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# ACCESS TO JUSTICE FELLOWS PROGRAM

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*A Program of the Massachusetts Access to Justice Commission  
and the Lawyers Clearinghouse*



ACCESS TO JUSTICE



## Introduction and Background

The Access to Justice Fellows Program, a project of the Massachusetts Access to Justice Commission and the Lawyers Clearinghouse, enables senior lawyers and retired judges to partner with nonprofits, legal services organizations, and the courts to provide critical legal assistance to underserved populations.

The impetus for the program arose from the recognition of two growing trends. First, severe cutbacks in funding have forced organizations serving the poor to reduce staff and restrict services at a time of increasing need among their client populations. Second, and at the same time, it is projected that by 2020 almost half of the legal profession will be 50 or older. Although lawyers are encouraged to provide pro bono services throughout their careers, they are not often offered a role to play after retirement. By matching retired lawyers with organizations that need their help, the program allows these lawyers to use their specialized skills and experience to do engaging pro bono work, remain active members of the legal community, and help people in need.

Several years ago, under the leadership of Susan Finegan and Martha Koster, both partners at Mintz Levin, a working group was formed to design the Access to Justice Fellows Program. The working group included Access to Justice Commissioners, senior lawyers from various law firms, representatives from the Massachusetts Bar Association, and leadership from legal services agencies. In 2012, this innovative program was launched with seven distinguished lawyers who had retired or were transitioning into retirement. In 2013, the program expanded to twelve Fellows. In 2014, the program grew again, welcoming sixteen new Fellows, and, through a collaboration with the Lawyers Clearinghouse, hiring its first Program Director. This year, there are twenty Fellows in the 2015-2016 class, including one Honorary Fellow. Past and present Fellows come from diverse professional backgrounds and have had careers as managing partners of large law firms, solo practitioners, in-house counsel, former trial and appellate court judges, and legal services attorneys. In less than four years, the program has become a national model that encourages senior attorneys to apply their skills and experience in support of increasing access to justice.



ACCESS TO JUSTICE



## How it Works

Each Access to Justice Fellow partners with a nonprofit, legal services organization, or court. The program provides assistance in placing Fellows with different public service entities and supports them throughout their fellowship.

The 2015-2016 Fellows will work on an astonishing array of projects, including: representing low-income individuals in housing and immigration matters; expanding a conciliation program for unrepresented litigants in the Probate and Family Court; advocating to make female genital mutilation illegal in Massachusetts; reforming the criminal justice system to end mass incarceration; providing pro bono assistance to nonprofits on intellectual property issues; meeting the unmet legal needs of veterans through the creation of a new legal clinic; developing Lawyer for the Day programs to handle debt collection cases; advising a non-profit dedicated to the preservation of the Boston Harbor on governance issues; and working on legislation aimed at improving the lives of people with mental illness.

Fellows devote 10-20 hours per week to their projects. Affiliated law firms may provide resources such as associate pro bono assistance, administrative backup, and office space. Each Fellow commits to work for one academic year, September to June, though many continue to do pro bono work with their partner organization after the fellowship year concludes. In addition to their pro bono commitment, Fellows meet as a group on a monthly basis, sharing their experiences, discussing issues with community leaders, and brainstorming strategies for refining and expanding the program. Many Fellows have reported that the monthly meetings are one of the highlights of the program.

## Get Involved

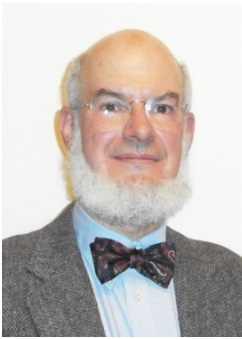
For more information on the Access to Justice Fellows Program, contact Mia Friedman, Access to Justice Fellows Program Director at the Lawyers Clearinghouse, at 617-778-2082 or [mfriedman@lawyersclearinghouse.org](mailto:mfriedman@lawyersclearinghouse.org).



ACCESS TO JUSTICE



## Dick Bauer



Dick Bauer is Of Counsel to the National Consumer Law Center, where he is the Project Supervisor for the HomeCorps Legal Services Program. The HomeCorps Program is funded by the Massachusetts Attorney General's Office, and delivers direct legal representation to homeowners and tenants facing foreclosure or foreclosure-related eviction. Dick has recently won a number of important appellate victories concerning Massachusetts foreclosure law. He is the author of an article about Massachusetts foreclosure law that will appear in the Fall 2015 issue of the Boston Bar Journal.

