

MBA NEWS



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Massachusetts Bar Association to honor State Sen. Joan M. Menard with Legislator of the Year Award Sept. 16

BOSTON, Mass.—The Massachusetts Bar Association will honor State Sen. Joan M. Menard (D-Fall River) with the MBA Legislator of the Year Award at its President’s Reception on Sept. 16, when Fall River attorney Denise Squillante will celebrate her new role as MBA president.

The event, to be held at the Omni Parker House in Boston, will also begin the MBA’s centennial commemoration. In honor of its 100th anniversary, the MBA will be celebrating a century of service to the public, the profession and the rule of law throughout its 2010-11 association year.

The Legislator of the Year Award is presented annually to a state or federal legislator who has distinguished himself or herself in public service through outstanding contributions to the legal profession, courts and administration of justice.

“Sen. Joan Menard has had an unflinching commitment to the needs of the judiciary and a keen interest in preserving access to justice,” said MBA President Denise Squillante, who commends Menard for her important role in the development and passage of legislation affecting the judiciary and the administration of justice throughout her time in the Legislature.

In her sixth term representing the citizens of the 1st Bristol and Plymouth District, Menard is Assistant Majority Leader of the Massachusetts State Senate and sits on the Senate Committee on Ethics and Rules and the Joint Committees on Election Laws and Labor and Workforce Development.

Prior to Menard’s 1999, Senate election, she served in the House of Representatives for 20 years. During her time in the House, she was a member of leadership serving as Assistant Majority Whip and Majority Whip.

Menard was the first woman to serve as chairperson of the Massachusetts Democratic Committee and president of the Association of State Democratic Chairs.

A former educator in the Somerset school system, Menard received a bachelor of science and a master of science in education in 1967 and 1971, respectively, from Bridgewater State College. In 1993, she received a certificate of advanced graduate study in education administration from Boston College. In 2008, Menard received an honorary doctorate in public service from Westfield State College. In June of this year, Southern New England School of Law honored presenting her with an honorary juris doctorate.

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.