



MASSACHUSETTS BAR FOUNDATION

KEEPING THE PROMISE OF JUSTICE SINCE 1964

THE ADVOCATE

SPRING 2007

Keeping the Promise of Justice

MISSION STATEMENT

The Massachusetts Bar Foundation represents the commitment of the lawyers and judges of Massachusetts to improve the administration of justice, to promote an understanding of the law and to ensure equal access to the legal system for all residents of the Commonwealth, particularly those most vulnerable.

— Adopted Sept. 28, 1999

MASSACHUSETTS FAMILY GETS A NEW LEASE ON LIFE

Jacqueline Farrow, a single mother with two young children, went to Housing Court fearful of losing her home for the second time in just over a year. She had lost her home a year ago when her apartment was converted to a condominium, and she had been given 30 days to move. She quickly found a place to move to that would keep her children in the same schools, but the rent was high. Even though Jackie has a good job as an administrative assistant in an agency helping disabled people, during the fall and winter she fell behind in the rent, due in large part to her exorbitant heating and electric bills.

She found out that her apartment was not insulated and had drafty windows and doors. She was forced to supplement the existing oil heat with electric space heaters to keep her family warm. The landlord ignored her complaints that the roof leaked into her apartment every time it rained. Three days before Christmas, the refrigerator exploded, spilling Freon all over the food that she had bought for a Christmas dinner for her family. She had to throw out the spoiled food and purchase a new refrigerator. As if this weren't enough, the landlord had also had her sign a lease containing many illegal lease provisions, including requiring her to do the snow shoveling and other maintenance for the yard and driveway.

When Jackie went to Housing Court in February she owed back rent. She was prepared to work out a payment plan so she wouldn't have to move. Western Massachusetts Legal Services Housing Court Intervention Project attorney, Patti Prunhuber, assisted Jackie. They established that based on the conditions in the apartment, the land-



Jacqueline Farrow with her daughters at their home in western Massachusetts.

lord's failure to properly handle her security deposit, and the many illegal lease provisions, the landlord actually owed her money.

The landlord subsequently agreed to pay Jackie \$4,000, gave her free rent for an additional four months, and returned her security deposit to her. In addition, the landlord was ordered to make repairs to the apartment to make it weather tight, and to fix the leaky roof. Finally, the landlord agreed to hire Jackie to do the maintenance for the premises by reducing her rent to make it more affordable.

With the help of the HCIP attorney, Jackie went from feeling that her family's home was at risk, to feeling like she could ask for and receive basic rights as a tenant, have a secure home, and be compensated for the illegal actions of her landlord.

The WMLS Housing Court Intervention Project is supported in part by funding from the MBF.

A MESSAGE FROM THE MBF PRESIDENT

I am honored to serve as President of the Massachusetts Bar Foundation. Those of you who know me personally are aware that I believe strongly in the MBF's mission and, even more so, in our individual responsibility to do all we can to ensure that it continues to grow and make a lasting impact on access to justice in Massachusetts for those most vulnerable among us.

The more involved I have become with the MBF over the years, the more I have realized that its work reaches far beyond the IOLTA Grants Program, which serves as the cornerstone of our support for legal services in our state. The MBF, through its past and present lead-



Past President Francis A. Ford passes the gavel to newly-elected President Carol A. Witt.

ers, recognizes the importance of investing in a future generation of public service attorneys through our highly successful Legal Intern Fellowship Program. I am particularly happy to report that special initiatives funded

through the generous contributions of MBF Fellows are having a positive impact in areas not previously addressed. The MBF is proud to provide support where it is needed most.

As President, I am constantly aware of the MBF's mandate to "keep the promise of justice." While its current success is attributable in large part to the collective work and dedication of the Fellows who have served over the last 40 plus years, **the MBF's future success rests upon our shoulders, today.** This year we have initiated a comprehensive long-range planning effort that will chart a course for the future, ensuring continued growth and creativity. I want to thank everyone who is participating in this process, including current and past board members and officers, as well as the many Fellows who completed our online survey. I look forward to sharing the results of these efforts with you later in the year.

