



# MASSACHUSETTS BAR FOUNDATION

KEEPING THE PROMISE OF JUSTICE SINCE 1964

THE ADVOCATE

SPRING 2008

## IOLTA GRANTEES IN ACTION

### FLASCHNER OFFERS DIVERSE ACADEMIC AGENDA FOR JUDGES Program on gender, racial, and ethnic issues among recent offerings

Last November, 20 Massachusetts judges convened at the Social Law Library for a discussion on gender, race, and ethnicity issues in relation to their work on the bench. The full-day workshop was just one of the many recent Flaschner Judicial Institute programs offered to the state's judges.

The MBF has supported Flaschner since 1982, enabling it to develop innovative programs for Massachusetts judges, and affirming the importance of an independent source of judicial education to strengthen the administration of justice in the Commonwealth.

Offering an academic agenda of both traditional and cutting-edge programs, as well as essential publications, Flaschner has been recognized nationwide for its excellence. Last year, 342 Massachusetts judges (77 percent of the state's judiciary) participated in Flaschner programs and activities.



Members of the judiciary discuss diversity issues at the November Flaschner program.

*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



(From left) Hon. Leila R. Kern, program facilitator Sanford Lottor, and Hon. Ralph D. Gants.

#### Recent Flaschner Judicial Institute Course Offerings

- Damage Assessment and Settlement Approval Hearings
- Mental Health Issues in Criminal Cases
- Discovery Disputes in Superior Court
- Exploring Justice Through Literature
- Recent Developments in Probate and Family Law
- "Shot in the Hood" — Film screening and discussion with the Producer/Director Bill Willis
- Limited Guardianship — A New Approach
- Strategic Litigation Issues for GALs
- Exploring Racial and Ethnic Issues

#### Flaschner Author Series:

- *Team of Rivals: The Political Genius of Abraham Lincoln* — A discussion with Doris Kearns Goodwin
- *Supreme Discomfort: The Divided Soul of Clarence Thomas* — A discussion with Kevin Merida

The Flaschner Judicial Institute is an affiliate of the Social Law Library and receives funding from the Massachusetts Bar Foundation. For more information, visit [www.Flaschner.org](http://www.Flaschner.org).

## FELLOWS CONTRIBUTIONS SUPPORT JYC EXPANSION Summer legal program for urban teens to double number of participants

A Fellows Fund grant of \$53,319 made to the Massachusetts Bar Association has made it possible for twice the number of students to participate in the Worcester Judicial Youth Corps this summer. The program will also be expanded from seven to 14 weeks.

Designed for urban high school students, the Judicial Youth Corps was established by the Supreme Judicial Court's Public Information Office in 1991. The program educates urban teens about the judicial branch of government and the fundamental principles of law through a multi-faceted program that includes a seven-week courthouse internship. Last year, a Fellows Fund grant from the MBF helped the Judicial Youth Corps return to Worcester after a long hiatus.

"This program provides the rare opportunity to expose these students to the law and to public interest work," said MBF Executive Director Elizabeth Lynch. "At the same time it helps the teens recognize their own professional potential. The MBF is proud to support an initiative which has such a positive impact."



MBA Public and Community Services Director Elizabeth O'Neil, SJC Public Information Office Director Joan Kenney (far left), and JYC attorney teachers Jerry Howland and Jim Rosseel (far right), pose with 2007 Worcester JYC students.



**MBF 2008 ANNUAL MEETING**

# IRELAND HONORED; NEW OFFICERS, TRUSTEES ELECTED

## More than 150 gather to celebrate Foundation's 2007 successes

*Photos by Jeff Thiebault*

### 2008 OFFICERS

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Laurence M. Johnson, Esq.

**VICE PRESIDENT**

Joseph P. J. Vrabel, Esq.

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### EDITOR

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### DESIGN AND PRODUCTION

N. Elyse Lindahl

Supreme Judicial Court Justice **Roderick L. Ireland** was honored with the Great Friend of Justice Award at the MBF Annual Meeting, held January 24 at the Social Law Library in Boston.

