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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: Nov. 29, 2016

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Mass. Bar Association to Honor Anton’s Cleaners, Polkadog Bakery for Consumer Commitment

‘MBA Pinnacle Awards’ part of Third Annual Consumer Advocacy Symposium, Dec.

6

BOSTON, Mass. — The Massachusetts Bar Association (MBA) will present its 2016 MBA Pinnacle Awards to Anton’s Cleaners and Polkadog Bakery on Tuesday, Dec. 6, as part of the MBA’s Third Annual Consumer Advocacy Symposium in Boston. Established by the MBA’s Consumer Advocacy Task Force, the MBA Pinnacle Awards recognize companies — one large and one small — which have demonstrated the highest commitment to their customers by taking affirmative steps to improve the consumer experience in Massachusetts.

MBA Treasurer Christopher A. Kenney, who chairs the MBA’s Consumer Advocacy Task Force, said:

“Anton’s Cleaners has generated a loyal following through its customer-focused savings programs and services, including home delivery and free storage, while following environmentally responsible business practices and demonstrating a strong commitment to the community. Polkadog Bakery has made a name for itself as a leader in pet nutrition by educating consumers and offering high quality products with locally sourced ingredients — all of which furthers its mission to support economic and social development in the Boston area. The Massachusetts Bar Association is proud to recognize both companies for their shared commitment to providing exceptional value to their customers in Massachusetts.”

In addition to the MBA Pinnacle Award ceremony, this year’s symposium will feature panel discussions about the future of mandatory arbitration clauses in consumer and employment contracts, healthcare and other industries. The event is free and open to the public. For more information, visit: www.massbar.org/consumer2016.

The 2016 MBA Pinnacle Award Winners

Anton’s Cleaners: Anton’s Cleaners’ mission has remained the same for over 100 years: to provide consistent quality clothing care with a level of service that exceeds expectations, and a commitment to its customers and the community. The largest clothing care company in the Northeast, Anton’s manages 43 stores in Eastern Mass. and is based in Tewksbury. Through its Caring Partners Inc. nonprofit subsidiary, Anton’s Cleaners

manages two annual drives to help those in need: the region's largest Coats for Kids coat donation and Belle of the Ball prom dress drive. For more information about Anton's Cleaners, visit www.antons.com.

"On behalf of our employees and Caring Partners board, Anton's Cleaners is very proud to receive this Pinnacle Award for our community service efforts," said Arthur C. Anton Jr., COO. "Serving others has always been part of what we do every day, whether it is service from behind the counter, or collecting coats or prom dresses with our network of like-minded partners and sponsors. More than any other, this recognition is an outstanding win for us and for our team, and we are humbled and grateful for this award."

Polkadog Bakery: In 2002, Rob Van Sickle and Deborah Suchman created Polkadog Bakery from scratch as a corner shop in the South End of Boston. They had a single small oven, a rolling pin, and six cookie cutters. Today, they have five neighborhood stores and an industrial wholesale kitchen at Boston's Fish Pier. Polkadog's handmade treats sell at over 3000 retail locations across the country. The business is defined by direct relationships with consumers and independent retailers, with local producers of superior, sustainable ingredients, and with charitable organizations dedicated to improving the quality of life in the community. For more information about Polkadog Bakery, visit www.polkadog.com.

"Winning the Pinnacle was a huge surprise. I'm humbled," said Suchman. "Really, you spend so much time trying to make Polkadog work for people that you don't really know if it is working. And then this happens. The Pinnacle Award recognizes the work you put into relationships with other businesses and the people who buy your product. You get a minute or two to realize that what you're doing is working, after all."

About the MBA's Consumer Advocacy Task Force: The MBA's Consumer Advocacy Task Force was established in 2013 to advance the MBA's commitment to protecting consumer rights. Comprised of lawyers from a variety of legal practices, the task force is focused on empowering the public by serving as a clearinghouse of consumer protection information for consumers. In 2015, the task force developed the MBA's Consumer Law Resource Center on www.MassLawHelp.com, which provides helpful links, tips and videos that address some of the most frequently asked consumer questions. In 2014, the task force created the MBA Pinnacle Awards to recognize companies that employ proactive initiatives for the benefit of consumers in Massachusetts. The Pinnacle Awards will be given out during the MBA's Consumer Advocacy Symposium, an annual event featuring panel discussions on cutting-edge legal issues around consumer interests.

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.