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## **Massachusetts Bar Association applauds increased court funding in Senate FY16 budget**

*Proposed allocation would eliminate need for Trial Court layoffs, program reductions*

BOSTON, Mass. — The Massachusetts Bar Association strongly commends the Senate Ways and Means Committee for its fiscal year 2016 budget proposal, which allocates \$633 million to the Trial Court — an increase that surpasses the court’s \$628 million maintenance request.

“The Senate’s appropriation for the Trial Court is a welcome recognition of the court’s critical role in providing access to justice and protecting the welfare of our commonwealth’s citizens,” said MBA Chief Legal Counsel and Chief Operating Officer Martin W. Healy. “The Senate’s \$633 million allocation would eliminate the need to lay off 550 court employees and allow the Trial Court to continue its innovative work through specialty courts, such as drug and veterans’ courts, which are vital tools in addressing some of today’s most pressing societal issues.”

The full Senate is scheduled to debate its Ways and Means Committee’s budget proposal next week. The commonwealth’s new fiscal year begins on July 1, 2015.

*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.*