Ireland was honored for his work with youth and with the Judicial Youth Corps, a program funded by the Foundation in 2007

In his keynote address, Ireland shared credit for the award with all of the court staff who volunteer their time to make the program work. "They do it for just one reason — because it's a chance to give back and work with young people," he said.

Further evening highlights included the passing of the gavel from President **Carol A. Witt** to newly-elected President **Laurence M. Johnson**. Johnson, a partner at Davis, Malm & D'Agostine, has been an MBF Fellow since 1998 and has served as an officer since 2006.



Newly-elected President Laurence Johnson accepts the gavel from Immediate Past President Carol Witt.



(From left) Hon. Roderick Ireland with Trustees Carol Witt, Hon. Anne Geoffrion, and Hon. Randy Kaplan.



(Clockwise from left) New Life Fellows James Van Buren, George Field, Pamela Marsh, Kevin Kenneally, MBA Executive Director Marilyn Wellington, and Martha Rush O'Mara.



(From left) Fausto da Rocha, Brazilian Immigrant Center, Sue Ellen Scrogin, Worcester CASA Project, and MBF President Laurence Johnson.



New MBF Fellow Frank Riccio (left) and MBA President David White, Jr.



(From left) 2007 MBF President Carol Witt with Grantee Speaker and JYC participant, David LeBoeuf, Carol LeBoeuf, and Paul LeBoeuf.



(From left) Event sponsor Michael Pucci of U.S. Trust with MBF Executive Director Elizabeth Lynch, and MBF Development Director Susannah Thomas.



# A MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

Dear Friends:

I am glad to have this opportunity to share our plans for the coming year with you. I appreciate very much the opportunity to continue to serve the Foundation.

Our successful Annual Meeting on January 24 capped an exciting year and was the kick-off for a dynamic 2008. It featured inspiring talks from Supreme Judicial Court Justice **Roderick L. Ireland** and 2007 Judicial Youth Corps member **David LeBoeuf**, our Grantee Speaker.



Laurence M. Johnson

I want to express the Foundation's deep appreciation to our outgoing President, **Carol Witt** and Secretary, **Pamela Marsh**, as well to our outgoing Trustees, **Jenny Chou** and **Rick Vitali**. The Foundation owes much to their creativity, energy, and leadership.

We have ambitious plans for 2008. First, we will continue to seek ways to improve our process in reviewing grant applications and directing the available funds among worthy programs. That is the core function by which we accomplish our mission.

Beyond that, we are committed to implementing our long-range plan this year. The Grants Exploration Committee will identify and recommend to the Trustees new and innovative programs for the delivery of legal services and improving the administration of justice. The newly formed Fellowship Committee will explore ways of strengthening the Foundation by expanding our Fellowship and offering all Fellows broader choices for participation in our work.

I encourage the participation of every Fellow. Please feel free to contact the Officers, Trustees, or our Executive Director, Beth Lynch, with your ideas. I welcome the opportunity to work with each of you during the coming year.

*Laurence M. Johnson, Esq.*

*President, Massachusetts Bar Foundation*

## Brody-Fialkin Joins MBF Staff

The MBF is pleased to welcome our new Program Assistant, Julianna Brody-Fialkin, who joined the staff in November of 2007. Brody-Fialkin is a native of Jamaica Plain and a graduate of Oberlin College in Ohio. She comes to the MBF with a knowledge of the Massachusetts legal system, having worked previously with the Massachusetts Legal Assistance Corp. and the Women's Lunch Place.



Julianna Brody-Fialkin

As Program Assistant, she will support both grantmaking and development activities.

## KING HONORED WITH FELLOWSHIP



Nancy King

The legal community lost a shining star this past December when **Nancy King**, long-time executive director of South Middlesex Legal Services in Framingham, passed away after a battle with cancer. As both a grantee and a Fellow, King actively worked to help advance the MBF's mission.

