

MBA NEWS

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Salem attorney appointed chair of MBA's Immigration Law Section for its centennial year

Boston attorney named vice chair

Salem attorney Marisa A. DeFranco has been appointed by Massachusetts Bar Association President Denise Squillante as chair of the association's Immigration Law Section for the 2010-11 year. Boston attorney Gerald C. Rovner has been named section vice chair. Their appointments begin Sept. 1.

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 MBA's Immigration Law Section creates a focal point for its members to access information relevant to immigration issues and questions; network with other specialized practitioners to respond to the needs of a growing client base in the immigration field; and reach out to and collaborate with other existing sections dealing with immigration law issues.

DeFranco is the owner of DeFranco Law Group, a boutique firm in Salem, where she specializes in business-based immigration, family immigration and the representation of children in the foster care system. She has been a member of the American Immigration Lawyers Association since 1998 and has served as a director on the National Board of Governors and as president of the New England Chapter. DeFranco is a state commissioner on the Massachusetts Commission on the Status of Women, serving as treasurer from 2009-2010.

Rovner, a Needham resident, is a solo practitioner in Boston, where he exclusively practices immigration law. He has served as Chair of the MBA's Fee Arbitration Board and is a Life Member of the Massachusetts Bar Foundation. Rovner is one of the senior members of the Governor's Advisory Commission on Refugees and Immigrants. In addition, he has been a prominent member of the American Immigration Lawyers Association, having served as the Chair of the New England Chapter, a member of its Board of Governors, and Chair of the Vermont Service Center Liaison Committee. Awarded the Bronze Star for his service in the U.S. Army in Vietnam, Rovner has served as a member of the Massachusetts Water Resources Authority Advisory Board and is active in several community activities in Needham. He graduated from Rutgers University School of Law.

The MBA's 17 sections and Young Lawyers Division provide lawyers with up-to-date information on specific areas of law, monitor law-related legislation, sponsor professional education programs and provide information on the law for the general public.

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.

