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mentable fact that Massachusetts district attorneys are woefully underpaid and are among the lowest paid in the nation. The low salaries were pointed out in a *Boston Herald* article, “Scales of Injustice,” in 1988. The Massachusetts Bar Association has been advocating for compensation of ADAs since 1991. In 2007, the MBA formed the Commission on Criminal Justice Attorney Compensation.

ADA pay, however, is not the only issue for criminal defense lawyers. Many people who cannot afford a lawyer are charged with crimes who defend these individuals.

SIDENT'S VIEW

Edward W. McIntyre

do not do it for the money; they take these cases at pay rates much lower than what they can earn from private defense attorneys. Independent clients also do not have the wherewithal of the full-time lawyer's office, state police, independent witnesses or state crime laboratories that they would receive compensation; they are financed to pay their own costs of investigation and an ever escalating

your opinion of private defense attorneys, they have no bearing on the quality of public sector attorneys. Those who dedicate their careers to public defense, should be rewarded for their work. ADAs are necessary, and their branches of law enforcement protect public safety across the state.

continued on page 5

Eco-Challenge begins second year by launching landscape management, cell phone recycling programs

by Jennifer Rosinski

The second year of the Massachusetts Bar Association Lawyers Eco-Challenge will encourage lawyers to continue environmentally friendly practices by participating in a cell phone recycling program and adhering to a new set of Green Guidelines focused on landscape management.

“I am delighted that the second year of the MBA Lawyers Eco-Challenge will continue its mission of helping lawyers work toward a healthier environment,” MBA President Edward W. McIntyre said.

The MBA launched the Eco-Challenge with the Conservation Law Foundation in September 2007 and published the first Green Guidelines, For the Office, four months later. The new guidelines will be released this spring and be available online. The cell phone recycling program will kick off Feb 1.

So far, more than 80 firms, attorneys or organizations have signed the MBA Lawyers Environmental Pledge to join the Eco-Challenge. Pledge Partners represent all regions of Massachusetts and office sizes.

continued on page 15



Photo: Jeffrey Glassman, center, with volunteers from the University of Massachusetts and residents of La Gamba, Costa Rica stand with a sign for the Taurig Grove in the Esquianas Rainforest.

Record attendance expected for 10th Annual Walk to the Hill for Civil Legal Aid at Statehouse

by Tricia M. Oliver

Participation in the 2009 Walk to the Hill for Civil Legal Aid is more critical than ever this year. Due to the dramatic decline in Interest on Lawyers' Trust Accounts (IOLTA) revenue, the Massachusetts Legal Assistance Corporation (MLAC) has already reduced its general support grants to local legal aid programs by nearly 40 percent.

“The MBA encourages its members and others in the Massachusetts legal community to support and attend this vital effort to help protect legal services funding,” said MBA President Edward W. McIntyre.

The 10th annual Walk to the Hill will take place on Thursday, Jan. 22, from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m., in the Great Hall of the Statehouse. This year's message to legislators will be twofold: protect

the MLAC line item from state budget cuts and make legal aid an issue as one of their top legislative priorities.

“Now more than ever, the private bar needs to support and support the cause of equal access to justice. The Walk to the Hill only takes two hours, but the impact it has on the lives of Massachusetts residents facing threats to their safety and health is enormous,” said Julia F. Bromberg & Sunstein LLP and chair of the Walk to the Hill Coalition, which organizes the annual event. Other participating organizations include the Massachusetts and Boston Bar Associations.

Nearly 600 attorneys attended last year, and the event has support from the Massachusetts legal community.



Legal Technology Expo, March 20. See page 21.



HOD elects two at-large delegates. See page 3.