

# M . A . C . D . L



## Massachusetts Association of Criminal Defense Lawyers

September 25, 2008

Dear MACDL members:

As the fall arrives, I am sure you are all very busy, so I will try to keep this letter relatively short, yet informative.

Firstly, I am proud to announce that the MACDL Board of Directors has just named Jack Cunha our next President-Elect. His term will be effective in the spring, and he will undoubtedly lead this organization with pride and distinction. Congratulations to Jack, and I look forward to working with him over the coming months.

I would also like to welcome our two newest members to the Board of Directors. They are Kevin Reddington, and Shannon McAuliffe. I believe they are exceptional additions to the already very impressive Board.

As I am sure you are aware, the past several months have been very difficult. We unexpectedly lost our dear friend and leader, Richie Egbert far too soon. Last week, past MACDL President Elliot Weinstein underwent surgery for pancreatic cancer, and is now in the midst of a long recovery. Nevertheless, in their honor we will persevere.

In Richie's memory, the Board has approved a fundraising effort to endow a scholarship fund in his honor. By raising twenty-five thousand dollars (\$25,000), we will be able to create the Richie Egbert Memorial Scholarship at MCLE. This will allow MACDL to send 10 members per year, in perpetuity, to MCLE courses. The Board feels that the recurring nature of this scholarship is the perfect way to recognize Richie's dedication to our profession, our organization, as well as his personal commitment to continuing legal education.

To raise the necessary funds we are in the process of planning an evening event focusing on remembering Richie and celebrating his life. Further details will be provided in the near future.

With regards to Elliot, I am pleased to inform you that early reports following his surgery are positive. To be sure, a battle with pancreatic cancer is difficult. Nevertheless, if

anyone is capable of beating this horrid disease, it is Elliot. We wish him well, and remain prepared to assist him and his family in anyway possible.

In other MACDL business, the Board of Directors has recently given our support to Question 2 on the November Ballot. Question 2 provides that simple possession of less than an ounce of marijuana will result in a civil fine, rather than the current criminal penalties. While the Board does not endorse drug use, it is our feeling that the limited resources available to the criminal justice system can be better spent in other areas. This is consistent with our past positions that certain low level crimes should be decriminalized as an important cost saving measure. It is our hope that the money saved might be channeled into such areas as increased wages for bar advocates.

In the coming months, we intend to conduct some CLE programs dedicated exclusively to criminal defense attorneys. As in the past, we will be gearing these programs to the needs of our members. If anyone is interested in suggesting a topic or planning an educational program, please let me know. Our organization is only as good as its members. So we need you to get involved.

Sincerely,

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