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Massachusetts Legal Assistance Corporation Names New Board Members

*Hall, Newman Each Appointed to a Five-Year Term and Martinez Re-Appointed
to a Second Five-Year Term*

BOSTON, July 8, 2009 – The Massachusetts Supreme Judicial Court appointed Rahsaan D. Hall of Stoughton and William C. Newman of Northampton each to a five-year term on the Board of Directors of the Massachusetts Legal Assistance Corporation (MLAC), while Judith Martinez of Mattapoisett was re-appointed to a second five-year term. MLAC is the largest funding source for civil legal aid in the Commonwealth.

“I am extremely pleased to have such talented individuals join our board,” said Lonnie Powers, MLAC’s executive director. “Both Rahsaan and Bill have a passion for promoting equal access to justice, and Bill’s depth of experience as a legal aid board member and trial attorney will be very beneficial.”

Hall was nominated by the Massachusetts Bar Association, and Newman was nominated by the presidents of the Massachusetts county bar associations.

Hall has been a staff attorney with the Lawyers Committee for Civil Rights since 2008. He previously was with the Suffolk County District Attorney’s office for eight years. Newman has been a partner at Lesser, Newman & Nasser since 1976. He previously served the board of directors for two legal aid programs: the Center for Public Representation, for 17 years, and Western Massachusetts Legal Services, for 27 years, including six years as president.

Judith Martinez, a counselor at The Women's Center in New Bedford, was appointed by the Supreme Judicial Court as someone who recently served on the board of a legal aid program.

MLAC is governed by an eleven member Board of Directors, ten of whom are appointed by the Supreme Judicial Court. The eleventh is the Chief Justice for Administration and Management of the Trial Court or that Justice's designee.

ABOUT MLAC

The Massachusetts Legal Assistance Corporation was established by the state legislature in 1983 to ensure that low-income people with critical, non-criminal legal problems would have access to legal information, advice and representation. It is the largest funding source for civil legal aid programs in Massachusetts. www.mlac.org.

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