

MBA NEWS

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Massachusetts Bar Association's new officers to begin terms Sept. 1

The Massachusetts Bar Association's slate of officers for the 2009-10 term has officially been set. Valerie A. Yarashus, the 2008-09 president-elect, automatically succeeds to the office of president on Sept. 1.

Here is a list of the officers and some of their achievements:

Valerie A. Yarashus, President

Yarashus is a principal with Meehan, Boyle, Black and Bogdanow PC, where she concentrates in plaintiff's trial practice and a wide variety of other general liability cases. Prior to serving as MBA president-elect in the 2008-09 association year, Yarashus served as treasurer following two consecutive terms as vice president. Her signature efforts as an MBA officer include spearheading the MBA Task Force on Diversity from 2005 to 2007 and co-founding the association's Leadership Roundtables. Dedicated to bar involvement, Yarashus is also active in the Massachusetts Academy of Trial Attorneys and served as its president in 2002-03. Yarashus was awarded the prestigious Weidemann Wysocki "Citation of Excellence" from the American Association for Justice for her commitment to the civil justice system. In 1997, *Massachusetts Lawyers Weekly* named Yarashus one of the "Rising Stars" in the legal profession, and in 2006, inducted her into its Up-and-Coming Lawyers Hall of Fame. Since 2004, she has been named in every edition of *Best Lawyers in America*. Also, Yarashus has been listed by *Boston Magazine* as a "Super Lawyer" in the field of personal injury every year since 2004, and as one of the top 50 female attorneys in Massachusetts (including every practice area) annually since 2005. She lives in Holliston.

Denise Squillante, President-elect

Squillante is a solo practitioner in Fall River who concentrates in family law, corporate law, injury and estates, and also provides business and legal consulting services to corporations. Long active in the MBA's Family Law Section Council and its associated committees, Squillante has also lent her energy to the MBA's Presidential Task Force on Terrorism, the Amicus Committee and the Joint Bar Committee. A former recipient of the MBA's Pro Bono Publico Award, Squillante is a longtime member of the House of Delegates and a Massachusetts Bar Foundation Fellow. Instrumental in establishing the MBA's General Practice, Solo & Small Firm Section, as well as leading the MBA's efforts to assist lawyers who are transitioning in or out of the practice of law, this will be Squillante's fifth term as an MBA officer.

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Squillante is also the Massachusetts delegate to the American Bar Association's House of Delegates. In addition, Squillante is co-chair of the joint MBA/Boston Bar Association Alimony Task Force, a member of the Probate Court Scheduling Task Force and the MBA representative on the Equality Commission — a collaborative effort of the MBA, BBA and the Women's Bar Association. A former president of the Fall River Bar Association, Squillante is currently on the board of the New England Bar Association and is a member of the Bristol County Bar Association Executive Board.

Douglas K. Sheff, Vice President

Sheff is senior partner at Sheff Law Offices in Boston, where he specializes in all aspects of personal injury law and is considered an expert in brain injury law. A past president of the Massachusetts Academy of Trial Attorneys, Sheff has been appointed Trustee of the National College of Advocacy, which provides superior education and training for trial lawyers across the United States. Sheff is also a director of the Belli Society, an international group of distinguished trial attorneys and he has been awarded the ORT Award for integrity in the law. A five-time recipient of the American Association for Justice's Wiedemann Wysocki Award, Sheff serves on the AAJ's Board of Governors, its Leaders Forum and its Traumatic Brain Injury Litigation Group. In addition, Sheff has been awarded the AAJ's New Generation Award and has been elected by his peers nationally to chair the AAJ's 100 State Delegates. Sheff also served as chair to the AAJ's Council of Presidents, representing 50,000 attorneys nationwide. A *Boston Magazine* "Super Lawyer," Sheff has also been recognized in *Lifesavers*, for preventing injury through aggressive representation of victims of defective products. He resides in the North End.

Richard P. Campbell, Vice President

Campbell is the founder and chairman of Campbell, Campbell, Edwards & Conroy PC, a law firm specializing in trial practice with offices in Boston and Philadelphia. Campbell represents individuals and corporations in personal injury matters, commercial disputes, multi-district litigation, class actions, aviation disasters, toxic tort and products liability disputes. In addition, Campbell organizes and leads his firm's pro bono project, educating parents, students, and school administrators about civil and criminal social host liability laws. A past MBA secretary, Campbell has served on the MBA's governing body, the House of Delegates, for more than five years, the Criminal Justice Section Council for four years, and currently serves as a trustee on the Massachusetts Bar Foundation. Campbell is also a past chair of the 34,000-member Tort Trial & Insurance Practice Section of the American Bar Association. Campbell was honored by Boston College Law School with its highest award for dedication to the law — the Founder's Medal. Campbell was the 2009 recipient of the ABA Tort Trial & Insurance Practice Section (TIPS) Andrew C. Hecker Memorial Award, in recognition for his leadership, outreach, enthusiasm, professionalism and pride in TIPS. He lives in Cohasset.

Robert L. Holloway, Treasurer

Holloway is a shareholder and president of MacLean, Holloway, Doherty, Ardiff & Morse PC in Peabody. Holloway is a long-term member of the MBA's Ethics Committee, a member and past chair of the MBA's Civil Litigation Section Council and a former regional delegate to the MBA House of Delegates, the governing body of the MBA. Holloway also received the MBA's Community Service Award in 1993 and served on the Joint Bar Committee on Judicial Nominations for six years. Also, in August, Holloway began a three-year appointment to the Supreme Judicial Court's Standing Committee on Pro Bono Legal Services.

He is a regular panelist for continuing legal education programs. An emeritus member of the Board of Editors of *Massachusetts Lawyers Weekly*, Holloway has served on that board since 1981. Recognized by *Boston Magazine* as a “Super Lawyer” in the area of business litigation, Holloway is also a past president of the Essex County Bar Association. A Topsfield resident, Holloway has served as a member of the Board of Health and as an elected representative to the Masconomet Regional School Committee from 1990 to 1999. In addition, he was a founding member of Hospice of the North Shore and served for many years as a corporator of Beverly Hospital.

Jeffrey N. Catalano, Secretary

Catalano is a partner at Todd & Weld LLP in Boston, where he specializes in representing victims of catastrophic injuries in the areas of medical negligence, product liability, auto accident, class action and other personal injury cases. A past chair of the MBA’s Civil Litigation Section, Catalano has served on the MBA’s governing board, the House of Delegates, since 2006 and is a member of its Executive Management Board. A Massachusetts Bar Foundation Fellow, Catalano is also a member of the executive committee for the Massachusetts Academy of Trial Attorneys. Catalano is on the board of directors for the non-profit law firm Health Law Advocates, Inc., where his pro bono work includes patient advocacy and representing chronically ill and impoverished people who are denied access to health care services. In 2008, he was recognized by Health Law Advocates for his exceptional pro bono representation. Catalano was selected as a New England “Super Lawyer” in 2009 and a “Rising Star” by *Boston Magazine* in 2005. He lives in West Roxbury.

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.