



MassNAELA Honors State Senator Michael F. Rush and Other Civic Leaders at Annual Meeting

*Awards Legislative, Community and Chapter Leaders For Their Advocacy For Seniors;
Presents Senator Rush with the Legislator of the Year Award*

BOSTON – December 18, 2018 – At its annual meeting on Thursday, December 6th, the [Massachusetts Chapter of the National Academy of Elder Law Attorneys](#) (MassNAELA) honored several individuals for their advocacy of elder services and their commitment to raising awareness of legal issues affecting seniors. Massachusetts State Senator Michael F. Rush was named the Legislator of the Year for his support and efforts for passage of legislation that protects seniors, particularly elder veterans.

Myron Cohen and his late wife, Barbara Cohen, who were the chapter administrators, jointly received the Arthur Stavisky Award, an honor MassNAELA bestows each year to person(s) who have dedicated themselves to promoting elder causes in the community. As chapter administrators, Myron and Barbara devoted 14 years to overseeing MassNAELA's administration as well as participating in and supporting the organization's growth.

The Deborah H. Thomson Advocacy Award, which recognizes a MassNAELA member's efforts advocating elder issues in state government, was presented to Susan H. Levin, Newton, MA. The John J. Ford Litigation Advocacy Award, which honors a member's efforts to educate the chapter membership relative to litigation strategies, was bestowed to Nicholas Kaltsas, Worcester, MA. John J. Ford, Lynn, MA, who is the founder of the Elder Law Project at Northeast Justice Center (formerly Neighborhood Legal Services), received a special award recognizing his 50 years of service and dedication to elders and people with special needs and disabilities.

Each year, MassNAELA recognizes chapter members for their commitment of time and energy to the chapter. The 2018 Member of the Year award was presented to Patricia Keane Martin, Boston, MA, for her continued work leading the chapter's elder law advocacy efforts. The President's Award was bestowed to Laura Silver Traiger, Worcester, MA; Steven F. Mann, Waltham, MA; and Alexis B. Levitt, Norwell, MA for their service to and support of the chapter and its president with its legislation and lobbying efforts. Outstanding Chapter Member awards were presented to Michael R. Couture, Somerville, MA; Kimberly L. Kelly, Stoneham, MA; Jessica S. Batsevitsky, Needham, MA; and Liane Zeitz, Norwood, MA. Geralyn M. Warren, Medfield, MA, was honored as a retiring member of the chapter board of directors. Karen B. Johnson, Westford, MA received an award for her service and dedication as the 2018 chapter president.

The MassNAELA annual meeting also included the election of chapter officers and directors for the New Year. The 2019 officers include president, Matthew Albanese, Milton, MA; president-elect, Paula K. Almgren, Lenox, MA; vice president, Pamela B. Greenfield, Dedham, MA; treasurer, Steven F. Mann; clerk, Alexis B. Levitt; and immediate past president, Karen B. Johnson.

Newly elected directors include: Gina M. Barry, Springfield, MA; Annette M. Hines, Framingham, MA; Paula A. Nedder, Milford, MA; and Kimberly L. Kelly.

The evening also included a keynote address by incoming NAELA president, Jennifer L. VanderVeen, Esq., CELA, CAP, from South Bend, Indiana, who provided an overview of the landscape and agenda of the national organization.

The MassNAELA annual meeting was preceded by a vendor fair which featured 17 organizations showcasing their elder care services. The vendor fair provides MassNAELA members with awareness of essential quality-of-life services to which they can connect at-risk seniors and better serve their clients.

About MassNAELA

The National Academy of Elder Law Attorneys (NAELA), the premier organization of elder and special needs law attorneys in the country, is dedicated to developing awareness of issues concerning the elderly and those with special needs. Nearly 450 attorneys are members of the Massachusetts Chapter. Members work directly with the elderly and those with special needs in areas as diverse as planning for catastrophic care costs, disability planning, age discrimination in employment and housing, benefits planning, estate planning, veterans' benefits and more.

For more information about MassNAELA, visit www.massnaela.com.

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