5:30-7:30 p.m.
Statewide dial-in #: (617) 338-0610

MONDAY, OCT. 7

International Bar Association Annual Conference Host Committee Reception
6:30-8:30 p.m.
MBA, 20 West St., Boston

TUESDAY, OCT. 8

Intellectual Property Basics for the Non-Specialist
4-7 p.m. 
MBA, 20 West St., Boston

WEDNESDAY, OCT. 16

Annual Bench Bar Symposium
4-6:30 p.m.
John Adams Courthouse, One Pemberton Square, Boston

THURSDAY, OCT. 17

MBA Western Mass. Dial-A-Lawyer Program
3:30-7:30 p.m.
Dial-in #: (413) 782-1659
Western New England University School of Law, 1215 Wilbraham Road, Springfield

THURSDAY, OCT. 17

Law Firm Marketing Plan Workshop
2-5 p.m. 
MBA, 20 West St., Boston

MONDAY, OCT. 21

MBA Mock Trial Orientation
6 p.m.
MBA, 20 West St., Boston

WEDNESDAY, OCT. 23

MBA Mock Trial Orientation
6 p.m.
Plymouth Public Library, 132 South St., Plymouth

WEDNESDAY, OCT. 23

MBA Mock Trial Orientation
6 p.m.
MBA Western Mass. Office, 73 State St., Springfield

THURSDAY, OCT. 24

Tiered Community Mentoring Kick-Off Event
8:30 a.m.-1:30 p.m.
MBA, 20 West St., Boston

THURSDAY, OCT. 24

MBA Mock Trial Orientation
6 p.m.
Massachusetts School of Law, 500 Federal St., Andover

THURSDAY, OCT. 24

MBA Mock Trial Orientation
6 p.m.
Mirick, O'Connell, DeMallie & Lougee LLP, 100 Front St., Worcester

FRIDAY, NOV. 1-SATURDAY, NOV. 2

23rd Annual Family Law Conference
Chatham Bars Inn, 297 Shore Road, Chatham



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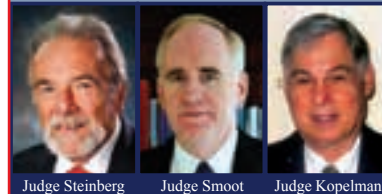
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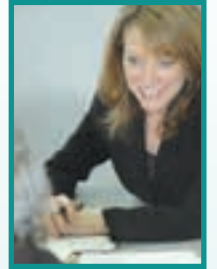


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CONTINUED ON PAGE 14

EXPERTS & RESOURCES

BAR NEWS

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 13

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MBF awards \$2.15M in IOLTA grants

The Massachusetts Bar Foundation, philanthropic partner of the Massachusetts Bar Association, awarded \$2.15 million in grants for 2013-14 through its annual Interest on Lawyers' Trust Accounts (IOLTA) grants program. This year's grants will fund 89 programs conducted by 62 nonprofit organizations throughout Massachusetts.

These grants support projects that either offer civil legal services to people who cannot otherwise afford them or improve the administration of justice in the commonwealth. Grants providing direct legal services include support to domestic violence programs, special education advocacy, humanitarian immigration assistance and homelessness prevention. Grants to improve the administration of justice include such efforts as court-connected mediation and lawyer-of-the-day programs.

Funds for these grants are provided by the Massachusetts Supreme Judicial Court's IOLTA Program. The Massachusetts Bar Foundation is one of three charitable entities in Massachusetts that distributes IOLTA funds.

Although available funds for IOLTA grants have declined by over 75 percent over the last several years, the MBF is pleased to be able to support many of its longtime grantees as well as provide funding for one new program — the Family Homelessness Crisis Response Project of the Massachusetts Law Reform Institute (MLRI).

MLRI began this project in response to the changes to Massachusetts emergency shelter eligibility guidelines that went into effect in September 2012. Because numerous MBF grant recipients cited the difficulties faced by families trying to access shelter since the new policies began as their greatest



challenge, the MBF was well aware of the crisis when it reviewed MLRI's application and knew the importance of directing its support to this need. MLRI will use the MBF grant funds to represent and provide advice to homeless families, legal services providers, social service agencies and medical providers, and to conduct systemic advocacy to modify existing rules around emergency shelter.

