

# MBA NEWS



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## Springfield attorneys honored with MBA Centennial Award

BOSTON, Mass. — The Massachusetts Bar Association has presented two Springfield attorneys with the MBA Centennial Award, which was created to celebrate local attorneys' pro bono service to their communities and the profession. The awards will be given throughout the state during the MBA's 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary commemoration.

"These honorees have given of themselves to both their profession and their communities," MBA President Denise Squillante said. "They exemplify the spirit of public service on which the Massachusetts Bar Association was founded a century ago."

The awards were jointly presented by MBA President-elect Richard P. Campbell and MBA Treasurer Robert L. Holloway Jr. following an introduction by Squillante.

Dorothy Varon, assistant vice president and corporate legal counsel for Massachusetts Mutual Life Insurance Co., and Eugene B. Berman, of counsel, Bacon Wilson, were presented the awards at a ceremony following the Nov. 18 House of Delegates meeting at the Sheraton Springfield Monarch Place.

Varon was honored for her work helping to start the Hampden County Housing Court Lawyer for a Day program and for spearheading the creation of a pro bono program in the MassMutual law department that is now being expanded. She has sat on numerous non-profit boards, including All Out Adventures, and currently serves as an advisor on the Board of the Angkor Dance Troupe.

Berman was celebrated for his work on the issue of predatory mortgage lending and the foreclosure crisis. He suggested and became the chair of the Hampden County Bar Association's Foreclosure Task Force as well as organized and chaired the Alliance of Providers of Legal Services to Individuals Facing Foreclosure. Berman was the organizer of Springfield's Mattoon Street Historic Preservation Association and served as its president for many years.

The award will be given by the president or another officer throughout the centennial celebration to a person of extraordinary achievement (who may be a lawyer, law professor, judge, court administrator, legislator or other person with significant involvement in the legal system and/or the rights and responsibilities of individuals, corporations, partnerships, trusts and other civic bodies) who materially advanced the rule of law, enhanced the integrity of lawyers, judges or the legal profession, engaged or is engaging in important legal scholarship, or protected the democratic principles upon which our country is founded.

*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.*