Lisa C. Goodheart

Meet the BBA’s New President

Sugarman, Rogers, Barshak & Cohen Partner Becomes BBA President

It was 1985 and U.S. District Judge William Young was presiding over the New Bedford Harbor PCB Superfund litigation at the old Federal Court House on Milk Street. Among the Boston lawyers working on the case were a future Massachusetts Governor, a future federal judge, a future Superior Court judge and two future BBA presidents, and one future ABA president.

“It was an incredible opportunity for a young litigator eager to learn and get experience,” recalls Lisa C. Goodheart, now a partner at Sugarman, Rogers, Barshak & Cohen and the BBA’s new President. I saw lots of examples of really great lawyering, and it was that case that really got me started in the environmental arena and showed me how challenging and fun the work could be. Over the years since then, environmental issues have become increasingly important to me.”

To say that Goodheart is extraordinarily well-liked, respected and well-connected is an understatement. When her former colleague, Deval Patrick, became Governor of Massachusetts, he appointed her Chair of the Judicial Nominating Commission. Under her leadership the JNC recommended over 250 highly qualified judicial applicants to the Governor, resulting in over 90 judicial nominations. What’s more, she proved especially effective in ensuring that the JNC produced a very diverse talent pool.

Margaret H. Marshall, the retired Chief Justice of the Supreme Judicial Court, and a BBA Past President, considers Goodheart the ideal of a lawyer — a woman with palpable leadership

What’s the Word on Lisa C. Goodheart?

“[Lisa has] great judgment and skillful leadership. I have known Lisa since she was an associate at Hill & Barlow more than 20 years ago. She is smart and confident yet humble, insightful and deferential to others’ views. She gives everyone the space to participate. With those qualities, she was masterful at leading the Judicial Nominating Commission. She will bring great judgment and vision [to the BBA Presidency] and at the same time the understanding that by including others the decisions will be better. — Governor Deval Patrick

Lisa C. Goodheart Takes Office as BBA President
skills, a commitment to ensuring that we have a healthy judicial system, and an outstanding counsel for her clients. “Lisa has appeared before me,” says Marshall. “She presses the advantage when she has it, and she doesn’t when she doesn’t. That is a rare skill.”

Years after the New Bedford Harbor litigation, Goodheart’s frequent trial partner, Dylan Sanders, remembers being at the Superior Court with her — representing a property owner seeking to recover the costs of investigating and assessing a spill of a hazardous material by a former tenant.

The jury seemed mesmerized by Goodheart’s incisive cross-examination of the opposing party’s expert. After an especially devastating question, one juror gave her the “thumbs up” sign. “You don’t see that every day,” observes Sanders.

**Establishing Herself in Boston**

A brand new lawyer at Drinker Biddle in Philadelphia in 1985, she relocated to Boston three years into the New Bedford Harbor case, accepting a job at Hill & Barlow in 1988. ABA Past President Mike Greco worked with her on a number of cases, and says that when she came up for partnership, she had the enthusiastic support of every partner at the firm.

“Even when she was an associate, Lisa would produce a perfectly worded and perfectly argued brief,” says Greco. “And if it meant that she had to stay up until the wee hours to get it done, she would stay up with not only no complaints but with the determination that we had a professional obligation to our client to do the best that we were capable of.”

At the time of its dissolution in 2002, Hill & Barlow had some 140 lawyers. Goodheart moved her litigation practice – heavily focused on environmental and land use disputes — to DLA Piper, which at the time was a 750-lawyer national firm. By the time she left DLA Piper three years later, the firm had 3,000 attorneys around the globe.

**Moving to Sugarman, Rogers, Barshak & Cohen**

“When I began to think about making a move and considered where I might like to be, the fact that I had developed relationships with lawyers all over town through the BBA was invaluable,” says Goodheart.

