

# The Review



Volume 1, Winter 2019

Welcome to the First Edition of the Massachusetts Appeals Court's Quarterly Newsletter, *THE REVIEW*. This Newsletter will serve to connect our Court with the Appellate Bar by communicating important events and news related to policy, practice and procedure in the MA Appeals Court.

## APPELLATE COURTS HOLD BENCH / BAR CONFERENCE

The SJC & Appeals Court hosted a Bench/Bar Conference on December 12, 2018 at the John Adams Courthouse. All of the SJC Justices and 23 of the current 24 Appeals Court Justices were in attendance along with staff representing both courts. The event was a culmination of months of preparation by the Flaschner Institute, members



of the Appeals Court, the SJC and representatives of the bar. The Appellate Bench/Bar Conference explored themes and topics derived from a Flaschner Institute survey sent to every attorney who has practiced in the Commonwealth's appellate courts since July 2015. The over 550 attorneys who responded to the survey included nearly 1,500 individual comments. After hearing from several keynote speakers, including SJC Chief Justice Ralph Gants and Appeals Court Chief Justice Mark Green, attendees convened into smaller discussion groups so that members of the bench and bar could explore an agenda of issues identified by the survey. The conference was extremely well attended and concluded with an informal reception.

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## APPEALS COURT INTRODUCES WEB ACCESS TO ORAL ARGUMENT RECORDINGS

Appeals Court Chief Justice Mark Green, Court Administrator Gina L. DeRossi, and Clerk Joseph Stanton are pleased to announce that recordings of oral argument will be posted on the appellate courts' public website: [ma-appellatecourts.org](http://ma-appellatecourts.org). Beginning with January 2, 2019 oral arguments and for all arguments thereafter, an embedded mp3 player will appear on the case information web page within 72 hours of the completion of argument for each appeal argued. Through that mp3 player, the audio recording made at oral argument will be available to litigants, counsel, and the general public at no charge. Copies of recordings on compact discs will remain available from the Clerk's office. In light of the increased availability of oral argument recordings, litigants and their counsel should be vigilant in not disclosing impounded information during oral argument. Instructions for listening to the oral arguments through the appellate courts' website and for ordering copies are available on the [Appeals Court's website](#).

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## A MESSAGE FROM CHIEF JUSTICE MARK V. GREEN



Since I stepped into my role as Chief Justice just over a year ago, I have attempted to improve the lines of communication between the Court and our external constituencies. In furtherance of that objective, with the considerable support of the Flaschner Judicial Institute, we held a highly successful bench-bar conference in December. Our Clerk, Joe Stanton, continues to sponsor a variety of avenues of communication, including a listserv and an extremely user-friendly staff. Our new Court Administrator, Gina DeRossi, brings a commitment and a record of transparency and communication consistent with the same vision.

I am pleased to launch this Newsletter as an additional medium for communication. It is our intention that this Newsletter will provide helpful technical, high-value and some anecdotal information about our operations that will enhance your experience with, and understanding of, the Appeals Court. We hope that you find it useful.



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