"Even at a time of reduced resources," said MBF President Jerry Cohen, "we are proud to provide timely assistance to respond to critical issues facing our communities. By utilizing the collective knowledge of our supporters, trustees and staff, we are able to make investments across the state in programs that are truly making a difference."

The MBF also supports other administration of justice initiatives through its endowment, which has been established by generous ongoing contributions from the legal community. The foundation is happy to announce its upcoming milestone of 50 years of public service in 2014, and looks ahead to its next 50 years.

Additional information about the MBF, its IOLTA Grants Program, and other grant programs, as well as a complete listing of the 2013-14 IOLTA Grant recipients is available at www.MassBarFoundation.org. ■

JUDICIAL YOUTH CORPS GRADUATES

Continued from page 12

Massachusetts Bar Foundation, the primary sponsor of the Worcester program.

"While our reception marks the end of this year's program, today we also celebrate the future of our legal profession," said Holloway. "Whether the young men and women of our program today go on to become judges, lawyers, or clerks — or whether they choose a different career path — we know their Judicial Youth Corps experience has opened a lifetime appreciation of the law and its processes."

Two members of this year's program addressed the room, which included several former JYC students, and shared what they learned from their summer experience. "The JYC gave me an opportunity

to experience what few high school students ever experience," said Samantha Singh, a student in the Boston JYC program. Worcester JYC student Konstantinos Tekelis added of his experience, "I got a real inside look into the working world and how the law works."

Although SJC Chief Justice Roderick L. Ireland, a longtime supporter of the JYC program, was unable to attend the reception, attorney Gerald Howland, who ran the Boston program, said that everyone just had to look at the chief justice's smile in the JYC program photos that were displayed around the room to understand Ireland's affinity for the program and its students. ■



(From left) Massachusetts Bar Foundation Executive Director Elizabeth Lynch, Massachusetts Bar Foundation President Jerry Cohen, Massachusetts Bar Association Immediate Past President Robert L. Holloway Jr. and Worcester attorney James Rosseel.

MBA CLE AT-A-GLANCE

SEPTEMBER CONTINUING LEGAL EDUCATION PROGRAMS BY PRACTICE AREA

IMMIGRATION LAW

Tax Issues for Immigrant Workers

Wednesday, Sep. 18, 2–4 p.m.
MBA, 20 West St., Boston

SEMINAR WITH REAL-TIME WEBCAST 

Faculty:

Sherley Cruz, Esq., program chair
Greater Boston Legal Services, Boston
Dana Ackerman, Esq.
Internal Revenue Service, Boston
Luz Arevalo, Esq.
Greater Boston Legal Services, Boston
Marline Poggys, Esq.
IRS-SPEC Office, Boston
Joel Zarella, Esq.
Department of Revenue, Boston



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Immigration Law, Taxation Law

BUSINESS LAW

Representing the Closely Held Entity *How to avoid disputes and resolve them when they arise*

Thursday, Sept. 26, 4–7 p.m.
MBA, 20 West St., Boston

SEMINAR WITH REAL-TIME WEBCAST 

Faculty:

Marc. C. Laredo, Esq., program chair
Laredo & Smith LLP, Boston
Hon. Thomas P. Billings, Esq.
Superior Court, Boston
Peter A. Biagetti, Esq.
Mintz, Levin, Cohn, Ferris, Glovsky & Popeo PC, Boston
David H. Feinberg, Esq.
Feinberg Hanson LLP, Wellesley
Gary Soiref, CPA
Marcum LLP, Boston

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Legal Trends Conference

Monday, Sept. 16, 7:30–11:30 a.m.
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MARC C. LAREDO, ESQ.

Laredo & Smith LLP, Boston

Program chair, “Representing the Closely Held Entity: How to avoid disputes and resolve them when they arise”

Laredo represents clients in a wide array of business disputes, including commercial contract cases, disputes in closely held corporations, business torts, executive employment and non-competition litigation, government investigations, commercial real estate matters and construction cases. In addition, he serves as counsel to closely held businesses, advising them on issues such as the initial formation and maintenance of the business entity, contract and employment matters, as well as crisis situations.

