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David Hoffman Award, Panel Discussion on Accountability and Reconciliation in the #MeToo Era Highlight Free Conflict Resolution Week Events, Oct. 15-19

Mass. Bar Association programs to showcase benefits of dispute resolution

BOSTON, Mass. — In honor of Conflict Resolution Week, Oct. 15-19, the Massachusetts Bar Association (MBA) will present a series of informational and educational programs around Massachusetts to bring attention to the many dispute resolution options available within and beyond the justice system. All programs are free and open to the public.

Among the highlights of Conflict Resolution Week is the reception at Harvard Law School, Austin Hall, in Cambridge on Thursday, Oct. 18 — the date Gov. Charlie Baker has officially proclaimed to be Dispute Resolution Day in Massachusetts. At the reception, the MBA will honor the memory and legacy of Frank Sander, a luminary in the field of conflict resolution, by presenting its inaugural MBA Professor Frank E.A. Sander Award in Dispute Resolution to David A. Hoffman -- the founding member of Boston Law Collaborative LLC. A panel discussion on accountability and reconciliation in the #MeToo era will also take place on Tuesday, Oct. 16 at the MBA, 20 West St., Boston. Walter Robinson, the *Boston Globe's* editor-at-large and former leader of its Spotlight Team, will be the moderator for this timely exchange of ideas.

“Whether you’re a DR professional, a member of the legal community, a law student or just interested in learning more about conflict resolution, there is something engaging for everyone, said Michael A. Zeytoonian, chair of the MBA’s Conflict Resolution Week Committee and a member of the MBA’s Dispute Resolution (DR) Section, which is presenting Conflict Resolution Week.

Information for all Conflict Resolution Week events is available below and at www.MassBar.org/CRWeek.

Conflict Resolution Week Schedule of Events

Monday, Oct. 15: Mediation on Trial: Putting Mediation and Conciliation on Trial, Worcester County Law Library, 184 Main St., Worcester, 10 a.m.-noon

Attend a mock hearing in which the process of mediation is the subject of the argument. Appearing before a judge, two attorneys will debate the benefits and flaws in mediation and conciliation. Panelists will act out the roles of the judge, attorneys, husband, wife, conciliator and mediator in a family law matter. The panel will include Heidi-Rachel Webb, Esq. (panel moderator), Consilium Divorce Consultations; Justin Lee Kelsey, Esq.

(program chair), Skylark Law & Mediation PC; Hon. Robert Langlois (ret.), Verrill Dana LLP; Jeffrey Neil Fink, Esq.; John A. Fiske, Esq., Healy, Fiske, Richmond & Matthew LLP; Cynthia T. Runge, Esq.; and Jeffrey A. Soilson, Esq., Fitch Law Partners LLP.

Monday, Oct. 15: Worcester/Central Mass. Court-Connected Dispute Resolution Programs, Worcester County Law Library, 184 Main St., Worcester, 12:45-2 p.m.

Join the MBA's DR Section as they present, honor and acknowledge the work of the court-approved conciliation/mediation programs in the Worcester/Central Massachusetts area. Featured speakers include Sen. Harriette L. Chandler (D-First Worcester); and Hon. David G. Sacks, Probate and Family Court judge and chair of the Trial Court's Standing Committee on Dispute Resolution.

Tuesday, Oct. 16: Walking the Tightrope: Accountability and Reconciliation in the #MeToo Era, MBA, 20 West St., Boston, 4:30-6:30 p.m.

The MBA's DR Section will present a panel discussion on accountability and reconciliation in the #MeToo Era. In the turbulent wake of #MeToo, how do we move from shaming to accountability and reconciliation? Have we slapped a one-size-fits-all label on rapists, gropers, would-be seducers, and office bullies? Panelists — lawyers, mediators, a university ombudsperson, and journalists — will discuss how communities of interest may begin to heal from the assault of bullying or a culture of sexual harassment. What is the road to reconciliation? Featured speakers include Walter Robinson (panel moderator), editor-at-large, *Boston Globe*; Julie Bryan, Esq., Casner & Edwards; Israella Brill-Cass, Esq., ombuds at Wesleyan University; Steve Kurkjian, former *Boston Globe* reporter and editor; and Scott Roberts, Esq., Hirsch Roberts Weinstein LLP.

Thursday, Oct. 18: Conflict Resolution Day Reception, Harvard Law School, Austin Hall, 1515 Massachusetts Ave., Cambridge, 6:30-8:30 p.m.

The MBA's DR Section will host a reception in celebration of Conflict Resolution Day, where the MBA will honor the memory and legacy of Frank Sander -- a luminary in the field of conflict resolution -- by presenting its inaugural MBA Professor Frank E.A. Sander Award in Dispute Resolution to David A. Hoffman. Special guest Robert Mnookin, a leading scholar in the field of conflict resolution, will also provide an inside look at dispute resolution today, joined by David Hoffman, during a Q&A session. In addition, Gov. Charlie Baker's proclamation recognizing Oct. 18 as Dispute Resolution Day in Massachusetts will be presented at the reception. Event sponsors include Harvard Law School Program on Negotiation, Massachusetts Collaborative Law Council and New England Association for Conflict Resolution.

Join us for Conflict Resolution Week.

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.