



Massachusetts Justices of the Peace Association

Justice Journal

May, 2018

President's Letter

It's that time of year again when we get to celebrate the accomplishments of others. Three young people will be honored for their scholastic achievements at our June meeting as recipients of our 2018 MJPA Scholarships. More about them below.

We also have a slate of officers for election, three directors and a secretary. Please check the Nominating Committee report for the names.

This has been an interesting year. Moving forward, I would like 2018-2019 to be the year where the Massachusetts Justices of the Peace Association takes a strategic look at itself as an organization. This isn't a question of simply how to spend the money in the treasury, or how to get more business to each of our members, or whether we should hire a lobbyist. This goes deeper.

We need to look at the organization as a whole; who we are, how we are organized, how we are managed and under what rules. It isn't just a question to be answered by the Board, but by committees made up of all our members. The MJPA is not the same organization it was 45 years ago. We are online, offer electronic payment, have a more simplified process for registrations. Ten years ago, the Justice Journal was printed, folded, stamped, sealed and mailed. Membership materials were likewise printed, stamped and mailed. (You get where I'm going with this?)

Today a lot of that manual process is gone, but the administrative tasks remain. They are just not out in the open.

How do we accommodate this change in a volunteer organization? What are the skillsets we need on committees and on the Board to keep the organization running? There are a lot of questions and a lot

of opportunity to build a strong and dynamic association poised for the future. That's my hope for this coming year.

My best.

**Donna Michael
President**

SCHOLARSHIP NEWS

By Justice Terri Orr

On Sunday June 10th we'll be awarding three 2018 MIPA Scholarships. Here's a little preview of the recipients:

Joseph Allegro from Boston is the grandson of Justice Elizabeth Gemelli. Described as "a joy to teach and a wonderful example to his peers," Joe's interest lies in the arts especially the stage. He'll be studying performing arts in college.

Sophia D'Attilio from Walpole is the daughter of Justice James D'Attilio. Praised as a "determined and diligent learner," Sophia thrived in her school's film-making program. In college she will be studying film and communications.

Jeremy Poyant is from Orleans on the outer Cape. He is the grandson of Justice Lucien Poyant. Commended as committed and a positive contributor, Jeremy is both a varsity athlete and a motivated student of business. His goal is to study business in college perhaps combined with sports management.

Please join us at the Annual Meeting on June 10th to honor these three terrific young Scholars and wish them success in their college endeavors.

NOMINATING COMMITTEE

By Justice Nelson Goldin

The Nominating Committee is pleased to present the following candidates for election for the following positions:

Secretary: Roberta Fiola

Director: Marcelle Skidmore

Director: Regina Pacitti

Director: Richard Authier

JUSTICE STRONG – featuring interviews with our Justice members

By Justice Richard Authier



Justice Jeanette Rice

This month's interview is with Justice Jeanette Rice. Here are Jeannette's responses to our **10 questions:**

1.- What made you decide to become a Justice of the Peace and was it hard to get you Commission?

- I decided to become a JP because I wanted to add an aspect to my life that would bring me happiness. I was reading an article in the April 2011 issue of Essence magazine. The article was about second careers. The article featured Crystal Brown, a Justice of the Peace who became one to serve couples facing adversities. She and her husband were wed in the sixties coming from different religious backgrounds. They were given an awful time when finding a Justice of the Peace. As a result of what she and her husband went through, she decided to seek appointment. I was inspired by that Justice, because I too believe in love and the sanctity of marriage for everyone.
- I had an easy time getting my commission. I applied for my commission on Monday and received a call of notification that following Friday.

2.- What exciting things are left on your life's Bucket List?

- The things left on my bucket list include: travel to Africa on safari with my husband, vacation in Hawaii, obtain a position with an airline, solemnize my daughter's wedding, and if God's willing cradle a grandchild.

3.- If you could make a difference in the manner that we must follow specific rules and such, what would you do to improve the marital process? (Government; Association; Individuals?)

- GOVERNMENT: I would increase the fee for a one-day ceremony to match the fee for a JP license

- ASSOCIATION: I would coordinate monthly district socials for the JPs. Active JPs would host and invite inactive JP from their area to get together. That way JP would have the opportunity to socialize more than once a year close to home. I would suggest there be actual samples of the online apparel available to see during the meetings. I would add lavalier microphones to the JP store inventory.