Laredo is a member of the *Massachusetts Law Review* Editorial Board and serves as book review editor. He is the author of “The Attorney-Client Privilege in the Business Context” and “Shareholder Duties and Disputes in Closely Held Corporations in Massachusetts,” both published by the *Massachusetts Law Review*, and has taught at numerous continuing legal education programs.

Laredo was named to the Massachusetts Super Lawyers® list by the Thomson Reuters rating service every year since 2005. He is AV-rated® by the *Martindale-Hubbell Legal Directory*, its highest rating for legal ability and professional ethics.

Early in his career, Laredo served as an assistant attorney general in the Criminal Bureau of the Massachusetts Attorney General’s Office. He is a graduate of Cornell University and the University of Pennsylvania Law School.



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In-House Counsel Conference

Hot topics for in-house counsel

Friday, Dec. 6
MBA, 20 West St., Boston

SEMINAR WITH REAL-TIME WEBCAST 

This year’s conference will include speakers on a variety of topics of current interest to in-house counsel. Noteworthy speakers will include the Hon. Timothy S. Hillman, of the U. S. District Court, District of Massachusetts, as well as Edward Seksay, general counsel to Rockland Trust Company, who will deliver the opening remarks concerning challenges faced by in-house counsel.

Faculty:

James C. Donnelly Jr., Esq., conference co-chair
Mirick, O’Connell, DeMallie and Lougee LLP, Worcester
Robert J. Kerwin, Esq., conference co-chair
Mortgage Master, Walpole
Peter D. McDermott, Esq., conference co-chair
Banner & Witcoff Ltd., Boston
David A. Parke, Esq., conference co-chair
Bulkley, Richardson & Gelinas LLP, Springfield

Additional faculty to be announced.

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SHEFF IN DOUBLE TIME*Continued from page 8*

in tough situations. “Our clients come from all walks of life and different backgrounds,” says Grady. “He’s good at knowing when they need hand-holding and when they need to be guided.”

