



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

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CONTACT: Mike Vigneux (617) 338-0675 / (617) 990-6795

Mass. Bar Association Applauds Dismissal of Drug Lab Cases as ‘Justice Over Results’

BOSTON, Mass. — The Massachusetts Bar Association applauds today’s dismissal of thousands of cases impacted by the malfeasance of former chemist Annie Dookhan at the state drug lab. Since its early calls in 2012 for an independent investigator to take a broader look into the evidence tampering at the state drug lab, the Massachusetts Bar Association has sought a resolution to the scandal that safeguards the rights of the accused and restores public confidence in our judicial system.

“The dismissal of thousands of tainted drug lab cases rightly puts justice over results,” said Massachusetts Bar Association Chief Legal Counsel Martin W. Healy. “It is a necessary and long-overdue outcome, given our criminal justice system’s responsibility to ensure a level playing field for all, regardless of the offense.”

Healy added: “The stain caused by the incomparable gross misconduct at the state drug lab will never fade. But the drastic measures required to restore justice should serve as an impetus for the commonwealth to create more centralized uniformity in handling evidence collection and storage. We cannot afford another disaster.”

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.