Previously, Dick was a Senior Attorney with Greater Boston Legal Services for almost 30 years, representing low-income homeowners, tenants, and homeless families in a variety of housing law cases, including discrimination, housing subsidies, development, summary process, sanitary code enforcement, utilities, public benefits, bankruptcy, and emergency shelter issues. He was one of the attorneys on the Civil Right to Counsel Pilot project that was studied by the Harvard Law School and the Boston Bar Association.

In 2008-2009, Dick was the Senior Equal Justice Fellow at the Center for Legal Aid Education (now part of the Sargent Shriver National Center on Poverty Law), and served as a mentor in its inaugural Leadership Institute. He also continues to serve as a national trainer for the Shriver Center, most recently in its Affirmative Litigation Training in Ann Arbor, Michigan in 2014, and was the lead trainer for a two-day training for the HomeCorps Program on trials of post-foreclosure summary process cases. During 2003, he also worked as Project Staff Attorney at the Massachusetts Law Reform Institute (MLRI). An MIT and Northeastern Law School graduate, Dick has been in legal services since 1982, and served as a member of the Supreme Judicial Court Standing Advisory Committee on the Rules of Civil Procedure from 1998 until 2015.

In his other life, Dick is Chair of the Somerville Historic Preservation Commission, Vice-Chair of the Somerville Community Preservation Committee, and the Somerville designee on the Middlesex Canal Commission. Dick is active on the Board of the New England Jewish Labor Committee and the Steering Committee of Jobs with Justice, is the vegvayzer for the Brookline Yiddish Vinkl, and frequently leads historic bicycle tours for the Boston Cyclists Union.

As an Access to Justice Fellow, Dick will volunteer with both Greater Boston Legal Services and the National Consumer Law Center on a variety of housing cases, particularly foreclosure-related and other housing-related appellate litigation, providing direct representation as well as supervision and mentoring of younger attorneys.

## Ann Baum



Ann Baum has been a solo family law practitioner in Boston since 1985, and is currently a partner at the law firm of Baum and Dockter, LLC, in Boston, where her practice includes mediation and parenting coordination. She received her B.A. from the University of Michigan in 1964, and her J.D. from New York University Law School in 1968. She was a faculty member at Boston College Law School, where she taught a clinical practice course, and was the Supervising Attorney at the Legal Assistance Bureau, the clinical program in which law school students represented indigent clients in civil matters. She also served as managing attorney for the Greater Boston Legal Services office associated with that program. For several years, she co-taught a course, "Law and Social Work," at the Boston College School of Social Work, to help students understand the problems when social work and the law intersect.

She is a volunteer for the Attorneys Representing Children (ARC) program in the Norfolk Family and Probate Court, and also for Senior Partners for Justice, where she represents indigent clients in family law matters.

For her Access to Justice Fellowship project, Ann will work with the Settlement and Early Resolution Volunteer (SERV) Project in the Middlesex County Probate and Family Court. The SERV Project uses trained mediators and conciliators to assist unrepresented clients and works with them to help these clients settle their cases without the need for Court intervention. Ann will also work on establishing the SERV Project in other courts in the Commonwealth.

## Deborah Benson



Deborah Benson retired from her law practice of 32 years in April 2014. She was a partner at Hinckley Allen where she practiced trademark and copyright law, receiving many awards and professional recognition.

In 2012, prior to her retirement, Deborah approached the Women's Bar Association of Massachusetts with the idea of the WBA leading a legislative initiative to make female genital mutilation (FGM) illegal in the Commonwealth of Massachusetts. The pending bills, Senate bill S1116 and House bill H1530, are the result of the work of the WBA Legislative Policy Committee's Task Force to study FGM, chaired by Deborah. These bills were filed in January of 2015. Deborah is also the co-chair of the WBA Pay Equity Task Force which co-authored the pending Equal Pay Act, also filed in January and favorably reported out of committee in July of 2015. Earlier in her career, Deborah, through her work with the Boston Bar Association, founded the Volunteer Lawyers for the Arts of Massachusetts.

As an Access to Justice Fellow, Deborah will continue her work on the pending FGM legislation including preparing for upcoming hearings in December, enlarging public and community support for the bills, and engaging in advocacy inside and outside the state house.

