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## ABOUT US

The Massachusetts Defense Lawyers Association (MassDLA) is an association of attorneys practicing defense work in the field of civil litigation. It is a growing, dynamic institution committed to increasing its diverse membership. Although the organization is based in Massachusetts, our members conduct business and service clients located throughout the United States and abroad. The MassDLA is dedicated to advancing the collective goals of both our members and their clients, through educational programming, the filing of amicus briefs on important defense issues, pro bono initiatives, and through our Substantive Law Committees and other opportunities for professional growth and development.

We believe that our greatest resource is the shared knowledge and involvement of our members, from the most senior established shareholder to the most junior associate. Our members are active through publishing, hosting programs, lecturing and chairing our Substantive Law Committees. The MassDLA also is a wonderful place to network, catch up with old friends, and make new ones. It offers not only the Mid-Winter Social and Annual Meeting as times to get together, but miscellaneous programming throughout the year.

Together, our programs, articles and events foster collegiality, education and professionalism in the defense bar.

# MASS DLA

MASSACHUSETTS DEFENSE LAWYERS ASSOCIATION

*Recent Developments  
in Civil Litigation*



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[WWW.MASSDLA.ORG](http://WWW.MASSDLA.ORG)

## 2023 ANNUAL MEETING JUNE 2, 2023

INTERCONTINENTAL BOSTON HOTEL

7:30 – 8:15 **Registration and Breakfast**

8:15 – 8:30 **Welcome and Introduction**

Christine A. Knipper, Esq.  
*President of MassDLA  
Wilson, Elser, Moskowitz,  
Edelman & Dicker LLP*

8:30 – 9:30 **DRI Sponsored Speaker  
Nuclear Verdicts**

Steven O'Brien, Esq.  
*Tyson and Mendes, P.C.*

9:30 – 10:15 **Recent Developments in  
Defense Practice**

Martin Rooney, Esq.  
*Curley & Curley, P.C.*

10:15 – 10:45 **Culprits or Collateral  
Damage? Lithium-ion  
Batteries in Fire  
Investigations**

Dr. Michael Barry  
*Exponent*

10:45 – 11:00 **Break**

11:00 – 11:45 **How to 'Win' at Mediation**

Christopher Kenney, Esq.  
*Kenney & Sams, P.C.*

11:45 – 12:30 **Law Firm Management:  
Bridging the Gap Between  
Law Firm Economics and  
Changing Associate  
Expectations**

Erin Higgins, Esq.  
*Conn Kavanaugh Rosenthal  
Peisch & Ford*  
Avana A. Epperson-Temple, Esq.  
*Peabody and Arnold*  
Jennifer Creedon, Esq.  
*Martin, Magnuson, McCarthy &  
Kenney*

12:30 – 2:00 **Luncheon, Keynote  
Speaker, and Award  
Presentations**

Keynote Speaker  
Honorable Camille F. Sarrouf, Jr.  
*Associate Justice of the Superior  
Court*

THE MASSDLA WILL BE HONORING THE  
FOLLOWING OUTSTANDING MEMBERS OF  
MASSACHUSETTS' LEGAL COMMUNITY.



**Lawyer of the Year**

Michael P. Sams  
*Kenney & Sams*



**President's Award**

Tory A. Weigand  
*Morrison Mahoney*



**Rising Star**

Sarah M. Nyren  
*Conn Kavanaugh*