

MBA NEWS



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Dorchester resident and Quincy attorney to receive Defender Award at MBA Access to Justice Awards May 31

BOSTON, Mass.—Dorchester resident and Quincy attorney Dulcinea Goncalves will receive the Defender Award from the Massachusetts Bar Association at the Access to Justice Awards May 31. The event will be held during the 2012 Annual Dinner at the Westin Boston Waterfront.

“We applaud these honorees for their ongoing commitment to ensure all Massachusetts residents receive the legal help they need and deserve,” MBA President Richard P. Campbell said. “They are an inspiration for all of us in the legal profession.”

Goncalves, a Roxbury native, has been serving the children of the Boston community since she was an undergraduate at Boston University interning at the Children’s Law Center. While at Northeastern University Law School, she interned at the Committee of Public Counsel Services. Goncalves joined the Roxbury Youth Advocacy Department of CPCS as a staff attorney after her graduation in 2005. Goncalves is currently the attorney in charge of the Quincy Youth Advocacy Department of CPCS, where she supervises three attorneys and support staff while carrying 15 to 20 cases at a time. She also serves as a mentor to newer attorneys.

“It was really important to me, helping the folks I grew up around. I wanted them to have a different experience. It makes a difference, being able to communicate with them. They see that someone who looks like me and sounds like me can achieve things. That means a lot to the kids,” Goncalves said.

“The process of selecting the Access to Justice Award recipients this year was both humbling and inspiring. Humbling because it is a reminder of how committed these lawyers have been to advancing the cause of justice on behalf of the disadvantaged. Inspiring because these lawyers have achieved results for their clients that permanently change those clients’ lives and protect their rights,” MBA Access to Justice Section Chair Charles E. Vander Linden said.

Goncalves is one of four attorneys and one law firm being honored at the Access to Justice Awards for their efforts in providing exemplary legal services to the public. The ceremony is part of the MBA’s Annual Dinner, which will also include a keynote address from Victoria Reggie Kennedy and the presentation of the Legislator of the Year Award to Speaker Robert A. DeLeo.

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.