## John Bowman



John Bowman was a legal services lawyer in Roxbury and Dorchester with the Boston Legal Assistance Project (now Greater Boston Legal Services) after graduating from Yale Law School and Princeton University. He subsequently served as a Clinical Teaching Fellow under the late Gary Bellow at Harvard Law School and as Associate Professor of Law and Director of the Civil Clinical Program at Boston University, where he also taught Federal Courts, Professional Responsibility, and Client Interviewing & Negotiation.

He served as an Assistant Attorney General in the Government Bureau (Trial Division and Administrative Law Division) under three attorneys general (Bellotti, Harshbarger, and Reilly), where he was the Appeals Coordinator, and also served as a Deputy Director of the Division of Employment Security. After leaving state government, he was a partner in Bowman & Penski, a part-time “virtual” law firm that specialized in municipal representation. He now works as a part-time hearing officer for the Commonwealth Health Insurance Connector Authority and, in the past, was a hearing officer for the Department of Elementary & Secondary Education in charter school revocation proceedings.

John is a long-time member of the board of directors of Greater Boston Legal Services and has also served on the boards of the Massachusetts Council for Public Justice and the Civil Liberties Union of Massachusetts. He was a member of the Boston Bar Association Task Force on Confidential Settlements and the Massachusetts Bar Association Appellate Bench – Bar Committee and has been an instructor in continuing legal education programs. He currently chairs the committee that makes charitable contributions for the United Parish in Brookline and is active in the church’s social justice and education programs.

John’s Access to Justice Fellowship project will focus on efforts to reform the criminal justice system to end mass incarceration. He will work with the Jobs Not Jails Coalition, that includes grass roots, ex-prisoner, faith community and labor organizations, and will coordinate with other organizations, such as the Special Commission to Study the Criminal Justice System, Families Against Mandatory Minimums, and the Civil Liberties Union.

## Jerry Cohen



Jerry Cohen is a Partner at Burns & Levinson and is member of the firm's Intellectual Property, Privacy and Data Security, Business Litigation, International, Life Sciences and Corporate Groups.

Since 1987, Jerry has served on the United States Patent Quarterly Advisory Board. He is currently a member of the American Intellectual Property Law Association, the International Trademark Association, Licensing Executives Society, the Copyright Society, the Court Service Center Planning Committee for the Trial Court, the American Bar Association, the Rhode Island Trial Lawyers Association, Fédération Internationale des Conseils en Propriété Industrielle, and is on the Board of Editors of the Massachusetts Law Review and Rhode Island Bar Journal. He is Past President of both the Massachusetts Bar Foundation and the Boston Patent Law Association. Additionally, he has served as chair of the Massachusetts Bar Association Business Law Section, chair of the Boston Bar Association International Law Section and Editor-in-Chief of the Massachusetts Law Review, and he has served a four year term on the Massachusetts Board of Bar Overseers.

He also serves as an adjunct professor teaching at Suffolk University Law School and at Roger Williams University Law School. Jerry served as an examiner with the U.S. Patent & Trademark Office. He is a Fellow of the Chartered Institute of Arbitrators - North America Chapter, and has taken mediation and arbitration training through the American Arbitration Association, JAMS, and American Intellectual Property Law Association. He has taught at bar association CLE meetings and in Thomson Reuters webinars including issues of domestic and international IP trends, IP misuse, and vertical price restrictions.

A graduate of the Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute, Jerry earned his J.D., with distinction, from George Washington University.

Jerry will lead the Lawyers Clearinghouse's efforts to provide pro bono legal assistance to nonprofits on intellectual property issues and related tax and governance issues that affect their organizations. He will run workshops for organizations to educate, inform, and identify intellectual property needs. In addition, Jerry will train and mentor pro bono lawyers who volunteer for pro bono intellectual property cases. He will also pursue opportunities to mentor new attorneys taking on clients of modest means who do not qualify for pro bono legal assistance.



## Hon. John Cratsley



The Honorable John Cratsley (retired) served on the Massachusetts Superior Court for 24 years, serving as Chair of the Superior Committee on Alternative Dispute Resolution. From 1999 to 2004, he served as Chair of the Massachusetts Supreme Judicial Court's Standing Committee on Dispute Resolution. Since his retirement in 2011, he has served as a full-time arbitrator and mediator at JAMS. He focuses his practice on a wide variety of matters, including contract, construction, employment, and insurance disputes. He recently served as a part-time Special Judicial Magistrate, appointed by the Chief Justice of the Massachusetts Superior Court, hearing matters arising from the *Drug Lab Litigation*. He has served as a Lecturer of Law at Harvard Law School since 1972 and as Adjunct Faculty at Boston College Law School since 1994.

