

# The Review



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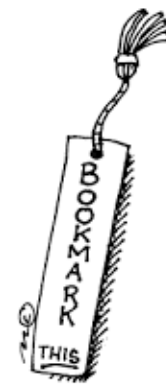
## CLERK'S OFFICE News & Updates



**The Appeals Court is now accepting American Express payments for E-Filing.** Enhancements to eFileMA.com now permit the Appeals Court to accept electronic payment by American Express credit cards through eFileMA.com. Filers interested in adding an American Express credit card to their eFileMA.com account may do so by following these [\*instructions\*](#). This change only applies to payment through eFileMA.com. At this time, the Appeals Court cannot accept payment by American Express at the Clerk's Office counter or for oral argument CD requests through paybill.com.

**Appeals Court Guide to Creating Bookmarks and Internal Links.** The Appeals Court encourages all parties filing a brief or record appendix in the Appeals Court to include both bookmarks and internal links. Although not required by court rule, these features are permitted by [\*S.J.C. Rule 1:25, Rule 9\(c\)\*](#), and significantly facilitate the review of documents by the Justices, staff, and parties. The

Appeals Court recently posted a court guide that explains how to add bookmarks and internal links using Adobe Acrobat Pro and Microsoft Word, which are two of the most commonly used programs for preparing appellate documents. There are various alternate programs and methods that can be used to reach the same result and any method that does so is acceptable. To view the guide, click [here](#).



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**Note Concerning Location of Certificates of Compliance and Service.** The Appeals Court posted a new note concerning the court's policy about the location of certificates of compliance and service in a brief. The policy is intended to provide flexibility to parties preparing electronic briefs. The policy states:

*Notwithstanding the requirement in [Mass. R. A. P. 16\(a\)](#) that the certificate of compliance and certificate of service in a brief be included after the addendum, it is the practice of the Appeals Court to accept for filing briefs that include the certificate of compliance and certificate of service located after the conclusion and signature block required by [Mass. R. A. P. 16\(a\)\(11\)-\(12\)](#).*

The policy is posted to the "Appeals Court Briefs" page on Mass.gov under the heading "Contents" and can be found by clicking [here](#).

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## Appeals Court Justice Sabita Singh Honored at the Massachusetts State House

During Women's History Month earlier this year, Associate Appeals Court Justice Sabita Singh was honored at the Office of Senate President Karen E. Spilka for becoming the first South Asian Judge in Massachusetts (2006). President Spilka honored 88 women (past and present) who have shaped Massachusetts and whose work, advocacy and legacy live on. Among the other honorees were Abigail Adams, Susan B. Anthony, Elizabeth Warren and Doris Kearns Goodwin.

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## A Growing Success: The Appeals Court's Civil Appeals Clinic

The Appeals Court continues to collaborate with the Volunteer Lawyers Project and the Supreme Judicial Court's Access to Justice Program in hosting the Civil Appeals Clinic and providing resources to operate a weekly clinic that provides pro bono attorneys to assist indigent self-represented parties with appellate questions. During this past fiscal year, 374 total litigants (and 188 unique litigants) were assisted by 153 volunteer attorneys. We want to publicly thank the Volunteer Lawyers Project, SJC A2J Program and the many attorneys who have graciously given their time. The Civil Appeals Clinic began in the spring of 2015 and since December 2015 has operated out of the Appeals Court Clerk's Office, where it continues to meet every Wednesday afternoon with low-income litigants.





## NEWS FROM THE BENCH

### July "Sitting Pilot" in its second year

For the second consecutive year, the Appeals Court held oral argument sessions in the month of July. The July sittings have served to reduce the length of appeals and the number of cases accumulating for the upcoming term, and permit attorneys the flexibility to have cases heard earlier. The July panels heard a mix of civil, criminal, and child welfare cases. The court is sending a survey to all attorneys who appeared in July to gain their feedback on the sittings.

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### Justices Maldonado and Singh named to Get Konnected? 50 Most Influential Attorneys of Color in Greater Boston

In April Get Konnected! published their first comprehensive list of Greater Boston's most influential attorneys of color. The list and the event held on April 30th in their honor was a unique opportunity to celebrate, document and validate attorneys of color who are making positive contributions to the legal community and the economic and social fabric of Greater Boston.



Appeals Court Associate Justices Diane Maldonado and Sabita Singh (pictured right) holding their awards at the event on April 30.



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