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Massachusetts Association of Criminal Defense Lawyers

Dear Fellow MACDL members:

I am writing you to wish you a belated Happy New Year, and to advise you of some recent developments. Hopefully, you are staying warm and persevering in the midst of these uncertain times.

Winter Meeting: A Tribute to Richie Egbert

As I am sure you are aware, MACDL's winter meeting was in December. It was dedicated to the memory of Past MACDL President Richie Egbert. At that time we heard from several friends and colleagues. It was inspirational and touching. We also saw a video prepared by award winning reporter Amalia Barreda. With Amalia's blessing, the video has been posted by Lawyer's Weekly and can now be seen by the entire legal community. If you haven't seen it, please take few minutes and watch it. The link is: <http://blogs.masslawyersweekly.com/news/2009/02/02/video-pays-tribute-to-egbert/>

One goal of the meeting was also to preserve Richie's memory by endowing a scholarship with MCLE in his name. I am proud to announce that as a result of the generosity of our members, we raised over \$25,000 to establish the Richie Egbert Memorial Scholarship. The scholarship will permit 10 MACDL members to attend MCLE programs every year. The Board of Directors is in the process of formulating some criteria to administer the scholarship. If you wish to make suggestions regarding the criteria, please let us know.

CPCS Budget Being Slashed

MACDL remains committed to protecting the defendant's right to counsel. We are unwavering in this goal. Recently, we have strongly advocated for the reasonable wages for bar advocates, and will continue to do so. However, there appears to be an even greater threat to the constitutional right of counsel; namely devastating budget cuts to CPCS currently being proposed by the Governor.

To address this issue, the Board of Directors will be holding an emergency meeting on February 10th to meet with CPCS General Counsel Bill Leahy. Bill has requested the support of our organization, and the meeting will be geared to developing meaningful strategies to approach the Legislature regarding this critically important issue. As always, we seek your input, and will be enlisting your help in the near future.

Miriam Conrad Reappointed

A few months ago, the Federal Court was considering the reappointment of Miriam Conrad to the position of Federal Defender. MACDL unanimously supported her, and sent a letter expressing our strong and unfettered support for her. I am happy to announce that Miriam was reappointed. Congratulations.

Janice Bassil, Lawyer of the Year

MACDL member Janice Bassil was recently recognized by Lawyer's Weekly as a 2009 Lawyer of the Year. Janice has been a tireless advocate for criminal defendants. On behalf to the entire MACDL organization, I congratulate her on this well-deserved achievement.

New Members of the Board of Directors

The Board of Directors is proud to announce the recent appointment of Steven Jones to our Board of Directors. Steven is the author of the Mass Practice Series volume 50, entitled "Drunk Driving Defense". We welcome Steven to the Board.

Also, as previously announced, the Board of Directors added two members in the fall. They are Kevin Reddington, and Shannon McAuliffe. They have already made enormous contributions to our organization and are certainly welcome additions.

Continuing Legal Education Programs

It is our feeling that MACDL has a vast and unused resource, our members. Many of us regularly lecture for MCLE, the MBA, and BBA. However, we infrequently draw on our own membership to develop programs. These programs can include topics that are more advanced than being offered elsewhere and address complex trial advocacy issues. To rectify this problem, we are working on programs with Steve Jones on breath and blood testing issues, Jamie Sultan on forensics, including ballistics, as well as Steve Maidman's Advanced Post-Trial Litigation Seminar. You will receive more notice in the coming months, so stay tuned.

As always, we are only as strong as our membership. Please let us know if there is anything you would like us to do, or if you would like to contribute in some way. Also, please encourage your colleagues to join MACDL.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Randy S. Chapman". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial "R" and a long horizontal flourish at the end.

Randy S. Chapman
President