After inviting a friend from Sugarman Rogers Barshak & Cohen to lunch, one thing led to

“Lisa knows deeply her success is the result of the team effort of many people. She shows with a kind of relaxed grace that you can rise to the top of your profession and have a full and rich family life. She’s an important model for how our profession needs to be as we look toward the future.” – *The Honorable Margaret H. Marshall (Ret.), Past President, Boston Bar Association*

“What makes Lisa an outstanding leader is that she has no ego. She is a terrific and compassionate listener who truly wants to understand what the issues are. She has a wonderful way of cutting through any irrelevance and getting to the heart of the matter. Then she brings to that process terrific judgment in working through to a solution.” – *Michael Greco, Past President, American Bar Association, Partner, K&L Gates*

“The three things that Lisa will bring to the table as BBA President? (a) enthusiasm for the position; (b) good judgment on issues that will come before her; and (c) importantly, a welcoming attitude to all members of the bar, big firm, small firm, solo...She’ll be a good President.” – *Richard W. Renehan, Past President, Boston Bar Association, Partner, Goulston & Storrs.*

“Lisa has a terrific ability to translate very complicated regulations to make them very clear to folks who are operating on the ground. She works especially well in the most contentious situations, making it clear to the opposing side that their disputes are not personal. I know how much she has on her plate, yet she makes all her clients feel she’s available to them.” — *Audrey K. Wang, Office of General Counsel, Harvard University*
another, and today Goodheart has a thriving practice at this 25 lawyer firm focusing almost exclusively on litigation.

“I’m proud and excited that I will be SRBC’s third BBA President,” she says. “As soon as I joined the firm I had an immediate sense of being at home. A big part of that is so many of my partners here are involved in professional and civic activities, including but not limited to bar association work. I knew my involvement in those sorts of things would be supported, appreciated and valued.”

Building Connections in the Arts Community
Goodheart has been involved in dance ever since she took a modern dance class to fulfill a missing gym credit at Williams College. While at the University of Pennsylvania Law School, she began performing with Wizards on Wheels, a hip-hop roller skating troupe in Philadelphia. When she moved to Boston as a practicing lawyer, she also studied jazz, modern and Afro-Caribbean dance and performed with several area dance companies, some of which she also helped to run.

“Lisa used to come and take my class at the old Joy of Movement Center in Cambridge,” says jazz dance teacher Adrienne Hawkins, Artistic Director of Impulse Dance Company. “She used to come on her roller skates, come sideways up the stairs, and then skate home.”

Used to seeing Goodheart wearing her dance and skate gear, Hawkins was surprised the day her student arrived in a suit. On further questioning, she was shocked to learn that this particular student was a lawyer.

“Lisa defied any stereotypes I might have had about lawyers,” says Hawkins. “She was very humble in her learning style, but also very focused and persistent, with attention to detail.”

For years, Goodheart spent many late nights in the dance studio after long days in the office and courtroom. It was sometimes grueling but it taught her important lessons. “I learned how to focus and pace myself, she says. “I was very motivated to find a way to make it all work, and somehow it did.”

After giving birth to her first child in 1996, Goodheart limited her dance involvement to serving on the board of Rainbow Tribe and providing pro bono services to that company and AlileyCamp Boston, a free summer dance camp program for Boston public school students.

“Lisa and I were partners for years at Hill & Barlow and then at DLA Piper. She was the lawyer of choice in many situations when my clients needed litigation assistance. She understands better than most lawyers how to harmonize business advice and litigation advice, and that’s an unusual skill.” – Elliot M. Surkin, Managing Partner - Boston Office, DLA Piper

“When an environmental matter arose a few years ago at a SUPERVALU property in New England, a trusted environmental consulting firm highly recommended that we hire Lisa to represent our interests. We made that call and have been extremely satisfied ever since. Lisa is incredibly responsive and appears to be tireless, providing SUPERVALU with real time updates and legal interpretation, no matter the hour or day. Her knowledge of Massachusetts environmental regulations is outstanding and she is firm yet rational when defending our position.”

