

# Academy to present President's Award for Excellence in Advocacy to Douglas K. Sheff

**By Sheila Sweeney**

On May 19, at the MATA 2010 Annual Dinner, MATA President Chris A. Milne will present MATA past-President Douglas K. Sheff with the first-ever President's Award for Excellence in Advocacy.

Doug Sheff has been on the MATA Board of Governors for over 20 years, serving on almost every MATA committee or section during that time. He has represented MATA in Washington, D.C. and on Beacon Hill through the years and has remained one of MATA's most loyal and generous supporters on every possible level.

Doug's work on behalf of children and adults who have suffered traumatic brain injuries sets the standards in representing the underrepresented for the trial bar. His true advocacy for all his clients is obvious in his empathetic and skilled representation and in the proven results of his cases.

Sheff is a recipient of the prestigious "ORT Award," given for integrity in the law, has been named to Boston Magazine's "SuperLawyers" and has been recognized in Lifesavers for preventing serious injury through aggressive rep-

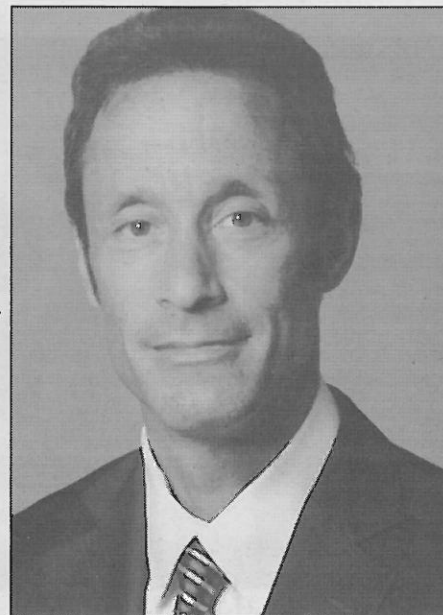
resentation of victims harmed by defective products.

Sheff attended the University of Michigan and the University of London. He attended Boston College and Boston University Law Schools, graduating from B.C. He holds the title of Governor to the American Association of Justice, where he has spent over 20 years working on issues that affect the trial bar on both a local and a national level.

Elected by his peers across the country to chair the AAJ's state delegates, he has also served as chair of the AAJ's Council of Presidents, representing thousands of trial lawyers throughout America. Sheff has been appointed trustee of the National College of Advocacy, which provides superior education for lawyers throughout the U.S., and is a five-time recipient of the Wiedemann Wysocki Award.

Sheff is also a director of the Belli Society, a recognized group of outstanding trial attorneys from across the country, and is a member of the Trial Lawyers for Public Justice, a group of attorneys that promotes fairness, equality and justice under the law. He is currently vice president of the Massachusetts Bar Association and has served for many years on the MBA House of Delegates.

Sheff has chaired the MBA's Civil Litigation Section Council and Strategic Planning Com-



mittee and has served of the MBA's Executive Management Board and Budget and Finance Committee for several years. Doug has represented the MBA at multiple Bench/Bar Meetings and has worked on many issues concerning the welfare of judges and attorneys throughout the Commonwealth during his legal career.

Douglas K. Sheff is the senior partner at the

Sheff Law Offices in Boston. He has 26 years of experience as a civil litigator and has received numerous honors throughout his career as an attorney, an advocate for consumers and an educator. He is known on both local and national levels for his political activism, his commitment to preserving the civil justice system and his dedication to representing people who would otherwise not have access to justice.

Doug is a MATA stalwart and remains, even with his many interests and other associations, involved in the organization in every possible way. He has been an invaluable asset to the academy for many years and has worked tirelessly to further our mission: to preserve and improve the civil justice system, to protect the health and safety of families, improve the quality of legal representation and uphold the honor and dignity of the legal profession while defending the constitutions of the United States and the commonwealth.

Doug Sheff has defined his life by the work he has done to insure that the underrepresented continue to have access to courtrooms and to justice. He continues to do so every day. The Massachusetts Academy of Trial Attorneys and President Chris A. Milne are proud to present the inaugural "President's Award for Excellence in Advocacy" to Douglas K. Sheff, a true advocate and friend to the trial bar.