

MBA NEWS



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MASSACHUSETTS BAR ASSOCIATION TO HONOR LAWYERS WHO PROVIDE FREE LEGAL ADVICE TO THE PUBLIC

ACCESS TO JUSTICE AWARDS LUNCHEON MARCH 6

BOSTON, Mass.—The Massachusetts Bar Association will honor five attorneys and two law firms at the Access to Justice Awards Luncheon March 6 for their extraordinary efforts in providing free legal services to the public and bestow the Lifetime Achievement Award posthumously to Nancy King, former executive director of South Middlesex Legal Services in Framingham.

The MBA is dedicating the noon luncheon to King, who passed away in December, in honor of her exemplary career. The event will be held at the JFK Library and Museum in Boston and feature a keynote address from State Rep. Byron Rushing (D-Boston).

“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 special 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 MBA’s Access to Justice Section nominates the candidates, who are then approved by the MBA House of Delegates.

“The Access to Justice Awards celebrate the most generous legal professionals across the state,” said Ellen J. Zucker, the MBA Access to Justice Section Chair and a partner at Burns & Levinson LLC in Boston. “The work of this year’s award recipients has profoundly affected the lives of many in this state. We are proud to honor this year’s recipients for their deep commitment to ensuring that all Massachusetts residents have access to and respect in our legal system.”

The full list of Access to Justice Award recipients:

Lifetime Achievement Award

The late Nancy King, South Middlesex Legal Services, Framingham, a trailblazer who fought to

secure legal service for low-income residents and admired for her ability to build bridges among dissention.

Legal Services Award

Faye Rachlin, Legal Assistance Corp., Worcester, a legal advocate for the indigent, assists tenants struggling with mental illness and addiction in gaining access to clinicians and other social services.

Pro Bono Award for Law Firms

Heisler, Feldman, McCormick and Garrow PC, Springfield a firm known for its innovative compensation model, relies on state fee-shifting statutes and has no expectation of client payment upon engagement.

Nutter McClennen & Fish LLP, Boston has dedicated its time to representing lawful immigrants whose access to justice would otherwise be limited.

Pro Bono Publico Award

Thomas A. Manning, Worcester established the “Lawyer for the Day” program in the Worcester Probate and Family Court to provide assistance to pro se parties.

Defender Award

Erica E. Cushna, CPCS, Springfield is a specialist in juvenile defense work and has zealously advocated for juvenile rights before the Supreme Judicial Court.

Prosecutor Award

J. Thomas Kirkman, District Attorney's Office, Barnstable has spent much of his career as an advocate for victims of domestic violence, in both private practice and as an assistant district attorney.

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.