As stewards of the MBF, increasing access to justice is indeed our legacy to the legal profession and our community at large. To leave the organization stronger and more steadfast in its mission than when we found it, truly honors the best of what we do and who we are as attorneys.

On behalf of those who have been helped through your ongoing generosity, I offer my most sincere thanks.



LEWIS HONORED AT MBF 2007 ANNUAL MEETING

The MBF proudly bestowed its highest honor, the Great Friend of Justice Award, upon Anthony Lewis, two-time Pulitzer Prize winning journalist and author of "Gideon's Trumpet," at its Annual Meeting on January 25. More than 175 Fellows, Grantees, and colleagues joined in the celebration held at the John Adams Courthouse in Boston.

In his keynote address, Lewis noted that "this is a testing time for the American commitment to law." He illustrated this by detailing the plight and torture of detainees currently held at Guantanamo Bay, criticizing the administration's legal justification for the lack of due process for these prisoners. Lewis closed by saying, "The issues raised by these claims of power are more than political. They are legal. They are constitutional. And we count on the lawyers of this country to respond to them."

Attorney Lindy Aldrich delivered an inspiring grantee address. In 2005, she was awarded a Legal Intern Fellowship to work with the Welfare Unit at Greater Boston Legal Services, where she now is a staff attorney.



"... I offer a chance to be heard, provide a loud voice when they are ignored, and oftentimes create for them a path to justice—one issue at a time." —Lindy Aldrich

Aldrich credits the MBF with being an integral step in her becoming a poverty attorney.

She explained, "For many of my clients, I offer a chance to be heard, provide a loud voice when they are ignored, and oftentimes create for them a path to justice—one issue at a time."

The meeting also recognized more than 70 new Life Members of the MBF Society of Fellows, a review of the year's grant making activities, and elections of new officers and trustees.

The 2007 Annual Meeting was generously sponsored by U.S. Trust, the Massachusetts Bar Association, the MBA Insurance Agency, and BFS Business Printing.



U.S. Trust representatives: Benjamin Garfield, Michael Pucci, Dale Edmunds, and Daniel Cunningham with MBF Executive Director Elizabeth Lynch (center).



(From left) Hon. Amy Nechtem, Hon. Mary Ann Driscoll, Martha Rush-O'Mara, Hon. Ellen Flatley, Chief Justice Martha Grace, and Rosemary Eacmen.



MBF Past President Francis Ford, Great Friend of Justice honoree Anthony Lewis and MBF President Carol Witt.



New MBF Life Fellows: (clockwise from left) Edward Dombroski Jr., Michael Weinberg, Glynis MacVeety, Perry Wu, Iris Taymore Schnitzer, and Toni Leoney.



Nikiki Bogle, President-elect of the Massachusetts Black Lawyers Association and Angela McConney, current President of the MBLA.



(From left) Leslee Klein, Community Legal Services and Counseling Center; Alan Ells, Massachusetts Justice Project; Nancy King, South Middlesex Legal Services; Richard McMahon, New Center for Legal Advocacy; Jayne Tyrrell, Massachusetts IOLTA Committee; and Jay Rose, Greater Boston Legal Services.

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MBF WELCOMES NEW OFFICERS AND TRUSTEES

At its recent Annual Meeting, the MBF elected its 2007 Officers and Trustees. Following nominations by the MBF Nominating Committee, chaired this year by Attorney Craig E. Stewart, and including Attorneys Elaine M. Epstein and Katherine A. Hesse, MBF Fellows unanimously elected the following individuals:

2007 OFFICERS

- Carol A. Witt, Esq., President**
- Lawrence M. Johnson, Esq., Vice President**
- Joseph P. J. Vrabel, Esq., Treasurer**
- Pamela B. Marsh, Esq., Secretary**



