

MBA NEWS



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MASSACHUSETTS BAR ASSOCIATION AND AMNESTY INTERNATIONAL TO HOLD PANEL, VIGIL TO MARK GUANTANAMO ANNIVERSARY

BOSTON, Mass. — The Massachusetts Bar Association, in collaboration with Amnesty International USA, will mark the six-year anniversary of detainees being taken into custody at Guantanamo Bay with “Guantanamo and the Rule of Law: Six Years Later” on Wednesday, Jan. 9, 2008.

A panel discussion will provide up-to-date information on the status of cases at Guantanamo and feature dedicated attorneys representing detainees. The panel will begin at 4 p.m. at the MBA’s headquarters, at 20 West St. in Boston.

“It is critical that we mark this somber anniversary by reminding the legal community of the important work being done by our colleagues to represent and ensure the full rights of detainees,” MBA Executive Director Marilyn J. Wellington said. “The Massachusetts Bar Association is proud to partner with Amnesty International to bring continued attention to these important cases.”

The panel will be moderated by Kevin G. Powers, Esq., of Rogers, Powers and Schwartz in Boston, and chairman of the MBA’s Individual Rights and Responsibilities Section Council. Panelists include Ellen Lubell, Esq., of Tennant Lubell in Newton and Steven Oleskey, Esq., of WilmerHale in Boston.

“The U. S. detention center at Guantanamo Bay, Cuba, embodies the underside of the so-called ‘War on Terror.’ Holding people without charge or trial and providing inadequate proceedings to review their detention, undermine the rule of law and the fundamental principles of our democracy,” said Joshua Rubenstein, Northeast Regional director of Amnesty International USA. “In a post-Sept. 11 world, where the challenge of terrorism meets the necessity of preserving human rights, we must not back down from defending our values and beliefs.”

Following the panel, a vigil will be held near the Park Street T station in Boston to keep public attention on this important issue.

For more information, contact AIUSA at (617) 623-0202, ext. 10.

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.