

# MBA NEWS



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## **Holliston resident, Boston attorney elected president-elect of Massachusetts Bar Association**

Holliston resident and Boston attorney Valerie A. Yarashus has been elected president-elect of the Massachusetts Bar Association for the 2008-09 year, beginning on Sept. 1. Yarashus is a founding partner of Yarashus, Wagner, Cook, Freiburger & Washienko LLC in Boston, where she concentrates in plaintiff's trial practice and a wide variety of other general liability cases.

As the association's current treasurer, Yarashus is chair of the MBA's Budget and Finance Committee. An active leader in the MBA, Yarashus spearheaded the MBA Task Force on Diversity in 2005 and co-chairs the MBA's recently established monthly Leadership Roundtables. She continues to co-chair this committee, which works to increase diversity in the law profession and encourage young, minority students to consider legal careers. She is also a past chair of the Health Law Section and a former member of the Civil Litigation Section Council. In addition, Yarashus is a frequent speaker and writer for continuing legal education programs and co-chair of a special bench-bar task force for plain English jury instructions.

Yarashus was awarded the prestigious Weidemann Wysocki "Citation of Excellence" from the American Association for Justice for her commitment to the civil justice system. She is also an Oliver Wendell Holmes Life Fellow of the Massachusetts Bar Foundation, and has served on its grant advisory committee. In addition, Yarashus is a past president of the Massachusetts Academy of Trial Attorneys.

In 1997, *Massachusetts Lawyers Weekly* named Yarashus one of the "Rising Stars" in the legal profession. In 2006, she was inducted into the *Massachusetts Lawyers Weekly* Up-and-Coming Lawyers Hall of Fame, which has been awarded to only two other Massachusetts lawyers. Yarashus is a past president of the Massachusetts Academy of Trial Attorneys. She has been listed in every edition of *Best Lawyers in America* since 2004. Yarashus has also been listed by Boston Magazine's "Best of Boston" as a "Super Lawyer" in the field of personal injury every year since 2004, and as one of the top 50 female attorneys in Massachusetts (including every practice area) every year since 2005.

Yarashus obtained her bachelor's degree from George Washington University in 1987 and earned her law degree from Harvard Law School, cum laude, in 1990. She lives with her four children.

Alongside Yarashus, the other 2008-09 MBA officers include: Edward W. McIntyre, president, Clinton; Robert L. Holloway Jr., vice president, Peabody; Denise Squillante, treasurer, Fall River; and Douglas K. Sheff, secretary, Boston.

*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.*

