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Senate President Stanley C. Rosenberg Named Legislator of the Year by Massachusetts Bar Association

Award to be featured at April 28 Annual Dinner, with keynote by author Dennis Lehane

BOSTON, Mass. — The Massachusetts Bar Association (MBA) will present its Legislator of the Year Award to Senate President Stanley C. Rosenberg (D-Amherst) at its sold-out Annual Dinner this Thursday, April 28, at the Westin Boston Waterfront. The MBA's Legislator of the Year Award is presented annually to a state or federal legislator who has distinguished himself/herself in public service through outstanding contributions to the legal profession, our courts and the administration of justice.

"Senator Rosenberg has served the residents of Massachusetts for more than 20 years and has become a highly respected leader within our state Legislature," said MBA Chief Legal Counsel and Chief Operating Officer Martin W. Healy. "We welcome his insight on criminal justice reform, and we're proud to recognize his well established commitment to the legislative process."

Elected by his colleagues as the 93rd president of the Massachusetts Senate in January 2015, Rosenberg previously served as Senate majority leader from 2013 to 2015. The longest tenured member of the Senate, Rosenberg is a supporter of criminal justice reform, including reducing incarceration and recidivism by creating stronger re-entry programs for those that have been incarcerated. He was instrumental in the creation of the bipartisan Criminal Justice Commission, which led to Massachusetts' selection as a Council of State Governments Justice Reinvestment state. In addition, he also advocated for the passage of Chapter 254 of the Acts of 2014, which brought attorney-conducted voir dire to Massachusetts for the first time.

A resident of Amherst, Rosenberg has lived in the Pioneer Valley for 40 years and represents the Hampshire-Franklin District, which includes both Amherst and Northampton. He is a graduate of Revere High School and UMass Amherst.

The MBA Annual Dinner will feature a keynote address from award-winning novelist and screenwriter Dennis Lehane, who has published more than 12 novels that have been translated into more than 30 languages and become international bestsellers. 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*.

During the Annual Dinner, the MBA will present President's Awards to BMC Clerk-Magistrate Daniel J. Hogan and George G. Hardiman 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 Margareta 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.

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