



Contact:
Sean Gray, Event Producer
gala@massblacklawyers.org
(412) 512-5208

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

**MASSACHUSETTS BLACK LAWYERS ASSOCIATION HONORED LIFETIME ACHIEVER AND TRAILBLAZERS
WITH OVER 600 GUESTS AT 2016 ANNUAL GALA**

BOSTON, MA, March 30, 2016. -- Over 600 guests attended the Massachusetts Black Lawyers Association ("MBLA") Annual Gala on March 24, 2016 to celebrate the outstanding accomplishments of **Wayne A. Budd, Paulette Brown, Stephanie Lovell, and Patricia J. Williams**. The event was held at the Boston Park Plaza Hotel and emceed by WCVB-TV CityLine host, **Karen Holmes Ward**.

The distinguished guest list included national, state, and local dignitaries, appointed and elected officials, members of the First Circuit Court of Appeals, the United States District Court for the District of Massachusetts, and Massachusetts state judiciary, the Massachusetts legal community, and many supporters throughout Massachusetts. **Massachusetts Attorney General Maura Healey, Massachusetts State Senator Linda Dorcea Fory, Massachusetts State Representative Evandro Carvalho, Boston Mayor Martin J. Walsh, United States Court of Appeals for the First Circuit Chief Judge Jeffrey Howard, United States District Court for the District of Massachusetts Chief Judge Patti B. Saris and Massachusetts Supreme Judicial Court Justice Geraldine S. Hines** were a few of the notable supporters in attendance at the Gala.

Bookended by receptions sponsored by **Goodwin Procter LLP** and **Skadden, Arps, Slate, Meagher & Flom LLP**, the MBLA acknowledged the following esteemed honorees:

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Wayne A. Budd

Lifetime Achievement Award
Senior Counsel, Goodwin Procter LLP

Paulette Brown

Trailblazer Award
President, American Bar Association
Partner, Locke Lord LLP

Stephanie Lovell

Trailblazer Award
Executive Vice President, Medicare
and Chief Legal Officer
Blue Cross Blue Shield of Massachusetts

Patricia J. Williams

Keynote and Trailblazer Award
James L. Dohr Professor of Law,
Columbia University School of Law
Columnist, The Nation Magazine

Taisha Sturdivant

The Honorable Chief Justice Roderick L. Ireland Leadership and Juvenile Advocacy Award
Boston College Law School

Stephanie Johnson

The Honorable Reginald Lindsay Public Service Award
Boston College Law School

"On behalf of the MBLA Officers and Directors, I would like to thank our distinguished honorees and guests for contributing to a memorable evening celebrating black excellence and the continued pursuit of a legal profession which reflects the diverse composition of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts and beyond in all ranks. I would also like to extend my very best wishes to the MBLA in continuing to achieve its mission and purpose in the years to come."

- Angela Gomes, President, Massachusetts Black Lawyers Association

About the Massachusetts Black Lawyers Association

The Massachusetts Black Lawyers Association is one of New England's leading and largest affinity bar associations. Since 1973, the MBLA has provided a valuable network and visible presence for attorneys of color within the Massachusetts legal community.
