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## **FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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## **WOMEN'S BAR ASSOCIATION ANNOUNCES OPENING OF NOMINATIONS FOR LELIA J. ROBINSON AWARD**

**BOSTON, MA** – March 14, 2011. The Women's Bar Association of Massachusetts announces the opening of its nomination process for the annual Lelia J. Robinson Award. The award, presented since 1994 at the WBA's annual Gala, is named for the first woman admitted to the Massachusetts Bar. The Lelia J. Robinson Award recognizes women who, like Robinson, have captured the spirit of pioneering in the legal profession and have made a difference in the community. They include attorneys who have excelled in practice, government and academia; women who have served as mentors and role models; and women who have promoted equality and justice. In recent years, WBA honorees have included practitioners and local leaders Beth Boland, Lisa Goodheart and Ann Morse Hartner, as well as Elizabeth Warren, a Harvard Law School professor and Assistant to the President and Special Advisor to the Secretary of the Treasury on the Consumer Financial Protection Bureau.

The WBA is again looking to its membership as well as those in the community to identify female attorneys worthy of this honor. Let us know about someone important in your professional life, someone who has influenced you or made society more just. Nominees must have achieved professional excellence *and* done one or more of the following:

- (a) influenced other women to pursue legal careers; or
- (b) opened doors for women lawyers in a variety of job settings that were historically closed to them; or
- (c) advanced opportunities for women within a practice area or segment of the profession; or
- (d) performed exemplary public service on behalf of women.

**The deadline for nominations is Friday, April 1, 2011. The nomination form is available at:**

**<http://documents.clubexpress.com/documents.ashx?key=ksfFpLQKh%2ffSP%2fkXiezb8vcl%2bx5qSJ0dCdIOFFLz2hsJvnoBQYdhvg%3d%3d>**

WBA President-Elect Nancy Cremins stated, “As an organization, the highlight of our year is the opportunity to shine a light on women who work hard to improve society and who elevate the status of women in our profession. The WBA is eager to begin the process again and looks forward to the opportunity to celebrate the accomplishments of women in the legal profession at the 2011 Gala.”

### **About the Women’s Bar Association of Massachusetts**

Founded in 1978 by a group of activist women lawyers, the Women’s Bar Association is one of the oldest bar associations in the country. Today, the organization boasts a vast membership of accomplished women lawyers, judges and law students across Massachusetts. The WBA is committed to the full and equal participation of women in the legal profession and in a just society. The WBA works to achieve this mission through committees and task forces, and by developing and promoting a legislative agenda to address society’s most critical social and legal issues. Other WBA activities include drafting amicus briefs, studying employment issues affecting women, encouraging women to enter the judiciary, recognizing the achievement of women in the law, and providing *pro bono* services to women in need through its charitable sister organization, the Women’s Bar Foundation. For more information, visit [www.womensbar.org](http://www.womensbar.org).

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