

# NEWS



MASSACHUSETTS  
BAR ASSOCIATION

## FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

Nov. 13, 2006

## CONTACT

Tricia M. Oliver:

(617) 338-0677 / (617) 584-8009

### **LEADING VOICES FROM THE BAR, JUDICIARY AND MEDIA FEATURED AT THE MASSACHUSETTS BAR ASSOCIATION BENCH-BAR SYMPOSIUM ON NOV. 30**

BOSTON, Mass. — The Massachusetts Bar Association will debut its Bench-Bar Symposium at the John Adams Courthouse on Thursday, Nov. 30, beginning at 2 p.m. Supreme Judicial Court Chief Justice Margaret H. Marshall will deliver an Annual Address to the Legal Community, which will be followed by a “Supporting and Protecting the Independence of the Judiciary” panel discussion featuring leading representatives from the bar, judiciary and media.

The symposium is a maturation of the bench-bar forums traditionally presented each spring at the MBA’s Annual Conference. Chief Justice Marshall typically delivered a keynote address at the MBA conference.

The address will lead into a provocative panel discussion on the topic of judicial independence, offering diverse viewpoints on measures to preserve a fair and impartial judiciary. The panel will be moderated by nationally recognized communications strategist Edward H. Lazarus. Panelists representing the judiciary include Hon. Phillip Rapoza, Chief Justice of the Massachusetts Appeals Court, and Hon. Janet L. Sanders of the Massachusetts Superior Court. The perspective from the bar will be offered by Martin W. Healy, general counsel of the Massachusetts Bar Association; Edward P. Ryan, MBA past president and chair of the MBA Committee on Judicial Independence; and William K. Weisenberg, member of the American Bar Association Standing Committee on Judicial Independence and assistant executive director for Public Affairs and Government Relations with the Ohio State Bar Association. The media angle will be presented by Paul La Camera, general manager, WBUR, and David L. Yas, publisher and editor-in-chief, *Massachusetts Lawyers Weekly*.

“We look forward to bringing a multidisciplinary group of professionals together to inspire important discussions on a topic that impacts attorneys and judges most profoundly,” said MBA President Mark D Mason, who envisions this program and others being planned for this MBA association year to help “strengthen the ties for the members of the bar to focus on our common goals.”

In addition to the 2 p.m. program, a discussion on current issues in appellate practice will be held at 12:30 p.m. and a cocktail reception, beginning at 5:30 p.m., will conclude the day’s events.

The Nov. 30 Bench-Bar Symposium is free. Interested legal professionals should contact the MBA at [membership@massbar.org](mailto:membership@massbar.org) or (617) 338-0530.

*Incorporated in 1911, the Massachusetts Bar Association is a non-profit organization that serves the legal profession and the public by promoting the administration of justice, legal education, professional excellence and respect for the law. The MBA represents a diverse group of attorneys, judges and legal professionals across the commonwealth.*