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Mass. Bar Association Lauds Appointment of Special Commission to Vet Upcoming SJC Vacancies

MBA Past President Kazarosian among top lawyers selected for statewide panel

BOSTON, Mass. — The Massachusetts Bar Association (MBA) commends Governor Charlie Baker for appointing a special Supreme Judicial Court Nominating Commission to vet the candidates for the multiple upcoming judicial vacancies at the SJC.

“Governor Baker’s appointment of this special commission demonstrates that he fully grasps the weight of this historic opportunity to change the makeup of the commonwealth’s top court,” said MBA Chief Legal Counsel Martin W. Healy. “The governor has wisely chosen to include on this special panel leaders of the bar from throughout the commonwealth. The importance of having a court that resembles the depth of diversity existing in the state will be a major factor in his appointments. Seeking knowledgeable input from the statewide bar will help ensure that the SJC maintains its inclusive legacy.”

By the end of his first term, Governor Baker will have the opportunity to name five new SJC justices. In addition to the announced retirements from Justices Robert J. Cordy, Francis X. Spina and Fernando R.V. Duffly, two additional justices — Justice Margot G. Botsford and Justice Geraldine S. Hines — will reach the mandatory retirement age of 70 in 2017.

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.