Judge Cratsley received his L.L.M. from Georgetown University Law Center in 1968 and his J.D. from University of Chicago Law School in 1966. He received his bachelor's degree from Swarthmore College. Following law school, he worked as an attorney at the Community Legal Assistance Office (now Cambridge and Somerville Legal Services), as a member of the Massachusetts Parole Board, and as a Justice of the Roxbury Division of the District Court Department.

As an Access to Justice Fellow, Judge Cratsley will be working with Veterans Legal Services to expand upon his volunteer work at the Bedford VA Medical Center, where he has independently been providing information and counseling to veterans to remove barriers to housing and employment. Veterans Legal Services and Judge Cratsley will join together to offer increased civil legal support in additional practice areas, with the goal of meeting the veterans' unmet needs. Judge Cratsley's fellowship will help Veterans Legal Services add its fourth on-site legal clinic in Greater Boston.

## Michael Diener



Michael Diener was a partner at Hale and Dorr and then WilmerHale in the Intellectual Property department and in the Intellectual Property Litigation group. His practice focused on patent acquisition, analysis, and litigation, particularly in the wireless, computer, telecommunications, and semiconductor industries. Before joining Hale and Dorr as an associate in 1995, Michael was an associate at Wolf, Greenfield and Sacks, and at Fish and Richardson.

Michael received his J.D. from The Ohio State University College of Law, and an S.B. in electrical engineering from the Massachusetts Institute of Technology. He grew up in Dorchester and attended Boston Latin School. He lives in Needham, where he is on several boards and volunteers for local charitable and political organizations.

As an Access to Justice Fellow, Michael will be working on immigration matters, including asylum intake and applications with the Political Asylum/Immigration Representation (PAIR) Project, temporary protective status for people from Haiti and other immigration assistance with the Irish International Immigrant Center, and citizenship application assistance with Project Citizenship.

## Janet Donovan



Janet Donovan is the former Managing Attorney of the Legal Advocacy Program at Casa Myrna Vazquez, Inc., Boston's largest provider of services to survivors of domestic violence. During her fifteen years in that capacity, Janet supervised the Program's staff, represented the agency's clients in family law and other civil matters, and collaborated with other non-profits and government agencies to address systemic change, and served on bench/bar task forces. Previously, Janet was in private practice with a focus on family law and special education cases. Before attending Suffolk University Law School, Janet taught in Puerto Rico.

Janet is a member and past president of the board of the Massachusetts Law Reform Institute (MLRI). She is also a long-term board member and past president of the board of the Women's Bar Foundation (WBF), which recruits and trains volunteer attorneys to address legal issues that disproportionately affect low-income women and children. The Women's Bar Association has honored Janet with its Pro Bono Publico Award for her leadership in *pro bono* initiatives and its Lelia J. Robinson Award, conferred for serving as a mentor and role model to other women attorneys. Janet has also been honored for her public interest work by other entities, including the Rappaport Center for Law and Public Service and the Middlesex District Attorney/Law Firm Partnership, and has been listed among the Top Women of Law by Massachusetts Lawyers Weekly. Janet has been an adjunct faculty member at Northeastern University School of Law and Suffolk Law School and a guest speaker at other Boston area law schools and community organizations.

For her fellowship, Janet will work with the Access to Justice Fellows Program at the Lawyers Clearinghouse to help create a blueprint for the future of the Program and a method to articulate the impact of the Access to Justice Fellows Program. She will continue her board work with MLRI where she is on the Strategic Planning and the Governance & Development committees. She will also continue her work with the Pro Bono and Development committees of the WBF board and continue to train and mentor its volunteer attorneys.

## Hon. Raymond Dougan



The Honorable Raymond Dougan (retired) received his B.A. from Tufts University in 1996 and his J.D. in 1971 from Boston University School of Law. He served as a Clinical Instructor at Boston University Law School Law from 1974-1979.

Judge Dougan served at the Massachusetts Attorney General's Office from 1981-1990, first as an Assistant Attorney General and then as Chief of the Environmental Protection Division.

