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Christopher P. Sullivan Elected President of Massachusetts Bar Association for 2017-18 Year

BOSTON, Mass. — Attorney Christopher P. Sullivan has been elected president of the Massachusetts Bar Association (MBA) for its 2017-2018 year, which began on Sept. 1.

During his year as president, Sullivan will reinforce the idea that the MBA is the bar association for every lawyer across the state, regardless of location or practice area. He also plans to emphasize “bedrock legal principles,” such as the rule of law, due process, access to justice and equal protection. Sullivan will encourage lawyers to think more about their citizenship and civic responsibilities in becoming what he calls “attorney citizens,” and he also hopes to strengthen the bar’s relationship with the judiciary.

Alongside Sullivan, the other 2017-18 MBA officers include President-elect Christopher A. Kenney, Sudbury; Vice President Denise I. Murphy, Westwood; Treasurer John J. Morrissey, Hingham; and Secretary Thomas J. Barbar, Boston. Martin W. Healy is the MBA’s chief legal counsel and chief operating officer.

About MBA President Christopher P. Sullivan

A partner at Robins Kaplan LLP in Boston, Sullivan represents clients in complex civil litigation matters, such as securities fraud, shareholder disputes and intellectual property cases. He has been named as a “Super Lawyer” every year since 2004.

Sullivan, who is the former chair of the MBA’s Membership Committee, serves on the MBA’s Executive Management Board and in its House of Delegates. Working with the Federal Bar Association and the MBA, Sullivan launched the Massachusetts Chapter of SOLACE, a network of legal professionals who provide critical aid to those in the profession in their time of need.

He is a fellow of the Massachusetts Bar Foundation, the philanthropic partner of the MBA, as well as the American Bar Foundation. He is also a life fellow of the Foundation for the Federal Bar Association. Currently, Sullivan serves as a hearing officer for the Board of Bar Overseers.

Sullivan graduated from the College of the Holy Cross and received his J.D. from Fordham University Law School. He and his wife, Beth, live in Hingham.

About the other 2017-18 MBA officers

President-elect Christopher A. Kenney is a founding member and managing shareholder of Kenney & Sams PC in Boston. He has tried cases before every level of the state and federal trial court system in Massachusetts, and has served as an appellate advocate before the Massachusetts Appeals Court, Massachusetts Supreme Judicial

Court and the U.S. Court of Appeals for the First Circuit. A Sudbury resident, Kenney earned his B.A. from the College of the Holy Cross in 1987 and went on to graduate from Boston University School of Law in 1990.

Vice President Denise I. Murphy is a partner at Rubin and Rudman LLP in Boston and chair of the firm's Labor and Employment Division. She counsels regional and national businesses on a broad variety of employment law-related issues; litigates sexual harassment and discrimination claims; and drafts a multitude of employment contracts, severance agreements, handbooks and policy statements. A Westwood resident, Murphy graduated from the University of Massachusetts Boston in 1980, and she received her J.D. from Suffolk University Law School in 1988.

Treasurer John J. Morrissey is a trial attorney and a founding partner of Morrissey, Wilson & Zafiroopoulos LLP in Braintree. He practices in the areas of plaintiffs' personal injury, including wrongful death, catastrophic injury and workers' compensation claims. He also represents individuals and businesses in commercial and real estate disputes. A Hingham resident, Morrissey graduated from the University of Massachusetts, Amherst, in 1989 and from Boston University School of Law in 1992.

Secretary Thomas J. Barbar is a partner at Deutsch Williams in Boston. As part of his probate practice, Barbar specializes in estate administrations, allowance of wills, equity cases, guardianships and conservatorships. Barbar also litigates will contests and objections to appointments of administrators and guardians. His domestic relations practice specializes in all phases of divorce law, paternity and adoption cases. A Boston resident, Barbar graduated from Villanova University in 1986, and he received his J.D. from New England School of Law in 1993.

Chief Legal Counsel and Chief Operating Officer Martin W. Healy serves as the Massachusetts Bar Association's chief legal advisor, as well as the MBA's liaison to the legislative, executive and judicial branches. He is responsible for providing legal advice in corporate matters and legal support in issues of public policy concerning the practice of law and the administration of justice. In addition, he serves as counsel to the MBA leadership team and the MBA House of Delegates and Executive Management Board. Healy graduated from Suffolk University in 1985. He went on to earn his J.D., cum laude, from Suffolk University Law School in 1988.

Full bios for all MBA officers are available at www.massbar.org. Photos are available upon request.

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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