

MBA NEWS

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MASSACHUSETTS BAR ASSOCIATION TO HONOR WORCESTER LAWYER WITH LEGAL SERVICES AWARD

**LEGAL ADVOCATE ONE OF SEVERAL LAWYERS TO BE RECOGNIZED AT
ACCESS TO JUSTICE AWARDS LUNCHEON MARCH 6**

BOSTON, Mass.—The Massachusetts Bar Association will on March 6 bestow the Legal Services Award to Faye Rachlin, a lawyer with Legal Assistance Corporation of Central Massachusetts in Worcester, for her work over the past 22 as an advocate for the indigent, including assisting tenants struggling with mental illness and addiction with gaining access to clinicians and other social services.

“Faye Rachlin is known for her thoughtful work, her ability to build bridges among diverse constituencies and to get work done and done well. She personifies the spirit of the Massachusetts bar in her stellar work on behalf of those in need,” said Access to Justice Section Chair Ellen J. Zucker, a partner at Burns & Levinson LLP in Boston. “We are all fortunate that she has devoted the better part of two decades to this work and it is pleasure to honor her.”

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).

Rachlin has been a legal advocate for the indigent community for over twenty years. She worked at Western Massachusetts Legal Services for 15 years and in 2000, joined the Legal Assistance Corporation of Central Massachusetts. Rachlin is currently the co-chair of the Worcester County Bar Association’s Housing Court Committee and was previously a member of the Western Massachusetts Housing Court Bench-Bar Committee.

As a member of the Housing Court Committee, Rachlin was instrumental in forming the Tenancy Preservation Program, which matches mentally ill tenants, mentally retarded tenants and tenants with substance abuse problems with clinicians who can help them access needed services. Her goal, through this committee, has been to provide a voice in identifying and resolving problems.

The MBA’s Access to Justice to Section nominates the candidates, who are then approved by the MBA

PAGE 2—MBA to honor Worcester lawyer with Legal Services Award.

House of Delegates. The Legal Services Award is given to an attorney employed by a public or non-profit agency to provide civil legal services to low-income clients, and who has made a particularly significant or meaningful contribution to the provision of low-income legal services, above and beyond the requirements or his or her position.

“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.