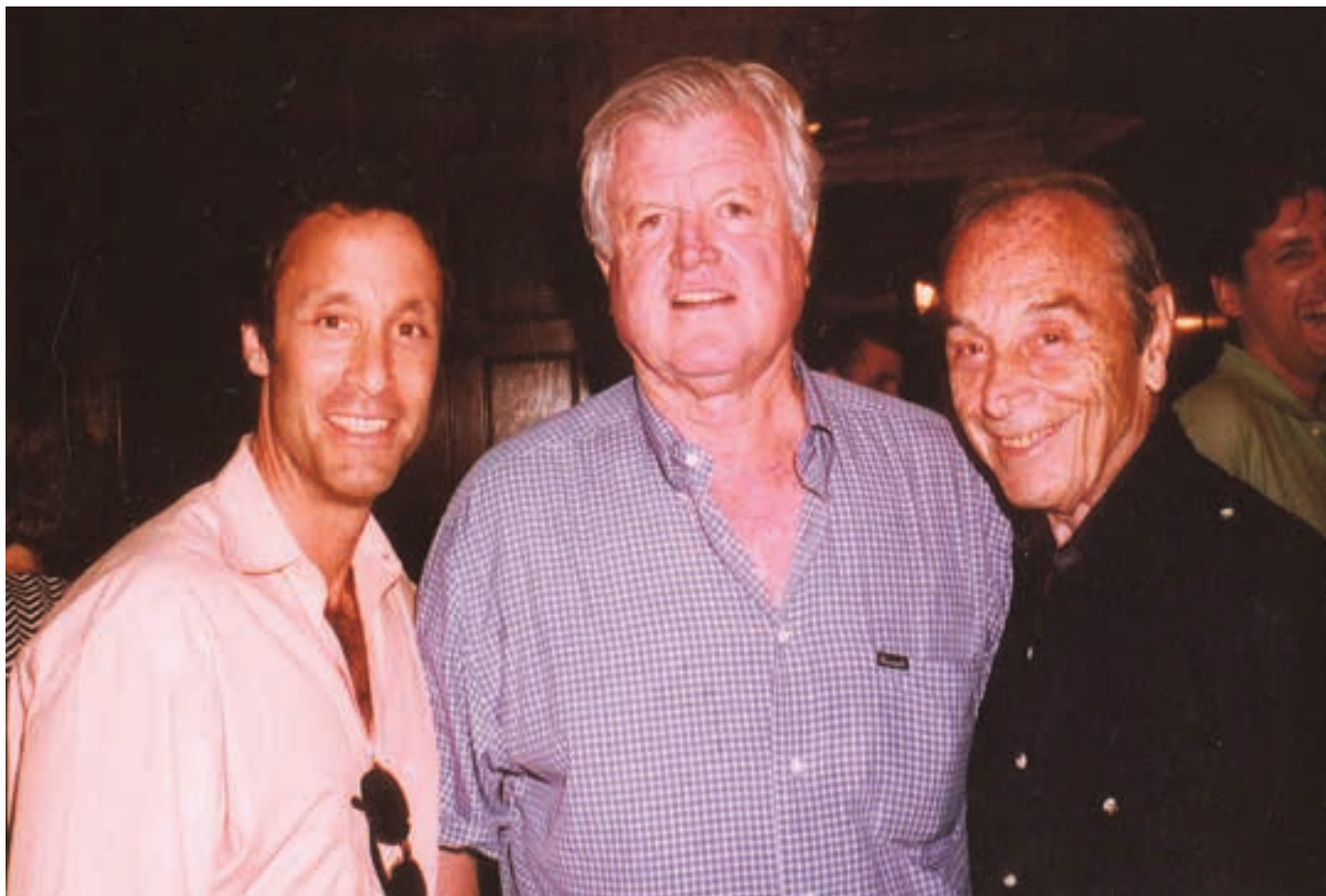
Family matters

Sheff’s passion for helping working families is not surprising given the importance of family in his own life, even beyond his father. The middle of three children, Sheff shares a special connection with his siblings, his older sister, Jody, an Emmy-winning film producer in New York, and his younger brother, Tom, who hosts his own cable TV show and is an ardent supporter of individual’s rights.

In addition to the influence of his father, close friends see a lot of Sheff’s mother, Maxine, in him. “They’re a lot alike,” says Grady, who has known the Sheff family for more than 20 years. “Some of Doug’s mental toughness comes from his mom. Both are very dedicated. They see a path and want it to happen.”

Loyalty is another trait Sheff shares with his mother, and it may be the most important reason so many of the organizations Sheff belongs to have chosen him to lead. “He stands behind the people he works with and those who work for him,” says Grady. “That’s really important in any partnership to know he’s got your back.”

There is no closer partnership than family, and, having grown up in the law,



Sheff (left) and his father, Irving “Chick” Sheff (right), with Sen. Edward Kennedy.

Sheff says lawyers are almost like extended relatives. “I’m at home when I’m with lawyers,” says Sheff. “Lawyers are the finest people I know, and I do relate to them as family.”

Sheff’s high regard for lawyers is

why he has been so compelled to give back through active leadership in the bar. As MBA president, he expects to do even more — double, he might say — as he works to improve the public image of lawyers as part of his ambitious agenda.

It’s a tall task, but close friends and colleagues say Sheff is more than up to it.

“The amount of energy Doug brings is tremendous,” says Grady. “Most people want to go home after a day’s work. He’s ready to start a second day.” ■

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MBA 2013–14 LEADERSHIP

Douglas K. Sheff, president



Sheff is the first attorney in Massachusetts to serve as president of the MBA and the Massachusetts Academy of Trial Attorneys (MATA), and as governor of the American Association of Justice (AAJ) and trustee of the AAJ's National College of Advocacy. A passionate advocate for using the civil justice system to effectuate positive change, Sheff will focus his presidency on three initiatives: the "Working Families Initiative," "Consumer Law Initiative" and "Justice For All Initiative." Through these initiatives and other MBA programs, Sheff is committed to protecting working families and consumers,

