

MBA NEWS

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**MASSACHUSETTS BAR ASSOCIATION TO HONOR CAPE & ISLANDS
ASSISTANT DISTRICT ATTORNEY WITH PROSECUTOR AWARD
LAWYER ONE OF SEVERAL TO BE RECOGNIZED AT ACCESS TO JUSTICE
AWARDS LUNCHEON MARCH 6**

BOSTON, Mass.—The Massachusetts Bar Association will on March 6 bestow the Prosecutor Award to Cape & Islands Assistant District Attorney J. Thomas Kirkman for his work as an advocate for the indigent as well as victims of domestic violence.

“Tom Kirkman’s work in the district attorney’s office is an example to us all,” said Access to Justice Section Chair Ellen J. Zucker, a partner at Burns & Levinson LLP in Boston. “He is known for his sharp legal work, his compassion and his deep and real commitment to those who often lack a voice in our legal system: the indigent and those who are victims of domestic violence. We applaud his work and are proud to honor what he does daily to serve the people of Massachusetts.”

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).

A long time MBA member and contributor, Kirkman became director of the Domestic Violence Prosecution Unit of the Cape and Islands district in 1993. For the past twelve years, Kirkman has been a faculty member of the National College of District Attorneys at the University of South Carolina Law Center and the American Prosecutor’s Research Institute in Arlington, VA.

He is currently on the Domestic Violence Task Team of the Cape Cod Council of Churches, has served on the education and prevention sub-committee of the Massachusetts Commission on Sexual Assault and Domestic Violence and is a founder of the Cape and Islands Regional Domestic Violence Council. Kirkman’s research, writing and lectures on stalking and threat assessment were recognized in 2002 with the Stephen L. Von Reisen Lecturer of Merit from the National College of District Attorneys.

The MBA’s Access to Justice to Section nominates the candidates, who are then approved by the MBA House of Delegates. The Prosecutor Award is given to a state or federal prosecutor who has

distinguished himself or herself in public service and whose commitment to justice and serving the communities where he or she lives or works is particularly praiseworthy.

“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.