From 1991-2014, Judge Dougan served as an Associate Justice of the Boston Municipal Court. Additionally, from 2009-2014, he served as the First Justice of the Central Division of the BMC.

Judge Dougan will work with Senior Partners for Justice and the Volunteer Lawyers Project to establish Lawyer for the Day programs in several district courts in Greater Boston, providing legal services for indigent defendants in debt collection cases.

## Hon. David Fuller



The Honorable David Fuller (retired) graduated from Harvard College in 1966. Upon his college graduation, Judge Fuller entered the U.S. Army, where he served for four years, until 1970. Judge Fuller attended Catholic University School of Law, graduating in 1973. For the next 20 years, until 1993, he served as an associate and then partner at the Springfield law firm of Barclay, Richardson and Gelinas.

In February of 1993, Judge Fuller was sworn in as an associate justice of the Hampden Probate and Family Court. Throughout his time on the bench, Judge Fuller sat in Western Massachusetts and primarily in Springfield. In September 2014, Judge Fuller retired but, in October 2014, began to serve again on a recall basis until April 2015. Judge Fuller served on the Judicial Evaluation Committee for the Probate and Family Court.

As an Access to Justice Fellow, Judge Fuller will work on family law matters in Western Massachusetts.

## Gretchen Graef



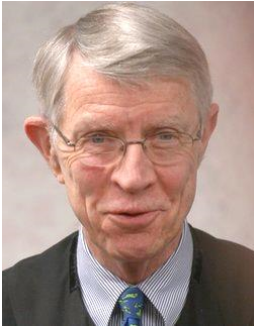
Gretchen Graef, of Counsel to Verrill Dana, retired in the summer of 2015 after practicing family law for 15 years. Given her background as a psychiatric social worker, she frequently worked on high conflict cases involving mental health and child related issues. Trained as a mediator and a conciliator, she consistently tried to settle her cases but sought court intervention when necessary. She was active in Senior Associates for Justice, the Family Section of the Boston Bar Association, and in instituting the SERV (Settlement and Early Resolution Volunteers) Project in Suffolk County.

After graduating from Boston College Law School in 1992, Gretchen served as a Specialized Prosecutor of Domestic Violence and Sexual Assault cases, in Norfolk and Suffolk counties. In Suffolk County, she was responsible for all the juvenile sexual assault cases and for a community based program which provided services to middle and high school students who were at risk of becoming involved in the juvenile justice system. Gretchen also chaired an initiative with the Boston Public Schools, the Boston Police Department, and the Boston Public Health Commission aimed at reducing absenteeism in the elementary schools.

Prior to law school, Gretchen obtained a MSW from Columbia School of Social Work. For twenty years, she was a psychiatric social worker at Children's Hospital, Boston, where she worked with families and children whose lives had been disrupted by illness, divorce, or desertion. She was a founding member of the interdisciplinary team which offered mental health services to children who had been sexually abused and their families. This team provided extensive training to medical and mental health agencies who were interested in developing similar services.

As an Access to Justice Fellow, Gretchen will volunteer at Justice Bridge (in the New Bedford office) as a mentoring attorney to recent graduates of the University of Massachusetts School of Law who are representing clients of very modest means in family law cases. Gretchen will also explore the network of local agencies which can also support these clients as well as possibilities for resolving family law cases with minimal court involvement.

## Hon. John Greaney (Honorary)



The Honorable John Greaney (retired) received his B.A., with honors, from the College of the Holy Cross in 1960 and his J.D. from New York University School of Law in 1963, where he was a Root-Tilden scholar and chairperson of the Annual Survey of American Law. After briefly serving in the military, Judge Greaney joined the Springfield law firm of Ely and King until his appointment to the Hampden County Housing Court in 1974.

Judge Greaney served as presiding judge in the Housing Court until Governor Michael Dukakis appointed him to the Superior Court in 1975, then to the Appeals Court in 1978. He served as an associate justice until 1984, when he became the Court's chief justice. In 1989 Judge Greaney was appointed to the Supreme Judicial Court, where he served until his retirement in 2008. During his tenure on the Supreme Judicial Court, Judge Greaney participated in several landmark cases. He wrote the concurrence in *Goodridge v. Department of Public Health*, making Massachusetts the first State to legalize same-sex marriage.