and promoting the public image of lawyers as an honorable profession. Senior partner at Sheff Law in Boston, Sheff is nationally renowned in the areas of personal injury, wrongful death, construction site and brain injury litigation. Chair and founder of the MBA's Workplace Safety Task Force, Sheff recently spearheaded the passage of a new Massachusetts worker safety law mandating proper training, supervision and safety equipment for temporary workers. An executive committee member of the National Traumatic Brain Injury Litigation Group, member of Trial Lawyers for Public Justice and lifetime fellow of the Massachusetts Bar Foundation (the philanthropic partner of the MBA), Sheff is also a member of the Academy of Catastrophic Injury Attorneys and a director of the Belli Society, a group recognized for innovative trial techniques. Sheff has received numerous honors for his achievements as a litigator and an advocate. He was honored with MATA's inaugural Excellence in Advocacy Award for his representation of children and adults who have suffered traumatic brain injury and received the ORT Award for integrity in the law. In addition, Sheff is a recipient of the AAJ's Next Generation Award and a seven-time recipient of its Wiedeman Wysocki Award. Sheff has also been recognized by the publication *Lifesavers* for preventing injury through aggressive representation of victims of defective products, and as a *Boston* magazine "Super Lawyer."

Marsha V. Kazarosian, president-elect



Kazarosian is managing partner of Kazarosian Law Offices in Haverhill, where she concentrates in civil rights litigation, family law and discrimination law. Recently elected as an MBA delegate to the American Bar Association, Kazarosian has served on numerous committees and councils, including the Joint Bar Committee on Judicial Nominations and, most recently, the Supreme Judicial Court's Access to Justice Commission Committee on the Bar Examination. In addition, Kazarosian is a life fellow and trustee of the Massachusetts Bar Foundation, the philanthropic partner of the MBA. A past president of the

Essex County Bar Association and the Massachusetts Academy of Trial Attorneys, Kazarosian was among the "Top Women in the Law" celebrated by *Massachusetts Lawyers Weekly* in 2011. In 1999, *Massachusetts Lawyers Weekly* named her one of the top 10 lawyers in the commonwealth. Kazarosian is a Massachusetts Continuing Legal Education trustee and is admitted in both Massachusetts and New Hampshire. Kazarosian teaches continuing legal education for attorneys and is AV rated by Martindale-Hubbell. A Haverhill resident, Kazarosian is a corporator of the Pentucket Five Cents Savings Bank and was a member of the Essex County 150th Anniversary Committee. Kazarosian has also served as a board member of the Northern Essex Community College Foundation.

Robert W. Harnais, treasurer



Harnais is with Harnais Law Office in Quincy, where his general practice concentrates on criminal law, family law, real estate, labor and consumer law. A past MBA secretary and vice president, Harnais has volunteered his service to the association for many years. The chair of the MBA's Diversity Task Force, Harnais has sat on the MBA's governing body — House of Delegates — since 2006 and has been a member of the MBA's Executive Management Board. A past president of both the Massachusetts Association of Hispanic Attorneys and the National Hispanic Bar Association, Harnais remains highly involved with both organizations. As a member of the Norfolk County Bar Association, he has served on the Race and Ethnic Advisory Board for the Massachusetts courts since 2007. Harnais received his B.A. from the University of Massachusetts Boston and graduated from New England Law | Boston. Harnais lives in Braintree and is chairman of the Braintree Planning Board. He is a football official and former coach with Braintree Pop Warner.

Martha Rush O'Mara, vice president



Rush O'Mara operates the Law Office of Martha Rush O'Mara, where she has focused her practice in children's law for more than 20 years. A past co-chair of the MBA's Juvenile & Child Welfare Law Section, Rush O'Mara was also an MBA designee on the board of the Massachusetts Legal Assistance Corporation and sits on the association's Executive Management Board, Governance Committee and co-chairs the Membership Committee. A former president of the Massachusetts Association of Women Lawyers, Rush O'Mara previously served on the Massachusetts Interest on Lawyers' Trust Account

Committee. Rush O'Mara volunteers in the Massachusetts legal community, conducting pro bono work and mentoring recent law school graduates. She received her B.S. from Salem State College and went on to earn her law degree from New England Law | Boston. Rush O'Mara lives in Melrose.

