

MBA NEWS



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MASSACHUSETTS BAR ASSOCIATION PRESIDENT ASKS FOR SENTENCING REFORMS AT STATEHOUSE HEARING

BOSTON, Mass. — Massachusetts Bar Association President David W. White Jr. asked for the repeal of mandatory minimums for non-violent drug crimes and an increase in both parole opportunities and treatment programs when he testified before the Joint Committee on the Judiciary at the Statehouse yesterday.

“Massachusetts is a leader in so many ways; it should be a leader in the field of corrections,” White said. “Crime rates have not been reduced, the number of men and women behind bars continues to rise, we are desperately over capacity, and we are spending a fortune on this failed system.”

White was joined by Boston Bar Association President Tony Doniger and Massachusetts Correctional Legal Services Executive Director Leslie Walker. The Joint Committee on the Judiciary heard testimony regarding bills asking for reform of the state’s sentencing system.

Current sentencing practices have resulted in a budget approaching \$1 billion, more than 25,000 incarcerated residents and less money for programs that include drug treatment and work training, White said during his testimony.

In addition to advocating for education and training programs, White asked for amending or abolishing the school zone statute that results in harsher punishments for drug arrests close to schools.

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.