

MBA NEWS

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Retired Supreme Judicial Court judge, the Hon. John M. Greaney, honored with MBA Centennial Award

BOSTON, Mass. — The Massachusetts Bar Association has presented retired Supreme Judicial Court judge, the Hon. John M. Greaney, with a MBA Centennial Award. Created to celebrate the service of those in the legal field to the profession and their communities, the award will be given throughout the state during the MBA's 100th anniversary commemoration.

MBA Immediate Past President Valerie A. Yarashus presented Greaney with the award following an introduction by MBA President Denise Squillante during the MBA's holiday party at its Boston headquarters on Dec. 16.

"His jurisprudence has touched the lives of so many people," Yarashus said. "Since retiring he has only become involved in more legal works."

Greaney, who was a justice on the Supreme Judicial Court of Massachusetts from 1989 to 2008, is now director of the Suffolk University Law School's Macaronis Institute for Trial and Appellate Advocacy. While on the SJC, Greaney authored numerous significant opinions, including opinions on one of the most complex corporate litigation cases in Massachusetts history, same-sex marriage, termination of life support and the constitutional right to an adequate public school education.

After serving in the military, Greaney practiced for 10 years with the firm of Ely and King in Springfield. In 1974, he was appointed as the presiding judge of the Hampden County Housing Court, the second such court in Massachusetts. In 1976, he was appointed as a justice of the Massachusetts Superior Court. In 1978, he was appointed as a justice of the Massachusetts Appeals Court, and, in 1984, as that court's Chief Justice.

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

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.