

BAR NEWS

Section Spotlight

BUSINESS LAW
MEMBERS VOLUNTEER
AT BOSTON
FOOD BANK

Four members of the Massachusetts Bar Association's Business Law Section Council helped sort more than one-and-a-half metric tons of food and other grocery items on April 28 at the Greater Boston Food Bank in Boston's South Bay.

The food bank distributes more than 31 million pounds of food and other necessities to needy citizens through nearly 600 member hunger-relief agencies throughout eastern Massachusetts.

Council members Christine O'Hurley, Brian Glennon, Stephen Kutenplon and Co-Chair Frank Morrissey, and MBA Section Administrator Jean Stevens, spent two-and-a-half hours at the facility's conveyor belt sorting donated food from various grocery stores around the state.

They also filled bags with nutritious foods and snacks for two programs. The first, the Backpack program, a partnership with the Lawrence and Lynn school systems, supplies "back



Members of the Business Law Section Council helped sort 3,611 pounds of food at the Greater Boston Food Bank at its 117,000 square-foot Yawkey Distribution Center on South Bay Road in Boston. From left to right: Frank Morrissey, Jean Stevens, Christine O'Hurley, Brian Glennon and Stephen Kutenplon.

packs" of food for children who rely on school lunch programs during the week and are at risk of going hungry over the weekend or during school holidays. The second effort, the Brown Bag program, partners with community organizations around the state to supply supplemental groceries for seniors.

In all, the MBA volunteers helped sort 3,611 pounds of groceries to provide 2,220 meals.

The Business Law Section Council is planning to schedule another volunteer opportunity in the fall, when it hopes to enlist up to 20 volunteers, with members from all sections encouraged to participate.

If you are interested, let Stevens know at jstevens@massbar.org. Further information and details will be posted in the MBA's *e-Journal* and *Lawyers Journal* as they become available. ■

MBA Lawyers Eco-Challenge highlights

BY JENNIFER ROSINSKI

The Massachusetts Bar Association Lawyers Eco-Challenge has joined Carbonrally, an online community where teams complete challenges that result in a reduction of carbon dioxide emissions. The Eco-Challenge has also wrapped up its cell phone recycling program — which collected hundreds of cell phones and accessories from the legal community in the state over the past year.

ECO-CHALLENGE JOINS CARBONRALLY EFFORT

The MBA urges lawyers and firms across Massachusetts to join the Eco-Challenge Carbonrally team as a way to invigorate energy conservation.

"Carbonrally is a fun, easy way for Massachusetts attorneys to keep track of the ways they are reducing their energy consumption," said Nancy B. Reiner, co-chair of the Energy and Environment Task Force, which oversees the Eco-Challenge.

"From agreeing to cut back on office paper use, to committing to utilize reusable bottles and containers, lawyers can choose the level of participation that makes the most sense for their situation," said Reiner, executive director of Counsel on Call in Boston.

Carbonrally, which was created in Massachusetts, proposes challenges for teams to participate in and enables individuals to suggest new challenges. Working on an honor system, the site tallies each team's total reduction in carbon dioxide emissions based on the challenges each agrees to participate in and complete.

"By joining our team, lawyers can



choose challenges that abide by the tenants of the MBA Lawyers Eco-Challenge and its Green Guidelines," said Susan Reid, senior attorney and director of the Massachusetts Clean Energy and Climate Change Initiative for the Conservation Law Foundation, which partnered with the MBA in 2007 to launch the Lawyers Eco-Challenge. "We hope that by joining our team, the legal community in Massachusetts will be energized to consider new ways of being Earth-conscious."

There are currently more than 1,000 Carbonrally teams worldwide, including dozens of companies such as Boston University, Intel, Google and NBC. To join the MBA Lawyers Eco-Challenge Carbonrally team, visit www.carbonrally.com/teams/1027.

CELL PHONE RECYCLING PROGRAM WRAPS UP

The Lawyers Eco-Challenge cell phone program collected and recycled 239 phones, 254 phone chargers and 90 other accessories that would have otherwise been tossed in garbage cans between February 2009 and April 2010. The program was launched in conjunction with Verizon Wireless' HopeLine program (www.verizonwireless.com/hopeline).

"Our cell phone recycling pro-

gram kept hundreds of cell phones containing dangerous, hazardous chemicals out of landfills, and it provided a service to our members who sought a way to recycle their unwanted phones," Reiner said.

The phones and accessories were collected at five locations:

- MBA headquarters, Boston;
- MBA Western Mass. office, Springfield;
- CLF Massachusetts headquarters, Boston;
- The Green Roundtable's NEXUS Green Building Resource Center, Boston; and
- Seyfarth Shaw LLP's office, Boston.

HopeLine has collected more than 7 million phones and kept more than 200 tons of electronic waste and batteries out of landfills since the national recycling program began in October 2001.

The proceeds — including more than \$7.9 million in cash grants — benefit organizations running domestic violence awareness and prevention programming, including YWCA of Western Massachusetts, the Norfolk County Sheriff's Department and the Boston Area Rape Crisis Center.

Since the 2007 launch of the Eco-Challenge, the MBA and CLF have issued the MBA Lawyers Environmental Pledge and published Green Guidelines for the office, home and landscaping. More than 100 firms, attorneys or organizations throughout the state have joined to become Pledge Partners.

For more information on the MBA Lawyers Eco-Challenge, visit www.massbar.org/ecochallenge.

Volunteer Spotlight

McDermott sees value in Lawyer Referral Service

BY CHELSEA HILDRETH

Business attorney Peter D. McDermott is devoting his time to the Massachusetts Bar Association's Lawyer Referral Service Committee because he sees it as an important volunteer opportunity for helping the public find reliable legal help.

McDermott, who has more than 30 years of experience, including 20 years at Banner & Witcoff LTD in Boston, currently serves as the chair of the LRS Committee, one of the ways he volunteers his time. Last year, he committed to 12 pro bono cases. From



PETER D. McDERMOTT

2007 to 2008, he co-chaired the MBA Business Law Section. And every year, he helps organize the Business Law Annual In-House Counsel Conference.

Supporting the LRS is an important effort, he says, because it

takes some of the uncertainty out of finding a qualified and appropriate lawyer.

"If you need legal services, your first thought might be to walk into a lawyer's office and see if they can help you. Attorneys who are members of the LRS indicate where they focus their practice," he said. "By having a well-trained staff, we ensure that the client is impartially directed, quickly and efficiently, to a lawyer who can best assist them."

Elizabeth O'Neil, director of the MBA's Public and Community Services Department, praises his work on the committee and commitment to the program.

"With attorney McDermott's involvement as chair for the last two years, LRS has made strides in moving into the 21st century with marketing, the Internet and social networking," she said.

"He has a great understanding of business, which has helped us move forward in that direction."

LRS is a good opportunity for attorneys in more ways than one, O'Neil says.

"The program wears two hats. It provides referrals to attorneys on the LRS panel and gives them the chance to expand their client base. It is also a great public service for those in the state of Massachusetts who need legal help," she said.

McDermott has applied his business skills and given his time to the LRS because he believes in the reliability of the program: "It is a not-for-profit service that can do what others cannot. We ensure the highest standards of ethics and assign clients to the correct type of lawyers."

As chair of the LRS Committee, McDermott says he has the opportunity to work with "outstanding" lawyers while giving back to the community in a fun and interesting setting.

"LRS committee members are accomplished attorneys who have been delightful and enlightening," he said. "It is easier for me to commit to a program of true professionals who work hard to make the service accessible to as many people as possible." ■