



20 WEST STREET, BOSTON, MA 02111-1204 • COMMUNICATIONS@MASSBAR.ORG

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

April 26, 2016

CONTACT:

Mike Vigneux (617) 338-0675

Jason Scally (617) 338-0682

Award-winning Novelist, Screenwriter Dennis Lehane to Deliver Keynote at Massachusetts Bar Association Annual Dinner, April 28

Senate President Stanley C. Rosenberg, Clerk-Magistrate Daniel J. Hogan, George G. Hardiman among honorees

BOSTON, Mass. — More than 1,000 attorneys and other members of the legal community will gather for the sold-out Massachusetts Bar Association (MBA) Annual Dinner on Thursday, April 28, at the Westin Boston Waterfront. The event will feature a keynote address by Dorchester native Dennis Lehane, an award-winning novelist and screenwriter.

Lehane has published more than 12 novels that have been translated into more than 30 languages and become international bestsellers: *Darkness, Take My Hand; Sacred; Gone, Baby, Gone; Prayers for Rain; Mystic River; Shutter Island; The Given Day; Moonlight Mile* and *Live by Night*. Some of Lehane's novels showcase both Boston and the criminal justice system, and three of his novels — *Mystic River; Gone, Baby, Gone;* and *Shutter Island* — have been adapted into award-winning films. Lehane was also a staff writer on the acclaimed HBO series *The Wire* and a writer-producer on the fourth season of HBO's *Boardwalk Empire*.

"Not only is Dennis Lehane an award-winning writer, he is a native son whose career work shows a keen understanding of both Boston and our criminal justice system. More importantly, he is just an incredible storyteller," said MBA President Robert W. Harnais. "We can all look forward to hearing more of his stories as we welcome Mr. Lehane back to Massachusetts for our Annual Dinner — the signature event on the legal community calendar."

During the Annual Dinner, the MBA will recognize Senate President Stanley C. Rosenberg (D-Amherst) with the MBA's 2016 Legislator of the Year Award. The MBA will also present BMC Clerk-Magistrate Daniel J. Hogan and George G. Hardiman with President's Awards for their exceptional service to the legal community. In addition, the MBA will award its \$10,000 Oliver Wendell Holmes Jr. Scholarship to third-year law student Lauren N. Schaal of Boston College Law School.

The Annual Dinner will also include the presentation of the 2016 Access to Justice Awards to Margaretta Homsey Kroeger, MetroWest Legal Services (Rising Star Award); Valerie Fisk, Community Legal Services and Counseling Center (Legal Services Award); Nutter McClennen & Fish LLP (Pro Bono Award for Law Firms); Charles R. Casartello Jr., Pellegrini, Seeley, Ryan & Blakesley PC (Pro Bono Publico Award); Ingrid Martin, Collora LLP (Pro Bono Publico Award); Benjamin H. Keehn, Committee for Public Counsel Services (Defender Award); Ellen Berger, Hampden County District Attorney's Office (Prosecutor Award); and T. Richard McIntosh, South Coastal Counties Legal Services Inc. (Lifetime Achievement Award, posthumous).

The event begins with a reception at 5:30 p.m., followed by the dinner at 7 p.m.

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.

– MBA –