

# MBA NEWS

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**MASSACHUSETTS BAR ASSOCIATION TO HONOR SPRINGFIELD LAW  
FIRM WITH THE PRO BONO AWARD FOR LAW FIRMS  
FIVE ATTORNEYS AND TWO FIRMS TO BE RECOGNIZED AT ACCESS TO  
JUSTICE AWARDS LUNCHEON MARCH 6**

BOSTON, Mass.—The Massachusetts Bar Association will on March 6 bestow the Pro Bono Award for Law Firms to Heisler, Feldman, McCormick and Garrow PC in Springfield for a its commitment to providing legal services to the poor, including a unique billing set-up that does not charge a fee and only accepts rewards in successful cases.

“Heisler, Feldman, McCormick and Garrow is an extraordinary group of attorneys who provide vital services in a way that opens the door to the legal system for those often shut out,” said Access to Justice Section Chair Ellen J. Zucker, a partner at Burns & Levinson LLP in Boston. “The firm goes further, with its attorneys engaging in meaningful pro bono work representing indigent clients as they navigate crises in housing and other basic needs. We are pleased to honor their work.”

The MBA is dedicating the noon luncheon to the late Nancy King, former executive director of South Middlesex Legal Services in Framingham, who will also receive the Lifetime Achievement Award posthumously. In total, five attorneys and two firms will be honored for their extraordinary efforts in providing free legal services to the public.

The event is being held at the John F. Kennedy Library and Museum in Boston and will feature a keynote address from State Rep. Byron Rushing (D-Boston).

Heisler, Feldman is a firm comprised of four attorneys and a fellow that has developed a unique method of client representation combined with an extraordinary amount of pro bono work. The law firm does not charge clients a fee for representation up front – it collects any fees it receives from successfully prosecuting civil litigation, primarily in the areas of housing, employment and civil rights.

The law firm has worked with the Women’s Bar Association and the Massachusetts Justice Project’s housing court initiative to organize and staff the Springfield Housing Court’s Lawyer of the Day program to help reduce the number of unrepresented tenants facing eviction. The firm has provided over 50 days of court service through this project alone.

Heisler, Feldman partner Joel Feldman has developed a program to represent tenants in central and western Massachusetts facing eviction as part of the foreclosure process. Feldman has also created a –

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program to teach other attorneys in Hampden County how to represent clients in foreclosure cases.

The firm also has a full-time fellowship program called the Civil Rights Fellowship Program. Underwritten by the firm, the program in its fourth year trains fellows in client advocacy.

The MBA's Access to Justice to Section nominates the candidates, who are then approved by the MBA House of Delegates. The Pro Bono Award for Law Firms is given to a law firm, comprised of two or more attorneys with one or more offices in the commonwealth, whose pro bono activities are particularly noteworthy in relation to the firm's size and which has performed significant or meaningful pro bono activity or which has been particularly instrumental in developing, implementing and/or supporting a pro bono program or pro bono services within Massachusetts.

"The Access to Justice Awards Luncheon highlights the true stars of the legal profession: lawyers who tackle often challenging cases for the public good without compensation. These honorees show us what it means to be a good attorney, and we should all strive to emulate them," MBA President David W. White Jr. said.

"This year's ceremony is special because it pays tribute to legal services luminary Nancy King, who is greatly respected and admired for her role as a selfless advocate for the delivery of legal services to the poor," White added.

**The full list of honorees:**

- **Legal Services Award**, Faye Rachlin, Legal Assistance Corporation of Central Massachusetts., Worcester
- **Lifetime Achievement Award**, Nancy King, former executive director of South Middlesex Legal Services, Framingham
- **Pro Bono Award for Law Firms**, Heisler, Feldman, McCormick and Garrow PC, Springfield; Nutter McClennen & Fish LLP, Boston
- **Pro Bono Publico Award**, Thomas A. Manning, Worcester
- **Defender Award**, Erica E. Cushna, CPCS, Springfield
- **Prosecutor Award**, J. Thomas Kirkman, District Attorney's Office, Barnstable

*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.*