

MBA NEWS

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MASSACHUSETTS BAR ASSOCIATION AND CONSERVATION LAW FOUNDATION WILL PRESENT LAWYERS ECO-CHALLENGE HONORS TO FOUR LAW FIRMS

BOSTON, Mass. — The Massachusetts Bar Association and its Lawyers Eco-Challenge partner, the Conservation Law Foundation, will honor four law firms for exemplary leadership in greening the practice of law at 5 p.m. May 14 during a reception at the Salem Waterfront Hotel.

“It’s with great pleasure that the MBA honors those lawyers who took steps above and beyond those outlined in the MBA Green Guidelines and implemented their own unique ways of preserving the environment,” MBA President David W. White Jr. said. “These firms have taken it upon themselves to come up with new ways to practice with sustainability in mind. They are an example for all of us.”

Borchers Ware & Guglielmo in Medway, Milton, Laurence & Dixon in Worcester; McRoberts, Roberts & Rainer LLP in Boston and Modern Times Legal in Cambridge will receive the honors at the event following the MBA’s House of Delegates meeting. All four firms have taken extraordinary steps to minimize their office’s impact on the environment.

More than 50 lawyers, firms and organizations from across the state that have signed the MBA Lawyers Environmental Pledge, which asks attorneys to implement the MBA Green Guidelines, will be recognized at the reception.

“The law firms being recognized today are setting a great example for the entire Massachusetts business community,” said CLF President Philip Warburg. “By walking the talk and taking real steps to reduce their environmental footprint they are helping build cleaner, healthier communities for all of us.”

Lawyers who sign up become pledge partners and agree to adhere to the guidelines, which offer suggestions for altering behaviors and updating products in eight areas of sustainability: energy conservation, paper reduction, recycling, greenhouse gas reduction, environmentally conscious purchases, sustainable practices, education and support for environmental conservation.

The honorees and some of their accomplishments are as follows:

Borchers Ware & Guglielmo, Medway

- Formed a Green Up committee to oversee changes
- Installed more programmable thermostats, and setting up new recycling systems.
- Created standards to telecommute from home one day every three weeks.

Milton, Laurence & Dixon, Worcester

- Worked with landlord to install motion activated faucets and soap dispensers in lavatory
- Sends out bi-monthly e-mails with tips and reminders to be conscious of the new practices.
- Commemorated Earth Day with a special celebration

McRoberts, Roberts & Rainer LLP, Boston

- Office lights, computer monitors and speakers are turned off at the close of business
- Printing is reduced by saving documents as PDFs, printing on both sides of paper and scanning instead of copying documents.
- All staff commute to the office using public transportation

Modern Times Legal, Cambridge

- Recycling printer cartridges
- Replacing all incandescent light bulbs with compact fluorescent bulbs
- Contributed to the New England Wind Fund

To view the pledge, guidelines and full list of pledge partners, visit www.massbar.org/ecochallenge.

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.

The Conservation Law Foundation works to solve the most significant environmental challenges facing New England. CLF's advocates use law, economics and science to create innovative strategies to conserve natural resources, protect public health and promote vital communities in our region. Founded, in 1966, CLF is a non-profit, member-supported organization with offices in Maine, Massachusetts, New Hampshire, Rhode Island and Vermont.