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Massachusetts Association of Criminal Defense Lawyers

May 28, 2009

Dear MACDL Members,

My two-year term as President of MACDL is winding down, so I wanted to address you one last time regarding the state of our association, coming events, and some aspirations in the future.

State of the Association

Firstly, I want to thank the Board of Directors, and the entire membership, for your trust and support during my term. To be sure, there were some ups and downs, but collectively we persevered and, as a result, I am confident we are a stronger organization. Our membership has grown, and we have been recognized within the bar, the judiciary, in the press, and in the Legislature as a strong voice for the criminal defense bar. Where once we were seeking recognition, now we are regularly asked for counsel and support. This includes lobbying, editorial support, and analysis of pending legislation.

Certainly the low point over the past two-years was the untimely death of our friend, leader and mentor, Richie Egbert. His passing was a profound loss for many and he is dearly missed. However, from this tragedy we have found many positives. The biggest was the endowment of the Richie Egbert Memorial Scholarship. Through the generosity of our members, we were able to establish this lasting tribute to Richie. Ten MACDL members a year will be sent to educational programs at MCLE. A plaque with Richie's name will hang in the MCLE facility in Boston.

I feel our meeting this winter celebrating Richie's life clearly demonstrated the importance of our association. Hundreds of members reminisced about his accomplishments and the way he touched so many people.

Spring/Summer Meeting

I want to take this opportunity to invite you to our up-coming Spring/Summer meeting, on Wednesday, June 17th, from 5:30 PM to 9:00 PM at the Newton Marriott.

At the meeting, we will be awarding the prestigious Balliro Award to Past-MACDL President Elliot Weinstein. As you all know, Elliot has been a zealous advocate for his clients, and a leader of the bar. Presenting the award will be Judge Geoffrey Packard. Aside from being a good friend of Elliot, Judge Packard is also a past president, and like Elliot, has been fighting cancer. We look forward to seeing them both.

The keynote speaker for the event will be Lt. Governor Timothy Murray. Lt. Governor Murray is a former bar advocate, and will be talking about the fascinating proposals by the Governor to lessen the harsh effects of several mandatory minimum sentences. He is also likely to address meaningful CORI reform. As you know, both of these topics are critically important to our organization.

Also, at the meeting, Jack Cunha will assume the presidency of MACDL. I know Jack will do a wonderful job as President.

Again, please come to the meeting, share a cocktail and dinner with your colleagues, help us celebrate Elliot's accomplishments, and welcome Jack as our next President.

Beacon Hill

MACDL has been actively working with CPCS to ensure that it receives its full share of funding. The Board of Directors has met with Bill Leahy, who has kept us informed of critical stages of the process. While the battle is hardly over, I am proud to say that several legislators have recognized the importance of fully funding indigent defense services.

MACDL's legislative efforts directed towards reducing or eliminating mandatory minimums, as well as racial profiling, are continuing. Marty Rosenthal has been spearheading the movement on both these issues. I want to specifically thank Marty for his tireless efforts, and encourage anyone interested in the issues to contact Marty. He is a wealth of knowledge on the topics and extraordinarily helpful.

Continuing Legal Education

One area that I feel MACDL is uniquely suited to offer are high-end CLE programs at a reasonable cost. We have several programs in the works and are hoping they will come together soon. In the meantime, be aware that we have been able to obtain a reduced rate for MACDL members to MCLE programs. Since MACDL has agreed to sponsor many of these programs, you will be able to attend at a significantly lower cost. Additionally, if you are interested in obtaining a scholarship to an upcoming program please contact us, as we are beginning to award MCLE vouchers from the Richie Egbert Memorial Scholarship Fund.

I also want to thank Steve Maidman for once again chairing the all day seminar on advanced appellate advocacy. This seminar is top notch, with the best and brightest

speaking. The seminar sold out quickly. Next year we will try to run the program at a larger venue to accommodate the many MACDL members that wish to attend.

The Future

The future success of MACDL as a leader of criminal defense lawyers and as a voice for our profession is dependent upon our members. We must encourage new lawyers to join and participate in our events and in our efforts. If we are to remain viable, people must get involved. As the saying goes, "Together We Stand"!

Again, I want to thank the Board of Directors who has given me the opportunity to work for you. Their support and guidance has been spectacular and it has been an honor to work with them. We are truly lucky to have so many bright, engaging members on our Board.

I hope to see you all at the meeting on June 17th at the Newton Marriott.

Very Truly Yours,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Randy S. Chapman". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Randy" being the most prominent.

Randy S. Chapman
President