– Douglas Kasefang, Director, Environmental Affairs, SUPERVALU, Boise, ID

“Lisa has that most valuable—and rare—quality for a great lawyer: the ability to distill complex information and diverse points of view into a clear and compelling vision of what’s really important. Respecting all points of view, she is able to find common ground—the things that matter most to all parties—and put them in the proper perspective. This framework, once established, allows solutions to flow easily, as if they were self-evident. Lisa manages to do this with an unfailingly pleasant and courteous demeanor. Her positive attitude is infectious; working with her is a personal as well as a professional pleasure.”

– Scott Simpson FAIA, LEED AP, Senior Director, KlingStubbins, Cambridge
No doubt Goodheart’s experience in balancing her “day job” as a lawyer with her semi-professional work as a dancer will serve her well as she combines her duties as BBA President with her obligations to her clients.

As Dylan Sanders puts it, “Lisa’s capacity for work is just astounding. She’s also extremely efficient. If anyone can write a brief on a Blackberry, it would be Lisa.”

A Sneak Peek at the 2011 – 2012 Program Year with BBA President Lisa Goodheart

Lisa C. Goodheart, a litigation partner at Sugarman, Rogers, Barshak & Cohen and the BBA President who could make the Energizer Bunny look lethargic, was giving the Section Co-Chairs their marching orders for the 2011-2012 program year. Inside the BBA conference center at 8:30 a.m. on a Friday in June, these key members of her leadership team hung on her every word, scribbling notes about what she expected.

The qualities she attributed to the men and women in the audience – creativity and initiative, the ability to get things done and motivate others, a commitment to professional excellence, and a passion for access to justice and serving the community – are the very same attributes that define the BBA’s new President. Not surprisingly, she cut her teeth chairing the BBA’s Environmental Law Section from 2002 to 2004.

“As leaders, you have a responsibility to look beyond the usual suspects and find and promote new talent, and shine the spotlight on potential leaders of the future,” she said.

She expected them to plan and execute the high quality programs which played a huge role in taking the BBA over the 10,000 member threshold last spring.

But she also expected more. “You are the hosts of your Section’s events, and you want to make everyone feel included. You have an ambassador role, and that involves bringing new people to the table.”

Public Policy Preview

If there are bar associations that reach for whatever public policy issue seems fun and flashy, that has never been the BBA way. Goodheart pointed to a continued core public policy agenda in the coming year:
(1) Access to Justice (Adequate funding for legal services and representation of indigent and underserved people.)

(2) Administration of Justice (Adequate funding for the third branch of government, protecting the independence of the judiciary, and keeping it free from political interference.)

(3) Enhancing the Quality and Fairness of Our Laws (Modernizing antiquated laws, amending laws with unintended consequences, and adopting uniform laws for Massachusetts.)

Building a Sustainable Future

A More Diverse and Inclusive Profession

Proud to stand on the shoulders of her predecessors Don Frederico, Jack Regan, Kathy Weinman, Tony Doniger and Jack Cinquegrana, Goodheart acknowledges that the BBA has a sound portfolio of diversity and inclusion initiatives -- including a group mentoring program, strong partnerships with affinity bar groups, and the Beacon Awards -- all managed by the Diversity and Inclusion Section. Goodheart places a great deal of value on ensuring that these important initiatives continue.

Innovative Responses to Changes in How Lawyers Are Practicing

While lawyers at all stages of their careers are witnessing unprecedented change in career opportunities and trajectories, no group has been harder hit than new lawyers. Goodheart believes it is important for the BBA to provide essential support. Proud of the work the New Lawyers Section has done in providing a series of free basic skills training seminars, she looks forward to seeing such efforts continue. At the same time, she will be considering recent recommendations made by the Task Force on the Future of the Profession.

A Greener Profession

Having spent 26 years representing clients in environmental cost-recovery cases, permitting appeals, land use disputes, enforcement actions, insurance coverage actions, design and construction matters, and a broad range of business litigation matters, Goodheart finds herself thinking a great deal about the environmental sure everyone has an opportunity to contribute. She knows how to give credit to others, and to help others shine. In part that is because she, herself, is so modest and unassuming. At the same time she’s a real task master. She juggles an amazing number of balls without ever compromising quality or results.”

