

MBA NEWS



20 West Street, Boston, MA 02111-1204 • communications@massbar.org

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

Oct. 16, 2007

CONTACT:

Jennifer Rosinski (617) 338-0675

Tricia M. Oliver (617) 338-0677

MASSACHUSETTS BAR ASSOCIATION SUPPORTS MASSACHUSETTS ACCESS TO JUSTICE COMMISSION REPORT

BOSTON, Mass. — The Massachusetts Bar Association applauds the release today of the Massachusetts Access to Justice Commission Report, which includes 45 recommendations to the Supreme Judicial Court that aim to improve the quality of justice available to low-income residents.

“The Access to Justice Commission has done a remarkable job of identifying impediments to justice which unfortunately still persist in our legal system. This report clearly documents so many of the problems facing unrepresented litigants. The report is valuable because it makes clear recommendations on long-needed reforms,” said MBA President David W. White Jr.

Among its recommendations, the commission asks that advocates who are not attorneys be allowed to speak in court on behalf of low-income individuals in eviction and domestic violence cases.

“The Massachusetts Bar Association looks forward to working with the Access to Justice Commission, the courts and the Legislature. We will continue our advocacy for increased funding to provide legal assistance for citizens who cannot afford a lawyer,” White said.

To review the full report, visit the MBA Web site at www.massbar.org.

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.