

## Corporate Counsel Organization Highlights

### Letter From The President Of The Massachusetts Bar Association



To The Readers Of *The Metropolitan Corporate Counsel*:

The Massachusetts Bar Association has spent the past year fine-tuning its offerings to better support the needs of attorneys practicing in these challenging economic times. From new benefits that boost practice efficiencies to introducing continuing legal education focused on practice management to an increased occurrence of networking events, the MBA is continually working to provide membership with essential resources needed to keep stride in today's business

of lawyering.

Responding to the needs of our membership consisting of varying practice specialties, the MBA proudly rolled out the following new online tools:

**MBA On Demand** – an innovative approach to Continuing Legal Education and other association offerings. Members are now able to watch real-time webcasts or recorded programs from the comfort of their home or office;

**Online Classified Ads** – a free benefit that allows posts that reach members of Massachusetts' largest statewide bar association. Advertisement categories include employment opportunities, office share/rental options, lawyer-to-lawyer services and real estate listings; and

**LinkedIn and Twitter** – the MBA has created a presence on these two social networking sites. The MBA's presence on both has been met with interest throughout the Massachusetts legal community. The MBA enjoys nearly 800 followers on Twitter and welcomes hundreds of members to its newly established LinkedIn community.

In addition to better shaping our benefits to cater to current economic challenges affecting attorneys in Massachusetts, our cornerstone event – the MBA Annual Conference – features programming to address these same issues. MBA's AC10: "Achieving a Competitive Advantage in Changing Times" will take place in Boston on March 11 and 12 and will feature an educational track dedicated to technology-themed law practice management topics. Participants will walk away with practical know-how for their respective offices and firms. From what hardware and software best supports one's business model, to ethical considerations associated with social networking to "how-to's" associated with new data privacy regulations in Massachusetts, the conference will offer a little something for all attorneys.

Attracting practitioners from all corners of the Bay State, this annual event presents a wonderful opportunity for peer networking. Judging from member interest and consistent turnout, the value of in-person connections is far from obsolete despite increased interest in online networking.

Traditional networking opportunities complement our facilitation of on-line networking and information sharing. This particularly holds true with newly admitted attorneys and lawyers in transition.

This season, we offered a networking reception with a bit of a twist. The MBA's first "speed networking" reception was well received, and as a result, will be repeated in late March. Like many bar associations across the country, the Massachusetts Bar Association marries its tried and true programming and benefits with newer ventures to ensure members are adept at navigating today's professional landscape. To help with that progress, we always welcome attorneys' suggestions as we continue to bolster the association's catalogue of resources to ensure professional growth and success.

I'm sure next spring will bring about a whole new host of challenges for our members. The MBA will work on tailored programming and benefits to help members weather whatever storm may arrive then.

Like today, we will remain proud to serve as your partner in the profession.

Sincerely,  
Valerie A. Yarashus

### Massachusetts Bar Association Pro Bono Program Assists Veterans

On Thursday, April 29, the Massachusetts Bar Association is sponsoring a pro bono legal service called Veterans Dial-A-Lawyer. The voluntary program runs from 5:30 to 7:30 p.m.

Volunteer attorneys will offer free legal advice and information to veterans and their families who are experiencing legal problems such as access to benefits, family issues, employment concerns and landlord/tenant matters.

This successful program is undertaken each fall and spring as a supplement to the "Dial-A-Lawyer" program

held each month by the bar and volunteer attorney members.

If you are an attorney who would like to volunteer for Veterans Dial-A-Lawyer, contact the MBA's Boston office at (617) 338-0556 or the Springfield office at (413) 731-5134.

For information visit CLE Events on *The Metropolitan Corporate Counsel* website at [www.metrocorpocounsel.com](http://www.metrocorpocounsel.com).

To register, call (617) 338-0556, or to fill out a registration form, visit [www.massbar.org](http://www.massbar.org). For email inquiries contact [LRS@massbar.org](mailto:LRS@massbar.org).

