

# NEWS



MASSACHUSETTS  
BAR ASSOCIATION

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:**

Feb. 16, 2007

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## **MASSACHUSETTS BAR ASSOCIATION ANNOUNCES ACCESS TO JUSTICE AWARD RECIPIENTS**

BOSTON, Mass.—The Massachusetts Bar Association will present its annual **Access to Justice Awards** during its upcoming Annual Conference on Friday, March 2. The awards – which recognize the public service contributions of Massachusetts attorneys and the pro bono efforts and achievements of MBA members – will be presented at the annual **Access to Justice Luncheon** on March 2 at 12:30 p.m. at the Marriott Copley Place Hotel in Boston. Recipients are chosen based on nominations from their peers. Below are descriptions of each of the five awards and brief highlights about the recipients:

The **Legal Services Award** is presented to an attorney employed by a public or nonprofit agency to provide civil legal services to low-income clients who has made a particularly significant or meaningful contribution to the provision of low-income legal services, above and beyond the requirements or his or her position. This year's award will be given to two attorneys: **Robert A. Sable**, executive director of Greater Boston Legal Services for 15 years, and **Richard McMahon**, executive director of the New Center for Legal Advocacy in Bristol County. Sable and McMahon have dedicated their entire careers to legal services, together combining for more than 60 years of service.

The **Pro Bono Award for Law Firms** is awarded to a law firm of two or more attorneys, with one or more offices in the commonwealth, whose pro bono activities are particularly noteworthy in relation to the firm's size. The recipient is a firm that has performed significant or meaningful pro bono activity or has been particularly instrumental in developing, implementing and/or supporting a pro bono program or pro bono services within Massachusetts. Boston law firm **Weil, Gotshal & Manges LLP** will receive the Pro Bono Award for Law Firms. Located in Boston for only five years and beginning with just 17 attorneys, **Weil, Gotshal & Manges LLP** has expanded to 35 attorneys, with each attorney's annual pro bono involvement averaging more than 50 hours per year.

The **Pro Bono Publico Award** is given to an individual who has been instrumental in developing, implementing and supporting pro bono programs for the Massachusetts Bar Association, a local county bar association, or a pro bono program of a law firm, or has developed a pro bono program sponsored or organized through an agency in the commonwealth, or has performed significant or meaningful pro bono activity. This year's recipient is **S. Stephen Rosenfeld** who – aside from his most well-known position as chief of staff to Governor Dukakis – has established a career in private practice, public service and teaching and has advocated tirelessly for individuals' rights to adequate health care.

The **Defender Award** is given to an attorney who is employed or retained by a public or nonprofit

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agency to provide criminal legal services to low-income clients, and who has made a particularly significant or meaningful contribution to the provision of low-income legal services above and beyond the requirements of his or her position. This year's recipient is **Wendy Wolf**. A public defender in Cambridge, Boston and Dedham for more than 20 years, she has spent much of the last decade representing juveniles. For the past four years, Wolf has also formed and administered the Juvenile Defense Network, which provides support for lawyers in juvenile courts across the state.

Finally, the **Prosecutor Award** is given to a state or federal prosecutor who has distinguished himself or herself in public service and whose commitment to justice and serving the communities where he or she lives or works is particularly praiseworthy. Attorney **Raymond P. Veary Jr.** will be recognized for his work at the Bristol County District Attorney's Office, particularly in the homicide unit.

For information on the Access to Justice Luncheon, visit [www.massbar.org](http://www.massbar.org). Those interested in purchasing tickets for the luncheon should call (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.*