

NEWS



MASSACHUSETTS
BAR | ASSOCIATION

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**MBA HONORED FOR ITS WORK TO FUND AND PROVIDE
LEGAL SERVICES TO THE POOR IN MASSACHUSETTS**

BOSTON, Mass. — The Massachusetts Bar Association’s tireless efforts and long-standing commitment to finance and offer legal services to the poor is being recognized with the 2007 Harrison Tweed Award.

The prestigious honor applauds the MBA and the Boston Bar Association for their joint effort to expand the Massachusetts Equal Justice Coalition and secure funding for the Massachusetts Legal Assistance Corporation. The bars have also encouraged the Committee for Public Counsel Services to establish and maintain quality controls of indigent defense services, and advocated for adequate compensation for public defenders and assigned counsel.

“The award demonstrates the power and synergy in coalitions such as the EJC. Without the dedication and commitment of the BBA and the nearly 200 members of the EJC, our voice would be singular. Together, we have made a difference and we will continue to strive to ensure equal access to justice for all,” said MBA President Mark D Mason, who will accept the award on behalf of the MBA.

MLAC nominated the bars because their commitment has positively affected the lives of individuals and families who would have no other recourse for basic human needs such as health and housing.

“We are deeply grateful that the fundamental American value of justice is kept alive in Massachusetts through the dedication of both the Massachusetts and Boston Bar associations,” said Lonnie Powers, MLAC executive director. “They truly deserve this prestigious honor.”

The bars will receive the award during the ABA Annual Meeting in San Francisco Aug. 10 at a luncheon of the National Conference of Bar Presidents, National Association of Bar Executives and National Conference of Bar Foundations.

Created in 1956, the Harrison Tweed Award recognizes state and local bar associations that develop or expand projects or programs to increase access to civil legal services or criminal defense services.

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.