

MBA NEWS

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

Feb. 15, 2008

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**MASSACHUSETTS BAR ASSOCIATION TO HONOR WORCESTER
ATTORNEY WITH PRO BONO PUBLICO 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 Pro Bono Publico Award to Worcester attorney Thomas A. Manning for his work both in his private practice and as an advocate for the poor and homeless, including the creation of a “Lawyer for the Day” program in Worcester Probate and Family Court.

“As an attorney in private practice, Tom Manning shows us all how it should be done,” said Access to Justice Section Chair Ellen J. Zucker, a partner at Burns & Levinson LLP in Boston. “He works hard at his practice and devotes significant time, energy and wisdom to pro bono efforts that help the disadvantaged in our system have access to legal assistance. He is the real deal. We are fortunate to have him doing what he does, and glad to honor his 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).

The creator of the “Lawyer for the Day” program, which provides assistance to individuals representing themselves, Manning is among several attorneys who offer citizens legal help with drafting paperwork or by explaining legal proceedings.

Manning visits area shelters to provide legal advice to the shelter’s homeless clients in a non-threatening environment as part of the WCBA Committee on Services to the Poor and Homeless, of which Manning is co-chair.

As chair of the Saint Thomas More Society of Worcester Manning has increased involvement and expanded the activities of the Worcester chapter to include raising funds for the Central Massachusetts Housing Alliance through its Walk for the Homeless. He is also co-chair of the WCA Lawyer Emergency Assistance Program, a past member of the WCBA Executive Committee.

The MBA's Access to Justice to Section nominates the candidates, who are then approved by the MBA House of Delegates. The Pro Bono Publico Award is given to an individual who has been instrumental in developing, implementing and supporting pro bono programs for the MBA or for a local county bar association; or a pro bono program of a law firm, or has developed a pro bono program sponsored or organized through an agency in the commonwealth or has performed significant or meaningful pro bono activity.

"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.