

# NEWS



MASSACHUSETTS  
BAR ASSOCIATION

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:**

July 18, 2007

**CONTACT:**

Jennifer Rosinski: (617) 338-0675

Tricia M. Oliver: (617) 338-0677

**THE MBA MAKES A CALL FOR ACTION:  
RESTORE FUNDING TO THE TRIAL AND APPEALS COURTS**

BOSTON, Mass. — The Massachusetts Bar Association is urging its members and the public to contact their legislators immediately and ask they vote to override a few of Gov. Deval Patrick’s line item vetoes, which include a total of \$11.87 million in cuts from the fiscal 2008 budgets for the Trial and Appeals courts.

“As a community, we are all affected by the fair administration of justice. Gov. Patrick’s veto will result in the layoffs of hundreds of court employees as well as the elimination of critical programs and services,” MBA President Mark D Mason said. “We call upon our members and the public to ensure access to our courts and urge you to contact your legislators immediately.”

Court reporters, security officers, interpreters and legal guardians are among the employees who could be let go if funding is not restored to the budget Patrick signed July 12. The MBA is concerned fewer employees will mean an increase in the case backlog, a reduction of court sessions and a greater risk to courthouse safety.

The MBA recognizes the economic strain facing the commonwealth, but also knows the value of a fully functioning justice system and will continue to fight for it.

Your representative’s phone number can be found:

<http://www.mass.gov/legis/memmenuh.htm>

Your senator’s phone number can be found:

<http://www.mass.gov/legis/memmenus.htm>

If you are not sure who your legislators are, you can find out here:

<http://www.wheredoivotema.com/bal/myelectioninfo.php>

*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.*