- Christine Netski, Partner, Sugarman, Rogers, Barshak & Cohen

“Lisa is everything you hope for and fear in opposing counsel: smart, prepared and savvy yet professional, cordial and ethical beyond reproach. It’s a testament to Lisa that our friendship was forged while trying a case against each other and has prospered ever since.”

- Jonathan Sablone, Partner, Nixon Peabody LLP

“She’s practical, looking toward outcomes as opposed to process. I had as much fun working with Lisa on cases where we were on opposing sides as when we were on the same side. She shows a high level of professionalism and attention to detail in everything she takes on. I’m very glad to see Lisa leading the BBA.” Kenneth Kimmell, Commissioner, Massachusetts Department of Environmental Protection

“I’ve had the good fortune to work with Lisa on the BBA Environmental Law Section Steering Committee for years -- including when she chaired the Committee -- and not to have to oppose her in litigation very often. Lisa will make a wonderful BBA President: knowledgeable, savvy, enthusiastic, tireless and accessible. I’m delighted at the prospect.”

- Arthur P. Kreiger, Anderson & Kreiger LLP

“Lisa is smart, she is knowledgeable, she is professional, she gets along with everybody; she is firm and tough but always polite and respectful. I
pressures we have placed on our planet and the energy needs of our society. “What are our responsibilities as lawyers to bring about the changes – in response to those pressures – that will ensure that we have a sustainable future?” she asks. “These are not just questions for environmental lawyers – they affect all of us as lawyers and citizens, and they cut across all practice areas.”

Stay tuned. Expect Goodheart to pull together a work group representing the broadest possible spectrum of BBA talent to take a fresh look at what it means to build a greener profession.

Rest assured about three things!

Whatever group the BBA’s 89th President appoints will be filled with top notch talent, going beyond the usual suspects, of course.

She will have a range of differing viewpoints at the table.

Any recommendations about the role that lawyers can play in developing a greener profession and supporting a greener planet will be thoughtful and well considered, pleasantly surprising anybody who might have been naïve enough to be looking for the usual platitudes.

don’t think there’s anybody I know who has a bad word to say about Lisa.” – Seth Jaffe, Partner, Foley Hoag

“Lisa has a warm personality coupled with excellent litigation instincts. [As an attorney] she’s diligent, smart, engaged, and thick-skinned. She’s able to see both sides but be a zealous advocate. [As BBA President] Lisa will bring outstanding interpersonal skills, the ability to delegate, and an instinct to do the right thing!” – Joseph D. Steinfield, Partner, Prince Lobel

“Lisa and I have been colleagues for 16 years. There is not a day that goes by that she and I don’t share a laugh about something. She’s a joy to work with in the most stressful situations, and I’ve never seen her lose her temper. As hard as she works in her bar activities and in her own practice, she goes out of her way to be a terrific mentor. That includes me and many younger lawyers.” - Dylan Sanders, Of Counsel, Sugarman, Rogers, Barshak & Cohen

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**Essential Info about Lisa C. Goodheart**

Born in Trenton, New Jersey and reared in suburban Philadelphia.

Holds a B.A. from Williams College (*cum laude*, Phi Beta Kappa), and a J.D. from the University of Pennsylvania Law School (*cum laude*).

Married to Marc L. Goodheart, Vice President and Secretary of Harvard University, and described by the Harvard Crimson as “a brilliant lawyer with a sharp wit and an even sharper pen.”

The Goodhearts are the parents of Nina, 15, a sophomore at Brookline High School, and Naomi, 12, a 7th grader at Brookline’s Amos A. Lawrence School. Both girls are musical theater buffs and aspiring triple threats (they act, sing and dance).

Her mother is Peggy Campolo, an outspoken advocate for LGBT equality within the Baptist Church.

Her father is Dr. Anthony Campolo, an ordained Baptist minister and professor emeritus of sociology at Eastern University who also taught at the University of Pennsylvania; he provided spiritual counsel to President Clinton and keeps a busy international speaking schedule.