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## **Mass. Bar Association Statement on Retirement of Appeals Court Chief Justice Phillip Rapoza**

BOSTON, Mass. — Earlier today, the Hon. Phillip G. Rapoza, chief justice of the Massachusetts Appeals Court, announced his retirement from the bench, effective June 30, 2015. Chief Justice Rapoza is a past recipient of the MBA President’s Award (2011), which is given to individuals who have made a significant contribution to the work of the MBA, to the preservation of MBA values, to the success of MBA initiatives and to the promotion of MBA leadership roles within the legal community in Massachusetts.

“Chief Justice Rapoza has been an outstanding leader for the Massachusetts Appeals Court. Under his helm, the Appeals Court brought sessions to the four corners of the state, making our justice system open and transparent to the public and instilling confidence in the judiciary,” said MBA Chief Legal Counsel and Chief Operating Officer Martin W. Healy. “We applaud Chief Justice Rapoza, whose commitment to justice included serving as an international expert to developing countries on behalf of the United Nations. His footprint in the judicial arena has been felt throughout the world.”

*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.*