In her honor, the MBF will designate a new Legal Intern Fellowship as the "Nancy King Memorial Fellowship", to be reserved for a law student who chooses to intern at SMLS. This stipend has been generously supported by a contribution from MBF Holmes Fellow, Elaine Epstein, and matched by the MBF Fellows Fund.

## NEW LEAD FELLOWS

(as of 3/15/08)

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

### OLIVER WENDELL HOLMES FELLOWS

**Fern L. Frolin, Esq.**

### LOUIS D. BRANDEIS FELLOWS

**Wendy Sibbison, Esq.**  
**Joseph P. J. Vrabel, Esq.**

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

## NEW OFFICERS AND TRUSTEES

The MBF Nominating Committee, chaired by Elaine M. Epstein, Esq. and including Katherine A. Hesse, Esq. and Craig E. Stewart, Esq., unanimously elected the following individuals at the MBF Annual Meeting:

### OFFICERS

(Terms run through January 2009)

#### President

**Laurence M. Johnson, Esq.**  
Davis, Malm & D'Agostine PC, Boston

#### Vice President

**Joseph P. J. Vrabel, Esq.**  
Endurance Asset Management Inc., Framingham

#### Treasurer

**Jerry Cohen, Esq.**  
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**Robert V. Ward, Jr., Esq.**  
Southern New England School of Law,  
North Dartmouth

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(Terms run through January 2012)

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Massachusetts Superior Court

**Richard P. Campbell, Esq.**  
Campbell, Campbell, Edwards  
& Conroy PC, Boston

**Daniel J. Gleason, Esq.**  
Nutter, McClennen & Fish LLP, Boston

**Edward W. McIntyre, Esq.**  
Law Office of Edward W. McIntyre, Clinton

**Joseph P. J. Vrabel, Esq.**  
Endurance Asset Management Inc.,  
Framingham



Laurence M. Johnson



Joseph P. J. Vrabel



Jerry Cohen



Robert V. Ward



Hon. Thomas A. Connors



Richard P. Campbell



Daniel J. Gleason



Edward W. McIntyre

## NEW MBF WEB SITE LAUNCHED

VISIT THE NEW MBF WEB SITE, WHERE YOU CAN ...

- Nominate new Fellows
- Make a contribution
- Browse photos from events
- And so much more!

The site is a work in progress and we welcome your feedback.



Visit [www.MassBarFoundation.org](http://www.MassBarFoundation.org) today.

## FELLOWS SUPPORT 2008 MBA MOCK TRIAL CHAMPS



MBF Vice President Joseph P. J. Vrabel presents a \$2,500 travel grant to 2008 Mock Trial Champions, Newton South High School.

### TOGETHER, WE CAN DO MORE

Last year, over 82,000 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 envelope enclosed
- Visit [www.MassBarFoundation.org](http://www.MassBarFoundation.org) and click on "Make a Contribution"
- Contact Susannah Thomas at (617)338-0647 or [stbomas@massbar.org](mailto:stbomas@massbar.org)

#### MAKE A FELLOWS NOMINATION:

- Visit [www.MassBarFoundation.org](http://www.MassBarFoundation.org) and click on "Make a Nomination"
- Contact Susannah Thomas at (617)338-0647 or [stbomas@massbar.org](mailto:stbomas@massbar.org)



## Thank You Retiring Trustees

A heartfelt thanks to the following retiring Trustees for their years of dedicated service and leadership in advancing the mission of the MBF:

**Jenny C. Chou, Esq.**

The EdLaw Project

**Pamela Marsh, Esq.**

Rubin, Rudman, Chamberlain and Marsh

**Rick Vitali, Esq.**

Vitali Law Office

## WELCOME NEW FELLOWS

(as of 3/15/08)

### OLIVER WENDELL HOLMES FELLOWS

**Damian W. Wilmot, Esq.**

### LOUIS D. BRANDEIS FELLOWS

**Daniel Gelb, Esq.**

### FOUNDATION FELLOWS

**Sheila C. Casey, Esq.**

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