Carol A. Witt



Lawrence M. Johnson



Joseph P. J. Vrabel



Pamela B. Marsh

2007 TRUSTEES

- Jerry Cohen, Esq.**
- Hon. Francis R. Fecteau**
- Hon. Randy J. Kaplan**
- Elizabeth H. Munnell, Esq.**
- Robert V. Ward, Esq.**
- Carol A. Witt, Esq. (2nd term)**



Jerry Cohen



Hon. Francis R. Fecteau



Hon. Randy J. Kaplan



Elizabeth H. Munnell



Robert V. Ward

HONORING RETIRING TRUSTEES

Heartfelt thanks to the following retiring Trustees for their years of dedicated service and leadership in advancing the mission of the MBF.



(From left): Donald K. Stern, Hon. Patricia M. Dunbar, Margaret S. Travers, and Robert E. Longden.

LONG-RANGE PLANNING UNDERWAY

In November of 2006, the MBF Board of Trustees voted to embark on a substantial long-range planning initiative with the goal of assessing current perceptions about the MBF, and using that information to develop strategies to strengthen the MBF for the future.

We would like to thank those of you who participated in the online MBF Fellows Survey in January. The information you provided will help guide the work of two upcoming half-day planning sessions of the Long Range Planning Committee, which will be facilitated by our consultant, ALPS Foundation Services.

We look forward to sharing the results of this process with you in late fall of 2007.

MBF SUPPORTS 2007 MOCK TRIAL CHAMPS



MBF President Carol A. Witt presents the \$2,500 Travel Award Grant to 2007 Mock Trial Champions, Sharon High School.

WELCOME NEW LEAD FELLOWS

The MBF wishes to thank the following Fellows who, after completing their initial pledges, increased their contributions this year to become Lead Fellows of the Foundation:

OLIVER WENDELL HOLMES FELLOWS

Robert J. Marchand, Esq.

LOUIS D. BRANDEIS FELLOWS

Fern L. Frolin, Esq.
Jeffrey D. Ganz, Esq.

(as of 4/1/07)

Please note: in accordance with the Massachusetts Code of Judicial Conduct, this list does not include the names of judges who have become Lead Fellows.

TOGETHER, WE CAN DO MORE

Last year, over 65,000 low-income Massachusetts citizens were helped by programs funded through the MBF. People who could not otherwise afford legal support received assistance with a wide range of issues including housing, domestic violence, immigration, family law, discrimination, employment, and health care. Thousands more need our help and together, we can do more.

We work hard to ensure your charitable dollars are put to use where they are needed most to have the greatest impact in our state. There are two easy ways you can help:

MAKE A CONTRIBUTION:

- Use the contribution form attached;
- Visit us online at MassBarFoundation.org and click on "Make a Contribution"; or
- Contact Susannah Thomas at (617)338-0647 or stbomas@massbar.org.

MAKE A FELLOWS NOMINATION:

- Visit us online at MassBarFoundation.org and click on "Make a Nomination"; or
- Contact Susannah Thomas at (617)338-0647 or stbomas@massbar.org.



ADDITIONAL INTERNSHIP FUNDED THROUGH YOUR CONTRIBUTIONS

As a result of the generosity of the Massachusetts legal community during our 2006 Annual Appeal, we are pleased to announce that the MBF will be able to award an additional \$6,000 stipend through the Legal Intern Fellowship Program this year. Thank you!

WELCOME NEW FELLOWS

(as of 4/1/07)

OLIVER WENDELL HOLMES FELLOWS

Oona Kingston, Esq.

LOUIS D. BRANDEIS FELLOWS

George A. Balko, III, Esq.

Elizabeth H. Munnell, Esq.

Julio R. Hernando, Esq.

Robert K. Rainer, Esq.

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Neal A. Winston, Esq.

Hon. Randy J. Kaplan

Kimberly E. Winter, Esq.

Please note: In accordance with the Massachusetts Code of Judicial Conduct, this list does not indicate judges who have signed on as Lead Fellows.



MASSACHUSETTS BAR FOUNDATION

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