

MBA NEWS

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Massachusetts Bar Association President-Elect appointed to key legislative alimony task force

BOSTON, Mass. — Massachusetts Bar Association President-elect Denise Squillante has been appointed to a legislative task force to study alimony. Created by the Joint Committee on the Judiciary, the task force is being established to review and make recommendations on reforming Massachusetts alimony laws.

“The participation and input of the Massachusetts Bar Association and other organizations is critical to building consensus on the best way to reform our alimony laws,” said Senate Judiciary Chair Sen. Cynthia Stone Creem. “Denise’s participation will be invaluable to the work of the task force.”

The new task force will address a wide range of issues, including the duration of alimony awards, factors to be considered in awarding alimony, modification of alimony agreements, and consistency of alimony awards among different jurisdictions.

“Certainly there is no lack of ideas and I look forward to the group’s discussions and analysis on this important matter,” said House Judiciary Chair State Rep. Eugene L. O’Flaherty.

Squillante is co-chair of the joint MBA/Boston Bar Association Alimony Task Force, which released a report earlier this year that called for setting consistent and predictable alimony amounts and timelines in certain divorce cases.

“The MBA is pleased to offer our input on this pressing matter at the request of the Judiciary Committee,” MBA President Valerie A. Yarashus said. “We are delighted that Denise, a leader on this timely and important issue, will serve on this key task force.”

A solo practitioner in Fall River, Denise concentrating in the areas of family law, corporate law, and injury and estates.

Long active in the MBA’s Family Law Section and its associated committees, Squillante is also a

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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 vice president of the New England Bar Association and is a member of the Bristol County Bar Association Executive Board. She is also a Massachusetts Bar Association delegate to the American Bar Association's House of Delegates.

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.