

**PUBLIC INFORMATION OFFICE
SUPREME JUDICIAL COURT
John Adams Courthouse
One Pemberton Square
Boston, Massachusetts 02108**

**CONTACT: Joan Kenney/Charlotte Whiting
(617) 557-1114
joan.kenney@sjc.state.ma.us**

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:
November 24, 2008**

New Massachusetts Guide to Evidence Now Available

The Supreme Judicial Court and its Advisory Committee on Massachusetts Evidence Law today announce the release of the *Massachusetts Guide to Evidence*. The Supreme Judicial Court recommends the use of this *Guide*.

The *Guide* is now available on the Supreme Judicial Court, Appeals Court and Trial Court websites at www.mass.gov/courts/sjc/guide-to-evidence. In addition, the Advisory Committee's official printed edition of the 375-page *Massachusetts Guide to Evidence* will be available next month for purchase at \$69 per volume from the Flaschner Judicial Institute, which is providing a complimentary copy to every judge in the Commonwealth.

The Massachusetts Guide to Evidence assembles existing Massachusetts evidence law in an easy-to-use document organized similarly to the Federal Rules of Evidence. The *Guide* includes extensive explanatory notes and citations to pertinent authorities.

"This new *Guide* will make the law of evidence more accessible and understandable to the bench, bar and the public," said Chief Justice Margaret H. Marshall.

"I commend Appeals Court Judge Marc Kantrowitz, the Chair of the Advisory Committee and editor-in-chief, for his superb leadership, Superior Court Judges Peter Agnes and David Lowy, who served as editors, and Appeals Court Assistant Clerk Joseph Stanton, who served as reporter. The Advisory Committee spent an extraordinary amount of time and energy on this most important endeavor to advance the delivery of justice in Massachusetts," said Chief Justice Marshall.

Two years ago, the Supreme Judicial Court established a 17-member Advisory Committee to prepare a Massachusetts Guide to Evidence at the request of the Massachusetts Bar Association, the Boston Bar Association, and the Massachusetts Academy of Trial Attorneys.

The Supreme Judicial Court has also appointed the Executive Committee of the Advisory Committee on Massachusetts Evidence law. This committee will monitor and incorporate future legal developments so that the *Guide* may be updated on a regular basis. Judge Kantrowitz will chair this Executive Committee.

Advisory Committee members:

Hon. R. Marc Kantrowitz, Appeals Court, Committee Chair
Hon. Peter W. Agnes, Superior Court
Professor Michael Avery, Suffolk University Law School
Professor Mark Brodin, Boston College Law School
Judge James W. Coffey, Boston Municipal Court
Professor Kevin Connelly, Southern New England School of Law
Hon. Patricia G. Curtin, Acting First Justice, Dedham District Court
Hon. Michael F. Edgerton, Essex Juvenile Court
Assistant Attorney General Steven L. Hoffman, Business & Labor Protection Bureau
Hon. David A. Lowy, Superior Court
Timothy Maguire, Esq., Greenberg Taurig LLP
Tracy A. Miner, Esq., Mintz Levin Cohn Ferris Glovsky & Popeo, P.C.
Dorian Morello, Esq.
Elizabeth N. Mulvey, Esq., Crowe & Mulvey, LLP
Martin F. Murphy, Esq., Foley Hoag, LLP
Hon. Geoffrey G. Packard, Malden District Court
Ian Pinta, Esq., Adler, Cohen, Harvey, Wakeman & Guekuezian LLP
Katherine A. Robertson, Esq., Bulkley, Richardson & Gelinas, LLP
Hon. Catherine P. Sabaitis, First Justice, Plymouth Probate and Family Court
Joseph Stanton, Assistant Clerk, Appeals Court, Committee Reporter

Executive Committee members:

Hon. R. Marc Kantrowitz, Committee Chair
Hon. Peter W. Agnes
Hon. David A. Lowy
Professor Philip K. Hamilton, New England Law Boston
Attorney Elizabeth Mulvey
Attorney Barbara Berenson, Supreme Judicial Court, Committee staff
Attorney Joseph Stanton, Appeals Court, Committee Reporter