

MBA NEWS



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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

Sept. 7, 2007

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FITCHBURG ATTORNEY, WALPOLE RESIDENT PRESENTED MBA GOLD MEDAL FOR DEFENDING JUDICIAL INDEPENDENCE

BOSTON, Mass. — In recognition of consistent, strong advocacy for the judiciary and ongoing defense of the importance of judicial independence in Massachusetts, Edward P. Ryan Jr. was honored with the Massachusetts Bar Association's Gold Medal Award on Sept. 6. The award presentation was part of the MBA President's Reception that officially welcomed the new MBA President David W. White Jr.

White, who took office Sept. 1 for the 2007-08 association year, nominated Ryan for the award. The MBA Executive Management Board unanimously supported the nomination. According to White, Ryan has been a prominent and leading voice on behalf of the MBA in support of judicial independence for several years.

"This is a medal that is given occasionally and then only for special circumstances," said White, a principal at Breakstone, White & Gluck PC in Boston. "I can think of no one else who better deserves this honor for his unyielding defense of our judiciary and profession."

Ryan is a past president of the MBA, chair of the MBA Committee on Judicial Independence and a member of the association's Criminal Justice Section Council. He has also served the MBA as vice president, treasurer, secretary, delegate-at-large and regional delegate. Ryan is a former president of the Worcester County Bar Association, Northern Worcester County Bar Association and Bar Advocates of Worcester County Inc. He sits on the Board of Editors at *Massachusetts Lawyers Weekly* and is a trustee of the Social Law Library in Boston.

A former assistant district attorney in Worcester County, Ryan is now managing partner at O'Connor and Ryan PC. A criminal defense attorney in state and federal courts, he also concentrates in family law, civil litigation, labor and employment and union representation. Ryan earned his law degree in 1976 from Suffolk University Law School in Boston and a Bachelor of Arts degree in 1972 from Wheeling Jesuit University in West Virginia.

The Gold Medal Award is the MBA's highest award, bestowed upon individuals who have provided outstanding legal services that have benefited the legal profession in Massachusetts. It was been awarded 21 times since 1958 and was presented last year to Michael S. Greco, former president of both the MBA and the American Bar Association.

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.