

MBA NEWS



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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

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LOCAL MASSACHUSETTS BAR ASSOCIATION LAWYERS TO OFFER FREE LEGAL ADVICE TO HUNDREDS OCT. 22

SPRINGFIELD, Mass. — Interested residents of Western Massachusetts can receive free legal advice on Wednesday, Oct. 22 through the **Massachusetts Bar Association's** semiannual **Dial-A-Lawyer call-in program**.

Volunteer lawyers from the MBA will field phone calls from 3:30 to 7:30 p.m. from residents of Berkshire, Franklin, Hampden and Hampshire counties who have legal concerns or problems. The legal advice is provided at no charge as a public service of the MBA.

The Dial-A-Lawyer phone number is **(413) 782-1659**. If a caller gets a busy signal, they are asked to hang up and try again. Normal telephone charges will apply. **(EDITORS, PLEASE NOTE:** this number is only active from 3:30 to 7:30 p.m. on Oct. 22.)

The MBA's Dial-A-Lawyer program is co-sponsored by Western New England College School of Law, *The Republican*, *El Pueblo Latino* and the Massachusetts Association of Hispanic Attorneys.

During previous Dial-A-Lawyer programs, attorneys answered questions on a wide range of legal questions, including issues involving workers' compensation, divorce, estate planning, landlord disputes, health and Medicare problems, criminal matters, discrimination and adoption.

"Western Massachusetts residents with legal concerns are encouraged to call the Massachusetts Bar Association's Dial-A-Lawyer program and speak with a volunteer lawyer," said program participant and MBA Past President Mark D Mason, a Springfield resident and attorney who practices at Cooley, Shrair PC. "All legal concerns, whether large or small, will be handled with anonymity and concern by attorneys with a wide range of legal expertise."

"The local community can greatly benefit from this free program. It provides residents with a quick and easy way to get legal assistance," Mason added.

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.