- INDIVIDUAL: I don't have anything to recommend on the individual level

4.- How does your family feel about you and your Justice of the Peace commission as a Justice of the Peace?

- My family is very supportive and proud of my appointment. My husband accompanies me to some of the ceremonies that I solemnize

5.- What do you enjoy the most about being a Justice of the Peace and what do you least enjoy?

- The exhilaration and joy I feel when I pronounce a couple married gives me the most joy from being a JP. The suspense that I experience when waiting for the couple to pick me as their JP is one of the things that I least enjoy. The second thing that I don't enjoy is when the wedding is late starting, up to a few seconds shy of a late fee.

6.- How would you describe your association with Massachusetts Justice of the Peace Association?

- I am proud to be a member of the Association and I embrace my fellow members. I feel supported and that I belong with this group.

7.- Do you enjoy the Quarterly Meetings and what have you taken away from them?

- I enjoy the Quarterly meetings that are not held beyond Boston or further than Sturbridge. LOL I look forward to fellowship with the other JPs. I have learned how to market my services, step outside my comfort zone and design my website.

8.- You received the Sample Ceremonies offered by the Association. Have you found interest in any of them, (plan to use any?)

- I use the Sample Ceremonies as a foundation for ceremonies I solemnize. Most couples don't know what they want for a ceremony and samples help them shape the ceremony that tells their love story.

9.- Any advice for the MJPA Board of Directors on any topic (particularly; activities; actions; things you suggest should be changed; items you would covered.

- I suggest the board keep the disagreements brief.

10.- Now the infamous question every interviewee receives: What is your least favorite vegetable

- My least favorite vegetable is okra, it's slimy and looks like snot.

Any other comments you may want to include?

Anyone who truly knows me will tell you that I am a hopeless romantic. I hold complimentary pre-nuptial consultations so that I can get to know the couples. Over the course of an hour I know if we have a connection. I will help them identify other JPs in the association if the couple doesn't choose me. Once we embrace one another, they become part of my JP family and I'm all in. My JP photo albums are on the shelf of my bookcase besides my family albums.

My advice to my couples: As much time as you put into your wedding, put ten times that into your marriage. ☺

LEGALLY SPEAKING – MJPA Ethics Principles

By Justice Melinda Drew

When we were sworn in as members of the Massachusetts Justices of the Peace Association, we all swore to uphold the ethics of the Association. Specifically, we all agreed to conduct ourselves in accordance with the Bylaws of the Association and to adhere to the following ethical principles:

1. Members will transact all business of the Association through proper channels and hold inviolate all confidential information.
2. Members will refrain from using the Association to exploit personal views or personal advancement.
3. Members will not engage in conduct that conflicts with the best interests of the Association or any member of the Association.
4. Members will use ethical procedures in the practicing of their profession.
5. Members will advertise in such a way as to comply with advertising regulations specified in M.G.L.c.207 Section 58 or as amended.

So, what do those principles mean? Although there may be different thoughts about that, let me suggest some possibilities. To me, the first principle means that MJPA business is not to be revealed to persons who are not members and, for those members who are on the Executive Board, all business coming before that Board must be kept confidential until the Board makes a decision that is then communicated to the membership either by the President or as the President designates.

I see the second principle as requiring us to refrain from using MJPA resources or communication channels for our own purposes that are unconnected to the MJPA's mission. For example, I think it would be a violation of this principle if I were to advertise on my MJPA profile that I am seeking business as an attorney (to be clear, I am an attorney, but I am not seeking legal business).

I see the third principle as requiring us not to take any action that conflicts with what is good for the organization or another member. As an example, if a member attends a bridal fair as a representative of the MJPA, he or she should not be handing out his or her own business cards and soliciting business

for him or herself but rather should be promoting the MJPA and the services it offers such as the Find a JP service.

I see the fourth principle as generally self-explanatory but, as an example, the law permits same gender marriage. It is a violation of law and ethics to refuse to marry a couple because they are of the same gender.

The fifth principle comes directly from the relevant Massachusetts law and therefore must be obeyed. The law does not specify advertising on the internet but does say we can advertise in any "other publication of general circulation." Does that include the internet? It is not clear. I would argue that it does but it could go either way.