Christopher P. Sullivan, vice president



Sullivan is a partner at Robins, Kaplan, Miller & Ciresi LLP in Boston, where he concentrates on civil jury trials in complex litigation matters, including financial and securities cases and intellectual property matters. Sullivan is a co-chair of the MBA's Membership Committee and has served as an MBA member-at-large of the House of Delegates and as a member of the MBA's Executive Management Board. Sullivan also sat on the MBA's Civil Litigation Section Council and served as tri-chair of the Federal Practices and Procedures Committee. In addition, Sullivan has served as an instructor at National Institute of Trial Advocacy programs and as Massachusetts Chapter president of the Federal Bar Association. As an accomplished trial lawyer, Sullivan has been named a New England "Super Lawyer" by *Super Lawyers* every year since 2004. Sullivan graduated from the College of the Holy Cross in Worcester and is currently an executive board member of the Holy Cross Lawyers Association. He went on to receive his J.D. from Fordham University Law School and is New England Chapter vice president of the Fordham University Law School Alumni Association. Sullivan is a Hingham resident.

Sullivan is a Hingham resident.

Christopher A. Kenney, secretary



Kenney is a founding member and managing shareholder of Kenney & Sams PC. He has tried cases before every level of the state and federal trial court system in Massachusetts and has served as an appellate advocate before the Massachusetts Appellate Division, Massachusetts Appeals Court, Massachusetts Supreme Judicial Court and the United States Court of Appeals for the First Circuit. Chair of the MBA's Consumer Advocacy Committee and a member of the MBA's Executive Management Board, Membership Committee and House of Delegates, Kenney is also a former chair of the MBA's

Civil Litigation Section. In addition to his work with the MBA, Kenney is a former president of the Massachusetts Defense Lawyers Association, former co-president of the Massachusetts Chapter of the Federal Bar Association and former president of the Boston Inn of Court. The Massachusetts Defense Lawyers Association named Kenney the 2012 "Massachusetts Defense Lawyer of the Year." Kenney has served as adjunct faculty at Boston University School of Law and frequently writes and lectures for business groups, trade associations and bar associations. Boston University School of Law honored Kenney in 2012 with the Silver Shingle Award for outstanding service to the school. Kenney earned his B.A. from the College of the Holy Cross and his law degree from Boston University School of Law. Kenney lives in Sudbury.

Martin W. Healy, chief legal counsel and chief operating officer



Healy serves as the Massachusetts Bar Association's chief legal advisor as well as a liaison to the legislative, executive and judicial branches. Healy is responsible for providing legal advice in corporate matters and legal support in issues of public policy concerning the practice of law and the administration of justice. In addition, he serves as counsel to the MBA leadership team and its House of Delegates and Executive Management Board. In his capacity as a registered legislative and executive agent, Healy works with the MBA's sections and committees in analyzing legislation, drafting bills and testifying before legislative committees. Healy also serves as executive secretary to the

Joint Bar Committee on Judicial Appointments. A long-term member of the *Massachusetts Lawyers Weekly* Editorial Board, Healy is a regular contributing columnist of the publication, writing the feature "Healy on the Hill." He has served as a hearing committee member with the Board of Bar Overseers, a volunteer juvenile law attorney with the Committee for Public Counsel Services Youth Advocacy Project and an adjunct professor at Suffolk University in its Masters in Criminal Justice Program. Healy previously served as a Commonwealth of Massachusetts bar examiner. Prior to joining the MBA staff, Healy worked in the Suffolk County District Attorney's Office Appellate Division and as a legislative aide in the Massachusetts Senate. He resides in Wilmington.

BAR NEWS

Summer Social

MBA members network on the Boston waterfront

The Massachusetts Bar Association hosted the final session of its *free* Summer Networking Series on Thursday, Aug. 8, at Tia's on the Boston waterfront. More than 100 members of the legal community attended the event.