Judge Greaney then served as the director of the Macaronis Institute for Trial and Appellate Advocacy at Suffolk University School of Law. Judge Greaney taught law and lectured extensively, edited several books on the law of deceptive and unfair practices and appellate practice and procedure, and co-authored books on civil jury instructions and summary judgment.

Judge Greaney will serve as an Honorary Fellow for the Access to Justice Fellows Program.

## Ernest Haddad



Ernest M. Haddad has spent the largest part of his professional life serving as the general counsel of large non-profit and government organizations involved in health care services, research, education, financing and regulation. He has also enjoyed a secondary career in legal education, from which he retired in the fall of 2014.

Ern grew up in Boston, graduated from Trinity College (Connecticut) in 1960, and Boston University School of Law in 1964. After two years in general civil practice with a small Boston law firm, Ern returned to BU Law to serve as Assistant Dean, responsible for all student affairs and services. He also co-taught a course in Law and Psychiatry.

In 1971, Ern left BU Law to enter public service. During the ensuing 32 years, he held three consecutive founding General Counsel positions - at the Massachusetts Executive Office of Human Services (1971-1975), Blue Cross and Blue Shield of Massachusetts (1976-1980), and The Massachusetts General Hospital and Partners HealthCare System (1981-2002) – creating comprehensive law departments at each organization. The Partners Office of the General Counsel was included in the 1999 Harcourt Brace publication entitled “America’s Greatest Places to Work with a Law Degree.” Upon his retirement from the MGH and Partners in 2002, Partners named him “General Counsel Emeritus” and the MGH established in his honor an annual lecture on a topic in the area of health policy and ethics. Ern then returned again to BU Law where he served as Associate Dean for Graduate Programs from 2002 to 2008 and Associate Dean for Special Projects from 2008 to 2014.

Ern has been involved in a variety of bar and community service activities including several years as an officer and governing board member of both the Boston Bar Association and the Boston Bar Foundation. He served as the chair of the Joint Audit Committee of the BBA and BBF from 2002 through 2008. Among his current activities, he serves as a member of the governing board of the New England Legal Foundation.

Ern, who has had life-long love of ocean-related activities, has lived for the past nine years at Lewis Wharf in Boston’s North End Waterfront. As an Access to Justice Fellow, he will work with The Boston Harbor Association advising on governance issues as TBHA proceeds with merger negotiations with another non-profit organization also devoted to Boston’s relationship with its waterfront, harbor, and islands.



## William Lahey



Bill Lahey is a partner at Anderson & Kreiger in Cambridge where he focuses on environmental, energy, and municipal law. Prior to joining Anderson & Kreiger in 2006, he was a partner at Palmer & Dodge where he was chair of its litigation department. Bill's clients include energy utilities, renewable energy developers, and universities and major airports across the country.

Bill's international work includes drafting environmental laws for the Royal Government of Bhutan and coordinating the litigation that successfully stopped offshore oil development in Belize on behalf of Oceana, Inc. His work for Oceana in Belize won the Excellence in Pro Bono Award in 2013 from the Massachusetts Bar Association. He served as chairman of the founding board of Smith Leadership Academy Charter School in Dorchester.

Bill received his JD from the University of Wisconsin Law School in 1982 and BS from the University of Wisconsin in 1978.

As an Access to Justice Fellow, Bill will be working with the National Alliance for Mental Illness in Massachusetts, an advocacy organization dedicated to improving the quality of life for people with mental illness. NAMI-Massachusetts was recognized as the Outstanding State Chapter for 2015 by the National NAMI Convention. His work for NAMI will involve a number of matters including bail reform and assisting on legislation to expand services and insurance for mental illness.

## Marilyn Lyng O'Connell



Marilyn Lyng O'Connell served as Executive Director of the Judicial Nominating Commission and Deputy Legal Counsel in the Office of Governor Deval L. Patrick from February 2010 to January 2015, participating in the selection, nomination, and confirmation process for 139 state court judges. Her prior work experience includes Director of Community Relations at Harvard University, Director of Investigations and Staff Attorney at the Massachusetts State Ethics Commission, Associate at the Washington, D.C. litigation firm Sellers, Conner and Cuneo, Middlesex County Assistant District Attorney, and Director of Program Development at Discovering Justice, The James D. St. Clair Court Education Project.

