MBA to provide professionalism course for new attorneys

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 provide 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. Kazarian said. “It is important to the MBA to participate in the excellence of our practicing attorneys.”

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 offenders 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 in Juvenile Court practice for delinquency and youthful offender cases.

Seventeen-year-olds will not be allowed in adult prison or parole.
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 interior panels to transform the façade into one that resembled an upscale eatery, and they added new entrances.

Last month MBA President Douglas K. Sheff promoted the positive image of lawyers during a guest appearance on WZL Radio’s “NightSide with Dan Rea.”

The Equalizer filming of headquarters was remade to look like a Russian restaurant for the exterior of the Massachusetts Bar Association’s Boston headquarters. The transformation took place over the course of several days before and after Labor Day. The film crew used interior panels to transform the façade into one that resembled an upscale eatery, and they added new entrances. The temporary transformation culminated with fake police cars, a Lamborghini and dozens of members who followed.

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 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 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.

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West Street to Hollywood Boulevard

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Readers are invited to express their opinions as letters to the editor and op-ed commentaries. All submissions are subject to editing for length and content. Send letters and editorials to: Editor, Lawyers Journal, Massachusetts Bar Association, 20 West St., Boston, MA 02111-1204. Telephone numbers: editorial (617) 338-0680; business development (617) 338-0500. U.S. subscriptions to non-members are $30. Single copies are $3.
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, academia, 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, 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 consumer. 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.
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 dissent 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 apponts new public information officer

The Justices of the Supreme Judicial Court have announced Jennifer Donahue as the court’s new public information officer. Donahue succeeded Joan Kenney 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 covered the Massachusetts courts. She began 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 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.
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 Clerk’s 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 incourt 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

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.

Continued from page 1

JUVENILE JUSTICE BILL

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 housing 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, jurisdiction will be expanded to allow the court to process those cases up to the child’s 20th birthday.

The mandatory commitment to DYS 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 DYS.

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.
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 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 re- vived 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 informa- tion, 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.

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 Mas- sachusetts alone … the legal commu- nity is giving back over 1,000 years of free legal service to our under-privileged, 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 top- ics 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 initia- tives, 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 pub- lic’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 “Night- Side” 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.”
MBA BENEFITS AND UPCOMING EVENTS

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• Each circle includes eight to 12 attorneys of various levels of expertise (with two to three senior attorneys and five to eight attorneys who have practiced for 10 years or less)
• Arranged by county
• Scheduled to meet a minimum of four times a year
• Offers invaluable resources, networking tools and professional growth

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

Not in a circle? Register online at www.MassBar.org/MentorCircles.
Join today and participate in this unique mentoring program.

YOU Belong here*
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 Work- place 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 forwarded 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 or how to relate to a client’s family,” he says. “He has to have every corner you wouldn’t even have to ask for it. If he’s representing you, he’s the kind of person you want.”

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 always was 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. Kazaroosian with pun intended. “He’s very much like, yet still very different from, his father. Both are superb lawyers, but they have different styles.”

Kazaroosian 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.” Kazaroosian 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 across 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...
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 "Billy" 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 MADERER, WALL STREET JOURNAL, AUG. 2

Maderer, 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. Maderer 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.”

Religious headwear during bar exam

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

MBA MEMBER KELLY MURPHY, WGBH, AUG. 13

Murphy appeared on ABC40 in Springfield, after Imam Abdulrazak’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.

When available, some clips—including audio/video—can be found on our website at www.mlb.org.
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Attorney Glynn has been designated as a neutral for both nonbinding mediation and arbitration; he has successfully managed these matters, either resolving/settling cases in mediation or rendering fair/equitable decisions at arbitration.

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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.

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.

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.”

BAR NEWS

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EXPERTS & RESOURCES

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Member Spotlights

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

John J. Carroll Jr. has been named the 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.

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.
MEMBER SPOTLIGHT
Continued from page 11

MBA Past President Squillante joins Court Management Advisory Board

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 long-time 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, Joel & Suggs LLC
- Elaine M. Epstein, Todd & Weld LLP
- Grace V. B. Garcia, Morrison Mahoney LLP
- Monica Halas, Greater Boston Legal Services
- Andrea C. Kramer, Hirsh, 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

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

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 cel- ebrate 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 (JVC) 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 Worces- ter. This year marked the first time that the Worcester program featured students from public, private and charter schools, said attor- ney James Rosseel, who led the Worcester program.

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

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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 directly by the MBF and also through contributions to its IOLTA grants program. The MBF’s IOLTA grants program 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 changes to Massachusetts emergency shelter eligibility guidelines, the MBF provided a one-time grant to MLRI to use the MBF grant funds to direct its support to this need.

MBF President Jerry Cohen, “we are proud to provide timely assistance to those in need,” said Cohen.

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 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 Sammy 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 SCJ 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 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.
Legal Trends Conference
Monday, Sept. 16, 7:30–11:30 a.m., Omni Parker House, 60 School St., Boston

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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 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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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 Wysoki Award. Sheff has also been recognized by the publication Law360 for preventing injury through aggressive representation of victims of defective products, and as a Boston magazine “Super Lawyer.”

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 and Children’s Rights Committee, 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 Lawyer 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 executive committee member of the 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 1990 and currently serves as an executive committee 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.

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 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 column, “Taking the Hill.” Healy is a former member of 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 Law School 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.
Volunteer to build credibility – and your business

BY 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 to 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 presentation. 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 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 Bar Association’s Law Student Mock Interview Program and practices primarily in Boston.
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