Mark your calendars. The next MBA networking session is the 2013-14 "Welcome Back" Member Reception, scheduled for Thursday, Sept. 19, from 6 to 7:30 p.m. R.S.V.P. at www.massbar.org/welcomeback. ■



(From left) MBA Law Practice Management Vice Chair Damian Turco, Jared A. Fiore, MBA Vice President Christopher Sullivan, MBA President Douglas Sheff, Edward M. McNulty and Daniel Michael Lopez



Sole Practitioner & Small Firm Chair Scott Goldberg and former Young Lawyer Division Chair Scott Heidorn



(From left) Raphoella Poteau and Mackline Bastien



MBA President Douglas Sheff (third from right) mingles with fellow MBA members



(From left) William M. Beaudoin, George H. McKenna, Peter Towne and Mark McKenna



(From left) Michelle Skrobacz, Kristyne Bowman and Jason Paul Sinclair



(From left) Young Lawyers Division Board Member Michael Molloy, Young Lawyers Division Board Member Michael Moloney, Young Lawyers Division Board Member Todd Torres, Young Lawyers Division Chair-elect Courtney Shea and Sole Practitioner & Small Firm Section Council Member Gil Schipani

FOR YOUR PRACTICE

Volunteer to build credibility – and your business

BY DAMIAN J. TURCO



Damian J. Turco

“That attorney really knows his/her stuff.” Isn’t that what we want our clients, colleagues and referral sources to think about us? There’s a lot that goes into people’s

perceptions of us and our practices, but there is one tried and true way to improve our image: volunteer.

Wait! Hear me out, and consider this proposition. If I told you that by devoting about two hours a month to interact with like-minded colleagues and brainstorm, plan and/or help others with simple legal issues, you would gain credibility, establish an interesting conversation starter for all future networking opportunities and position yourself as a leader in the community, wouldn’t you be interested?

We are all familiar with the commonly cited rationales for avoiding volunteerism: “There’s not enough time,” “My firm doesn’t let me participate in those things,” or “I’m too new to provide any meaningful contribution.” Hogwash. The truth is, volunteering is easy. Volunteerism can be an efficient way to build credibility and, accordingly, build business.

It doesn’t take that much of your time for you make a meaningful impact. The majority of the most involved attorneys volunteer one evening a month for nine months out of the year. If you take on a more ambitious project, like chairing a CLE, you’ll spend more time on the project, but the responsibility will conclude after the date of the presenta-

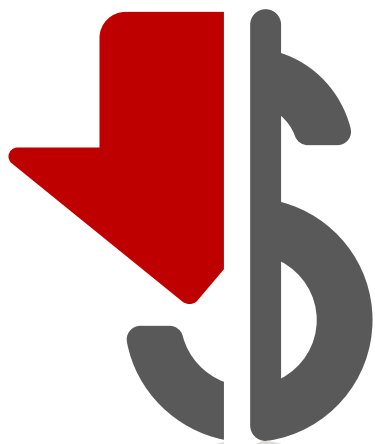
tion. Too much? Write an article or sign up for the Dial-A-Lawyer program. The most important attribute in a good volunteer is the willingness to help others. You already have that — you’re an attorney. Regardless of your limitations, the organization for which you seek to volunteer will welcome you with open arms, readily tailoring a role to match your interest and time contribution.

If I have I convinced you to give it a try, consider volunteering for our Law Student Mock Interview Program, which will be piloted next month with Suffolk University Law School. Fellow LPM Section Council Member Susan Letterman-White and I are chairing this impactful new program. Participating law students and recent grads will get valuable practice interviewing for employment, while we grow the MBA’s relationship with both prospective members and the law schools. It’s a great program and a great opportunity for you to get involved with minimal time contribution.

Volunteers will devote a total of 30-45 minutes conducting a mock interview and giving feedback. The interviewee will come to your office, and we’ll give you an interview outline as a guide. All interviews will be conducted the second half of September; you will set the interview time and date within that parameter. Interested? E-mail me at dturco@massinjuryfirm.com, or call me at (617) 657-4878, and we’ll get you signed up.

If not, try something else. Get involved and build your business! ■

.....
Damian J. Turco is an attorney licensed in Massachusetts and Florida and the owner of Mass Injury Firm. He serves as the vice chair of the MBA’s Law Practice Management Section Council, is a member of the Boston Inns of Court and practices primarily in Boston.



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