

**Walk to the Hill**  
**January 26, 2012**

**Remarks by**  
**Richard Campbell**  
**MBA president**

Thank you, Sandy.

Greetings from the Massachusetts bar association. My name is Dick Campbell. I am incredibly privileged to serve as president of the state bar association at a time when the collective weight and influence of the commonwealth's lawyers is so demonstrably needed. Indeed, in my 38 years of practice, I cannot bring to mind any comparable period when our citizens and our courts need us on the front lines for them.

Thank you all for taking the time out of your busy practices today to participate in this important event.

Like all of you, I understand the obligation that each of us has to advocate for legal assistance funding.

The organized bar simply must act as the voice of our most vulnerable citizens. We must speak for them to ensure each person, whether in danger of foreclosure or needing assistance obtaining a protection order, or needing access to veteran's benefits, has a qualified lawyer standing by their side.

Likewise, we must all advocate for a fully staffed and adequately funded judiciary or the availability of supporting lawyers will be of no consequence. It is no secret that our judiciary has been devastated by crippling budget cuts year after year.

Nonetheless, I commend the governor, for stepping up and funding legal services. But we are only half way there. However, legal service organizations throughout the state are being pushed to their breaking point as they are faced with drastic cuts in IOLTA funds and an ever increasing need for services. Indeed, Richard McMahan, the head of south coast legal services had to miss the MBA House of Delegates meeting last week because he was busy issuing layoff notices.

The sad truth is that the resources fall far short of the need for legal aid.

We must remain vigilant throughout the budget process, imploring the legislature and governor that more funds are desperately needed.

On behalf of the Massachusetts Bar Association, I thank you for your participation in today's important event, and I encourage you to continue to speak on behalf of our fellow citizens who need civil legal assistance.

Thank you.