## In Memoriam

### Clive Cummis, Name Partner Of Sills Cummis & Gross LLP, Succumbs

It is with profound sadness that we report the death of Clive Cummis, a towering member of the New Jersey bar who specialized in administrative law, casino law, and complex and multi-district litigation. He died on February 15 at the age of 81.

A native of Newark, New Jersey, Cummis was born on November 21, 1928. He graduated from Tulane University in 1949 and received his law degree in 1952 from the University of Pennsylvania. After a tour of duty as a private with the U.S. Army, he attended the New York University law school where he received a master's degree in law in 1959.

He began his legal career clerking for a state appellate court judge. After briefly working for other law firms, he and another lawyer founded their own one-room law firm, paying their rent by writing briefs for their landlord, also an attorney. In 1971, he became a founding partner of the law firm now known as Sills Cummis & Gross, which has over 150 lawyers and offices in Newark, Princeton, and Manhattan.

Mr. Cummis was one of New Jersey's most successful fundraisers for the Democratic Party. He was appointed by President Clinton as a member of the President's Commission on White House Fellowships from 1993 to May 2001. He was a founding member of the New Jersey Performing Arts Center and served on its executive committee. He was a director of Blue Cross & Blue Shield of New Jersey, director of The Horizon Foundation for New Jersey, a trustee of the Foundation of the University of Medicine and Dentistry of New Jersey, a trustee of the Flame of Charity Foundation and a trustee of the Newark Museum. He was also a Commissioner of the New Jersey Turnpike Authority. He served on the Board of Trustees of Newark Beth Israel Hospital, the Daughters of Israel Home for the Aged and the Northfield YM-YWHA and was associate editor of the *New Jersey Law Journal* from 1961 to 1998. He was also honored by Integrity House of Newark.



Clive Cummis

Mr. Cummis was one of the original attorneys who worked to bring gambling to Atlantic City. He and partner Arthur Goldberg rescued Bally's from bankruptcy and founded Park Place Entertainment.

He was admitted to the bars of the District of Columbia, New Jersey, New York, and the U.S. Supreme Court. He was a member of the bar associations of Essex County, New Jersey, and the American Bar Association. In addition, Mr. Cummis was a member of the American Bar Foundation, the American Law Institute, and a Trustee of the American Judicature Society.

Mr. Cummis was the recipient of the First Annual Judge Learned Hand Award from the American Jewish Committee; the Outstanding Alumnus Award, Tulane University, College of Arts and Sciences, 1992; and the First Annual Distinguished Citizen Award, New Jersey Medical School, 2002.

He is survived by his wife, Ann Denburg Cummis; his brother, State Superior Court Judge Philip Cummis; four daughters, and three grandchildren.

In lieu of flowers, donations may be made to the New Jersey Performing Arts Center, the Newark Museum or Integrity House of Newark.

### Massachusetts Bar Assists Immigrants With Public Benefits

The Massachusetts Bar and Massachusetts Law Reform Institute are collaborating to make annual basic public benefits advocacy training more accessible to the many public and private sector individuals and lawyers who assist Massachusetts residents in qualifying for and receiving public benefits.

The training seminar is set for Wednesday, April 7, from 9:30 a.m. until 1:00 p.m. at MCLE Millstein Hall, 10 Winter Place, Boston.

The training will offer participants the nuts and bolts on immigration status and benefits for non-citizens. This training will walk attendees through the basics of immigration and public benefit

rules. The program will help practitioners understand which benefits are available for specific immigrant populations and cover changes in 2009 on policy for immigrant eligibility.

The presenters are Patricia J. Baker; Virginia Benzan and Victoria Pulos of the Massachusetts Law Reform Institute and Eva A. Millona of the Massachusetts Immigrant and Refugee Advocacy Coalition.

For information about available CLE credits and fees, visit CLE Events on *The Metropolitan Corporate Counsel* website at [www.metrocorpocounsel.com](http://www.metrocorpocounsel.com).

To register for the program, call (800) 966-6253 or visit [www.mcle.org](http://www.mcle.org).