

People In The Law

Published: 1:00 am Mon, August 31, 2009

By admin

New associations

Steven G. Davis has joined the Boston office of Foley & Larder as a partner in the chemical and pharmaceutical practice. Davis was previously a principal at Hamilton, Brook, Smith & Reynolds.

Murtha Cullina has formed an administrative and state tax appeal practice group, which will be led by Boston-based partner Robert J. Munnelly.

Honors

The following Burns & Levinson lawyers in Boston have been named to the 2010 edition of "The Best Lawyers in America": Victor Bass, Brian D. Bixby, Thomas D. Burns, Jerry Cohen, Lisa M. Cukier, Dennis J. Kelly, David P. Rosenblatt and Laura R. Studen.

Rebecca A. Lee, a partner at Edwards, Angell, Palmer & Dodge in Boston, was presented with the 2009 LeadBoston Alumni Award by the Boston Center for Community & Justice.

Professional/community groups

Damon P. Hart, a partner in the Boston office of Holland & Knight, has been named to the National Bar Association's Commercial Law Section Steering Committee.

AnnMarie Roark, of counsel at Devine Millimet in Andover, has been re-elected to a third term on the Chelmsford Board of Health.

The Massachusetts Bar Association has announced its officers for the 2009-2010 term. They are: Valerie A. Yarashus, president; Denise Squillante, president-elect; Douglas K. Sheff, vice president; Richard P. Campbell, vice president; Robert L. Holloway, treasurer; and Jeffrey N. Catalano, secretary.

Obituaries

Paul P. Poth, of counsel at Boston's Mintz, Levin, Cohn, Ferris, Glovsky & Popeo, died on Aug. 22 at the age of 39.

A native of Buffalo, N.Y., Poth attended Nichols School, Boston College and the University of Notre Dame Law School. After graduation, he moved to Boston and served as an assistant district attorney in the Suffolk County DA's Office under Ralph C. Martin II. Most recently, he practiced in Mintz Levin's litigation section.

Poth was the recipient of numerous citations and awards. While with the DA's Office, he was presented with a Community Service Award from the Neighborhood Crime Watch Unit of the Boston Police Department; an award from the Bay Village Neighborhood Association for his work in combating organized prostitution; a special citation from Boston Police Commissioner Paul Evans for his years of service in the District Attorney's Office; a certificate of appreciation from Area A-1 Capt. Bernard O'Rourke for his service to the downtown community neighborhoods; and a recognition of his contributions from the Detectives Benevolent Society of the Boston Police. He was perhaps most proud of the recognition he received from the Massachusetts House of Representatives, which commended him for his work on Operation Galadriel, a four-month undercover operation into the recruitment of adolescents for prostitution. Known for his sharp wit, Poth was one of several attorneys who participated in an annual stand-up comedy night to benefit the Women's Bar Foundation's pro bono work.

He served on the board of the Victim Rights Law Center of Boston, volunteered for Project Hope, and mentored city youth through hockey leagues and the Boston Public Schools Mock Trial program.

In 2009, Poth created TargetCancer Inc., to promote research and treatment protocols for underfunded and rare cancers.

Matthew J. Ryan Jr., the fiery former Hampden County district attorney, died July 22 after a long illness. He was 91.

Ryan was the state's longest serving district attorney when he left office under a cloud of controversy nearly two decades ago, the Springfield Republican reported. He began his political career in 1958 when he defeated eight Democrats and one Republican to take the DA's seat in his first campaign.

In 1989, Ryan's top State Police investigator, John J. Mace, attacked and stabbed an assistant prosecutor in his office. Mace was attempting to hide the fact that he had embezzled money that was evidence in a criminal case, investigators said, when assistant prosecutor Joseph A. Quinlan stumbled upon him, according to the Republican.

After the incident, for which the detective served a state prison term, one of Ryan's top aides, Francis Bloom, accused the district attorney of coddling reputed Mafia figures, the Republican reported.

Ryan issued a 13-page defense in which he denied any wrongdoing.

After he left office in 1990, Ryan returned to private practice, joining the Springfield firm of Doherty, Wallace, Pillsbury & Murphy.