Marilyn held elected positions as member and chair of the Waterville Valley, New Hampshire School Board and Board of Selectmen from 1998 to 2003. Governor William Weld appointed her in 1992 to be Commissioner of the Massachusetts State Ethics Commission. She is a graduate of Wellesley College (Political Science, 1972) and Boston University School of Law (1975).

For her fellowship project, Marilyn will work with the Honorable Geraldine Hines, Associate Justice of the MA Supreme Judicial Court and Co-Chair of the MA Access to Justice Commission, on a new committee of the Access to Justice Commission. The new committee will focus on the potential role of non-lawyers to help solve access to justice issues in the trial courts.

## Hon. Susan Ricci

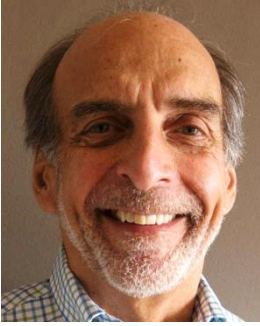


The Honorable Susan Ricci (retired) was a Probate and Family Court Judge from 1993 through 2014, sitting primarily in Worcester County. She chaired the judicial guardianship committee for ten years and helped implement the Massachusetts Uniform Probate Code. She conducted mental health trainings for both the bench and Bar.

Presently, Judge Ricci serves on the Board of Directors of the Mental Health Legal Advisory Committee, the Massachusetts Judges Conference and the Boston Bar Association's Family Law Steering Committee. She is a member of the Massachusetts Bar Association's Family Law Section, Worcester County Bar Association's Family Law Section, and Inns of Court.

As an Access to Justice Fellow, Judge Ricci will work with Senior Partners for Justice to centralize and standardize care plans and reports that must be filed in the Probate Court by every guardian and/or conservator annually. These reports must be timely reviewed by a judge or judicial designee and approved by the Court. Thousands of guardian and conservator reports are filed annually. Judge Ricci will work with volunteers and court personnel in all 14 counties to develop reporting protocols for all persons under guardianship and conservatorship. She will attend and supervise the reviews in each county and develop uniform standards throughout the state, including bilingual forms and notices and informational pamphlets for pro se guardians and conservators.

## Donald Shulman



Donald Shulman retired as a partner at Goulston & Storrs, P.C. in 2014 and continues with Goulston & Storrs in an of-counsel role. He joined the firm at the beginning of 1969 and during his years with the firm he practiced in the areas of probate and estate planning, private and public corporate representation, joint ventures, real estate development and real estate leasing. His primary focus for the last twenty years has been real estate matters including commercial lease negotiation principally on behalf of landlords, general business representation, mergers and acquisitions, joint ventures and strategic negotiation.

Don received a B.S. in Electrical Engineering at MIT in 1965 and his J.D. from the University of Chicago in 1968.

As an Access to Justice Fellow, Don will be working with the Massachusetts Children's Alliance on a variety of projects including development of procedures and protocols for MACA's involvement in mental health referrals that might be required for the victims of alleged abuse and their families, and potential revisions to MACA governing documents.

## Jean Sifleet



With a business career of over 40 years, Jean has worked in a variety of management, consulting, and private practice roles. Her corporate experience includes strategic planning and program management positions in large high tech companies. For the last 20 years, she has been in private practice advising privately held companies on legal and business matters. Jean has written three books and authored many articles on business topics. She has taught business and intellectual property law.

Jean earned a Juris Doctorate (JD) degree from Boston University School of Law, a Bachelor of Business Administration (BBA) degree from Ohio University, and a CPA (Certified Public Accountant) from the Commonwealth of Massachusetts. In preparation for a productive retirement, Jean completed the MCLE Program on Immigration Law in 2014 and the Boston Language Institute's TEFL Certification Program (Teaching English as a Foreign Language) in 2013.

Jean is a long time Rotarian and has served on a number of nonprofit boards including the Conservation Commission in Clinton, Finance Committee in Acton, Mt. Wachusett Community College Foundation Board, and an Advisory Board for the Polus Center. She has worked on small business programs with organizations including the Center for Women and Enterprise, and Interise/Small Business Administration. In her free time, Jean enjoys all sorts of outdoor activities. She is also an active member of AMC, the Appalachian Mountain Club, and currently serves as the "Ski Chair" for the Worcester Chapter.

