

# MBA NEWS



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**Massachusetts Bar Association to salute leaders in public service, legal aid at May 7 Access to Justice Awards Luncheon**

State Rep. Harold P. Naughton and Mass. IOLTA Executive Director among honorees

BOSTON, Mass.—The Massachusetts Bar Association will honor five attorneys and two law firms at the Access to Justice Awards Luncheon May 7 for their exemplary efforts in providing free legal services to the public. The noon event will be held at the John F. Kennedy Library and Museum in Boston.

The event will also feature the presentations of the MBA Legislator of the Year Award to **State Rep. Harold P. Naughton Jr. (D-Clinton)** and the President’s Award to **Jayne B. Tyrrell, executive director of the Massachusetts Interest on Lawyers’ Trust Accounts (IOLTA) program.**

“We are thrilled to recognize our outstanding colleagues who selflessly offer their time and expertise to offer vital services to those who need it the most in the commonwealth,” MBA President Edward W. McIntyre said.

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

“Chosen from a deep pool of nominees, this year’s awardees really stood out and serve as role models for all of us,” said James T. Van Buren, chair of the MBA Access to Justice Section and a solo practitioner in Fitchburg.

*The list of 2009 Access to Justice Award recipients are:*

**Legal Services Award**

**Barbara Kaban, Children’s Law Center, Lynn**, is an established trial attorney, administrator and manager, who has researched and written extensively on the topics of juvenile justice and low-income children, and developed an appellate advocacy practice concentrated on juvenile law.

**James M. McCreight, Greater Boston Legal Services, Boston**, is a nationally known expert on housing issues and has dedicated his career to the protection of tenants’ rights.

**Pro Bono Award for Law Firms**

**Tennant Lubell LLC, Newton**, has been committed to pro bono cases since its founding. The firm

represented Guantanamo Bay prisoners and regularly collaborates with Amnesty International, Boston Mobilization and the International Justice Network, among other groups.

**McDermott Will & Emery, Boston**, is committed to community service, volunteerism and meeting the critical needs of low-income children.

**Pro Bono Publico Award**

**Wendy J. Rickles, solo practitioner, Worcester**, is recognized for her volunteer efforts in criminal, family and employment law, especially her numerous outreach efforts to fulfill the legal needs of Worcester's homeless population.

**Defender Award**

**Lawrence J. McGuire, CPCS, Salem**, is a career-long public defender who has proven to be an innovative and successful litigator in the courtroom and an effective mentor when training new bar advocates.

**Prosecutor Award**

**Aloke Chakravarty, assistant U.S. attorney, Boston**, is a federal prosecutor in the U.S. Attorney's Anti-Terrorism and National Security Unit, who brings cultural sensitivity to the courtroom when trying a variety of cases involving human rights violations and terrorism related crimes.

*2009 Legislator of the Year and President's Award are:*

**Legislator of the Year**

**Rep. Harold P. Naughton Jr. (D-Clinton)** is the current chairman of the Veterans and Federal Affairs Committee. A member of the Massachusetts House of Representatives since 1995, Naughton is an informed voice on court funding as well as fair compensation for CPCS, bar advocates and district attorneys.

**President's Award**

**Jayne B. Tyrrell, executive director, Massachusetts IOLTA program, Boston**, has earned a national reputation for her innovative collaborations with banking institutions. Most recently, she was instrumental in changing guidelines to ensure that banks were required to pay interest on IOLTA accounts comparable to rates on similar commercial accounts.

*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.*