

Boston to Brazil

MBA Lawyers Eco-Challenge Task Force member environmentalists and Boston attorney Jeffrey Glassman works with leaders in Brazil to save rainforests

by Jennifer Rosinski

Boston lawyer Jeffrey Glassman is working with the former leader of Greenpeace and politicians to develop a reforestation plan for Matos Grosso, Brazil, a section of the country that has suffered rainforest devastation.

The personal injury attorney met with Matos Grosso Gov. Blairo Maggi, a soybean farmer known as Brazil's "King of Soy," at the Matos Grosso Statehouse in September to discuss saving the forest. Glassman is a member of the Energy and Environment Task Force, a group of more than one dozen attorneys that oversees the MBA Lawyers Eco-Challenge, and the founder of RainforestMaker, a non-profit aimed at preserving the rainforest.

"We're trying to work with (Maggi) to come up with sustainable practices and work on a reforestation plan," he said. "We're hoping to develop a collaborative partnership with Matos Grosso."

Maggi has been condemned by Greenpeace and was given its Golden Chainsaw Award in 2006 for contributing to the destruction of the Amazon Rainforest. Glassman believes Maggi does care about the environment on some level, it just hasn't been publicized.

"It's not the whole truth," Glassman said about the information that has been distributed about Maggi. A positive restriction many do not know about is one that limits development to no more than 20 percent in a portion of the Amazon, Glassman said.

A draft of the reforestation plan has been sent to Maggi and more meetings will be held once it has been finalized, Glassman said. Funding has not yet been determined.

"It's an ongoing process," he said.

The September meeting lasted about an hour and included roughly 10 people, including Glassman and Greenpeace co-founder Patrick Moore, who now heads Greenspirit Strategies Ltd. and sits on the board of directors of RainforestMaker. Maggi and his environmental team were also in attendance.

"It was a very productive meeting and they had an entire agenda for us the next day," Glassman said. Maggi's environmental team took the visitors on a tour of his land and explained his practices.

Glassman and Maggi met for the first time in New York in May, just days after Glassman read about Maggi in a *National Geographic* magazine article that discussed the struggle to conserve land while remaining economically viable.



Photo courtesy of Jeffrey Glassman

From left: Tom Tevlin, president and CEO of Greenspirit Strategies Ltd., Patrick Moore, chair and chief scientist of Greenspirit Strategies Ltd., Matos Grosso Gov. Blairo Maggi, Boston attorney Jeffrey Glassman, Eric Maleson, president of the Brazilian Ice Sports Federation and Jim Kelley, president of Boston Commerce Ventures, meet in Matos Grosso, Brazil, in September to discuss environmental practices in the rainforest.

In memoriam

Daniel O. Mahoney

Nov. 30, 1928 – Nov. 9, 2007

Massachusetts Bar Association Past President Daniel O. Mahoney, 78, of Mattapoisett, died Nov. 9 from complications due to Alzheimer's disease.

Mahoney served as president during the 1982-83 association year.

A Fellow of the American College of Trial Lawyers, Mahoney was a senior litigation partner at Palmer & Dodge in Boston until his retirement. He was a member of the Boston and American Bar Associations.

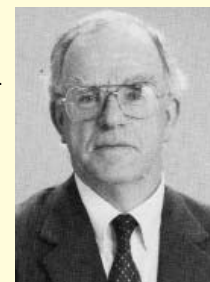
In the late 1970s, he was a member of the Ward Commission, which investigated corruption in the awarding of public building contracts in Massachusetts and brought about far-reaching reforms, including the first-in-the-nation state inspector general's office.

Jeffrey F. Jones, a partner at Edwards, Angell, Palmer & Dodge LLP and a former managing partner at Palmer & Dodge, recalled meeting Mahoney, who was the firm's leading partner in the litigation department, while Jones was a new associate.

Jones said, "He was a terrific guy personally, very warm, very friendly. He was a big bear of a man, and he had a marvelous voice. He had a personality and a voice that would fill any room he was in, including a courtroom. He had a degree of humility as well and self-awareness. He had a sense of balance about himself and his place in the

world."

Jones said Mahoney's involvement on the Ward Commission was a significant public service contribution. "There was no question that he was the right-hand man to the chair of the commission."



Daniel O. Mahoney

Nick Littlefield, a partner in the Boston office of Foley Hoag LLP, was staff director and chief counsel for the Ward Commission. He called Mahoney the "backbone" of the commission.

"I think all of us who worked on the commission and all of us who watched Dan understood that it couldn't have happened without him," Littlefield said.

During the Korean War, he served in the Judge Advocate General's Corps in the U.S. Army Reserve, achieving the rank of captain. Mahoney was a graduate of Williams College and Harvard Law School.

Born in New Bedford and raised in Mattapoisett, Mahoney was a longtime resident of Marblehead, where he and his late wife, Nancy (Miller) Mahoney, raised their family. In the 1980s, he and his wife returned to Mattapoisett, where he served on the board of selectman and zoning board of appeals.

He also served on the board of directors of Social Justice for Women and as president of the boards of trustees of the Tower School in Marblehead and Concord Academy.

President's View

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all confidentially, of course.

I had thought I would write an early New Year's resolution column, beating the pack by several weeks with some clichés of my own. My brilliant wit is lacking, but let me share a few basic notions.

I've already mentioned LCL. Make 2008 the year of the mental tune-up. Face any demons that are slowing you down, professionally or personally. Reach for a new level of professional satisfaction and personal happiness. Make some bold, life-changing decisions which you have been contemplating. If you need help to make those decisions, reach out and get it.

Market yourself! If you are not marketing yourself and your firm every day, you are not marketing enough. Resolve to find new ways to find new clients, and spend some time every day (yes, daily) following your marketing plan. While you are at it, fix your Web site. A decent, professional site is just a

few marketing dollars around the corner.

Educate yourself! When is the last time you attended or taught a continuing legal education program? Massachusetts is just one of a few states in which CLE is not mandatory. That does not mean you should not take advantage of such offerings to bolster your professional development. If you are confident that you are already expert in your field, then you should be teaching others.

And yes, start exercising and lose some weight! It's good for the mind and the body. I'll see you in the gym.

Help us do our job. The MBA has a broad mission, from improving our system of justice to providing member benefits. If you are a wise member, you are taking advantage of your membership to the extent that it pays for itself, literally. What would make your membership more valuable? Please let me know. E-mail me at dwhite@massbar.org.

Please enjoy the holiday season. Take some extra time to be with your loved ones. Cheers!