As an Access to Justice Fellow, Jean will be working with the Mass Law Reform Institute on immigration policy and reform initiatives with the objective of improving the laws and process for foreign born people to obtain legal status and become productive contributors to the US economy. Specifically, she will be working to engage the business community in communicating their needs for worker-oriented immigration reform.

## Johanna Soris



Johanna Soris recently retired from the Office of the Attorney General's Nonprofit Organizations/Public Charities Division. Johanna was an Assistant Attorney General under the administrations of Francis X. Bellotti, James Shannon, Scott Harshbarger, Thomas Reilly, and Martha Coakley.

During her thirty years with the Attorney General's office Johanna handled every aspect of the laws governing charitable corporations and charitable trusts doing business in Massachusetts. Early in her career she defended the constitutionality of the Massachusetts Charitable Solicitation Act under the first amendment in the First Circuit Court. She also worked on complex corporate transactions involving charitable acute care hospital sales to national for-profit hospital chains, a legal phenomenon which started in the 1990s. Johanna worked closely with former Access to Justice Fellow, Richard Allen, to develop a paradigm to analyze these early hospital cases to assure that the transactions were fairly priced and free of conflict of interest.

Johanna conceptualized, researched, and drafted the Attorney General's Guide for Board Members of Charitable Organizations. Other educational highlights include co-responsibility for a Kellogg Grant for Educations of Regulators, Trustees, and Advocates in Healthcare conversions. The grant was given to the Division to develop and conduct a national training program for regulators dealing with for-profit acquisitions of nonprofit hospitals and other healthcare entities. Regulators gathered in Massachusetts from every state in the country. Johanna co-drafted the regulator manual and accompanying training video on the topic.

In September 2000, Attorney General Reilly selected Johanna to receive an Attorney General Award for Excellence. Johanna graduated from the University of New Hampshire and Suffolk University Law School. Prior to attending law school Johanna worked as a child protective social worker in New Hampshire.

For her Access to Justice Fellowship, Johanna will work with the Massachusetts Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Children to assist in developing a legal analysis for adoption records dated from 1878, when the MSPCC was the sole child protection agency for Massachusetts, to 1979, when the legislature created the Department of Social Services. The legal status of these MSPCC records vis-à-vis public record requests, privacy issues, and the rights of individuals to access these records is the primary focus of the fellowship.

## Al Zabin



Al received his college degree from Brandeis University in 1959, and his J.D. from Harvard Law School in 1962.

From 1963 through 2003, Al practiced law at the law firm of Schneider Reilly. Upon leaving Schneider Reilly as a Principal, Al moved to Duane Morris LLP, where he worked as partner and of counsel from 2003 through 2015. Al's law practice concentrated on trial and appellate practice. In 1973, Al was a Fellow of the American College of Trial Lawyers.

Al has been a member of the International Society of Barristers (2004-2013), the Massachusetts Bar Association, and the American Bar Association. Al was an Associate Editor of the MBA Journal. Additionally, Al has served as a Lecturer in Law, teaching trial practice, at Northeastern University School of Law and Boston College Law School. He is an avid photographer.

A long-time volunteer with Greater Boston Legal Services, Al will continue working with Greater Boston Legal Services for his Access to Justice Fellowship.

***Thank you to this year's partner organizations for their support  
of the Access to Justice Fellows Program.***

Greater Boston Legal Services

Irish International Immigrant Center

Jobs Not Jails Coalition

Justice Bridge Legal Center at University of Massachusetts School of Law

Lawyers Clearinghouse

Massachusetts Access to Justice Commission

Massachusetts Children's Alliance

Massachusetts Law Reform Institute

Massachusetts Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Children

National Alliance on Mental Illness of Massachusetts

National Consumer Law Center

Political Asylum/Immigration Representation Project

Project Citizenship

Senior Partners for Justice

The Boston Harbor Association

Veterans Legal Services

Volunteer Lawyers Project

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The Access to Justice Commission and the Lawyers Clearinghouse would like to express its gratitude to Mintz, Levin, Cohn, Ferris, Glovsky and Popeo, P.C. for its extensive and ongoing support of the Access to Justice Fellows Program.

Additionally, thank you to our former Fellows, as well as our law firms supporters and others committed to access to justice issues in Massachusetts, who continue to volunteer time and energy to the Fellows Program. Your support is invaluable.



Congratulations to the three prior classes of Access to Justice Fellows,  
and our thanks for their continuing pro bono work.

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For additional information about the Access to Justice Fellows Program,  
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