

BOSTON BAR BEACON AWARDS

A Celebration of the Work to Advance Diversity, Equity and Inclusion

Past Award Recipients

2010:

MassMutual's in-house department for its success in implementing diversity, equity and inclusion (DEI) strategies.

2011:

Northeastern University School of Law for its lasting impact on Boston's legal community through its DEI strategies.

2012:

Gay & Lesbian Advocates and Defenders (GLAD) and the Massachusetts Attorney General's Office for their work advancing same-sex marriage and challenging the Defense of Marriage Act.

2013:

Paul Lee, the founding President of the Asian American Lawyers Association of Massachusetts (AALAM) for over 30 years of community leadership and for making Boston a city where Asian American lawyers and lawyers from all backgrounds feel more welcome.

2014:

Governor Deval Patrick for his groundbreaking work in creating a more diverse and inclusive judiciary in Massachusetts.

2015:

The six Affinity Bar associations for their impressive impact on Boston's legal community and extensive collaboration in cross-cultural support.

2016:

Paulette Brown, Immediate Past President of the American Bar Association, for her national leadership of diversity efforts in the legal profession, including the establishment of the Diversity and Inclusion 360 Commission and the passage of ABA Resolution 113, which the BBA Council formally endorsed.

2017:

- **Voice of Change:** Brent Henry, former Vice President and General Counsel at Partners Healthcare and current Member at Mintz Levin, for career-long work leading DEI efforts in the legal community, including creating the BBA's Diversity & Inclusion Section.
- **Corporate Champion:** Biogen for demonstrated commitment to increasing DEI within its own staff and the greater legal community, including through its use of diversity metrics when selecting outside counsel.
- **Empowerment:** Iván Espinoza-Madrigal, Executive Director of the Lawyers' Committee for Civil Rights and Economic Justice, for his extensive advocacy in the area of civil rights, including on issues related to racial justice, immigrant rights, LGBTQ rights, and HIV issues.

2018:

- **Voice of Change:** Macey Russell, partner at Choate, for career-long work leading DEI efforts, including sitting on his firm's Diversity Committee, serving as a past member of the executive committee of the Massachusetts Black Lawyers Association, and as co-chair of the BBA's Diversity, Equity & Inclusion Section.
- **Corporate Champion:** Vertex for demonstrated commitment to making DEI an ongoing focus of its company culture and hiring process.
- **Empowerment:** Yes on 3: Freedom for All Massachusetts campaign for leading the way to a statewide victory in 2018 in upholding public accommodations protections for transgender people.

2019:

- **Voice of Change:** Yalonda Howze (formerly of Mintz) for her work being a persistent advocate for attorneys of color, in particular women of color and young lawyers of color in the Greater Boston community, including her regular participation with Boston University's "In Real Law" project.
- **Corporate Champion:** Liberty Mutual for demonstrated commitment to making DEI an ongoing focus of its company culture and hiring process, including its signature Liberty Legal Academy, a development conference for female attorneys and attorneys of color.

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- **Empowerment:** The partnership between Greater Boston Legal Services (GBLS) Asian Outreach Project, and the Asian America Resource Workshop (AARW) for their collaboration in responding to the escalated deportation action against Southeast Asian refugee and immigrant communities by raising public awareness, mounting a legal defense campaign, and building community networks and organizing power.

2021:

- **Voice of Change:** Ralph Martin (Northeastern) for his career-long reputation of leadership marked by empathy, support, and inclusion, and recognizing his role in making substantive improvements in crime prevention and prosecution in the Commonwealth, through partnerships, coalitions and building bridges.
- **Corporate Champion:** Boston Scientific for driving change in the work-place and accelerating change in the community, including by setting ambitious measures to increase the number of women and people of color in the supervisory and managerial levels, and putting financial resources into addressing systemic racism.
- **Empowerment:** The COVID Relief Coalition, composed of law firms, non-profits and government agencies - for empowering small business and non-profits to withstand a pandemic by providing information and direct pro bono legal assistance to over 330 small businesses and nonprofits.