

MASSACHUSETTS
LAWYERS WEEKLY presents ...



WOMEN OF JUSTICE

Celebrating women who have
made great strides in the fields
of law, justice and advocacy.

Women of Justice Awards Luncheon

Friday, December 4, 2009 • InterContinental Hotel • 11:30 a.m. - 2 p.m.

Order tickets online at <http://events.lawyersweekly.com>.

For more information, contact Sharon Lee at sharon.lee@lawyersweekly.com; 617.451.7300

A portion of the proceeds goes to the Women's Bar Foundation.

event sponsors



Valerie Yarashus

Principal
Meehan, Boyle, Black & Bogdanow
Graduated: George Washington University, Harvard Law School



"I love trying cases in court because I believe that it is the best way to get to the truth of the matter."

Outside/Community activities

Massachusetts Bar Association, president; Massachusetts Academy of Trial Attorneys, past president

Why do you do what you do?

I represent people who have been seriously injured and the families of people who have been killed as a result of negligence, including motor vehicle cases, explosions, defective products, construction site injuries and medical negligence cases. I love trying cases in court because I believe that it is the best way to get to the truth of the matter. A big piece of what I find so rewarding is that we are often able to bring about safety-related changes as a by-product of the litigation (either directly or indirectly), so that we can prevent other people from being injured or killed in the future.

What is your proudest achievement?

My proudest achievement is serving as the president of the Massachusetts Bar Association.

What is the biggest obstacle you have had to overcome?

Balancing trial work, the presidency of the MBA and being a single parent to four children has been challenging, but it feels like it's all working thanks to the help of my phenomenal family and my amazing law partners.

Who is your role model and why?

My mother, who was a real estate manager for one of the most successful offices in Maryland, showed me that I didn't have to choose between having a terrific career and being a wonderful mother. Another significant role model is Leo Boyle, who made a point of bringing his young son to conventions and other important events while he was president of the Association of Trial Lawyers of America.

The biggest challenge facing women today?

The biggest challenge facing women today is the subtle "unexamined bias," which has been explained so insightfully by another award winner, Lauren Stiller Rikleen.

What would be your dream job?

That's the point — I am doing my dream job!

What is one thing that people don't know about you?

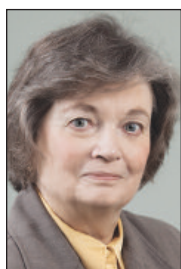
My two sons, who are adopted, are bi-racial (African-American and Caucasian). The world will probably treat Daniel as African-American and Benjamin as Caucasian, though, because of the way they look. It has taught me that you can't plan everything in life.

Have you achieved a work-life balance? Do you think you ever will?

This year is much busier than most, but it is important to understand that everything has a cycle. I hope that when I get into my busier work cycles, I can always take more time on the other end of the cycle for my family.

Hollis Young

General counsel
Boston Housing Authority
Graduated: Wellesley College, Boston College Law School



"It gives me great satisfaction working on issues of public policy in the housing area for low-income people, with very nice and highly competent colleagues."

Outside/Community activities

Not many now, given working and family responsibilities. My key hobby is gardening.

Why do you do what you do?

It gives me great satisfaction working on issues of public policy in the housing area for low-income people, with very nice and highly competent colleagues.

What is your proudest achievement?

Making a contribution through my work while maintaining a happy marriage and raising two fine sons with my husband.

What is the biggest obstacle you have had to overcome?

Combining satisfying professional work with a meaningful personal and family life.

Who is your role model and why?

I admire the achievements of many women lawyers, but I don't think of one as a single role model.

The biggest challenge facing women today?

There are many: combining professional work and a personal life; breaking the "glass ceiling"; fair compensation; meeting the expectations we set for ourselves.

What would be your dream job?

Something very similar — legal work of considerable variety with an opportunity to influence public policy on behalf of an excellent client with an important mission.

What is one thing that people don't know about you?

I worked for several years in the professional tennis business.

Have you achieved a work-life balance? Do you think you ever will?

No and no, but I'm still trying.

LAWYERS WEEKLY

Events

2010 Call for nominations

UP & COMING LAWYERS



Excellence in the Law

Nominate lawyers who have practiced 10 years or less and have distinguished themselves through achievement in the practice of law and in their communities. These rising stars will be honored at the **Excellence in the Law** event in March 2010.

IN-HOUSE LEADERS



Nominate corporate counsel who have demonstrated innovative and practical business and legal skills, either as general counsel or as a staff attorney. They are lawyers who are astute, wise and knowledgeable and who best exemplify the noble tradition of the legal profession, conducting themselves with the utmost integrity. These attorneys have an uncanny ability to inspire and lead. In-House Leaders will be honored at the **Leaders in the Law** event in April 2010.

Go to <http://events.lawyersweekly.com> and click on the event logo to place your nomination today!

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