



February 21, 2017

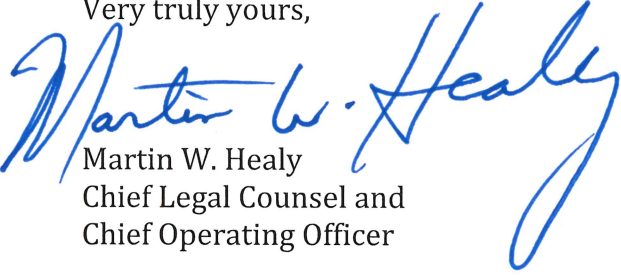
Carolyn Rogers
President
Massachusetts Court Reporters Association
PO Box 377
Westwood, MA 02090

Dear Ms. Rogers:

I write on behalf of the Massachusetts Bar Association in support of the Massachusetts Court Reporters Association. We understand an issue was recently raised regarding the application of the Approved Court Transcribers list to active court reporters. Many of our 14,500 state-wide members hire and privately pay for court transcription services. We believe that these transcripts should be accepted by the court regardless of whether or not the provider is on the Office of Transcript Services' Approved Court Transcribers list.

I call your attention to G.L. c. 221 §83, which is statutory law enacted by the Legislature and approved by the Governor. In particular, Section 83 provides for a presiding justice in any court department to "appoint and designate any certified shorthand reporter to serve as a court official stenographer" where there is not an official stenographer assigned or available. It appears that the Legislature's intent was to give individual justices the authority and power to designate certified shorthand reporters to serve as official stenographers. The Legislature most likely based the Act on the many experienced and professional reporters that are an integral part of our judicial system. To my knowledge, this statute has not been amended or repealed. We note the excellent service and technical knowledge of the members of the Massachusetts Court Reporters Association. We are writing to urge that the Association's fine work, which has become essential to our members' trial practice, be recognized and maintained by court leadership.

Very truly yours,



Martin W. Healy
Chief Legal Counsel and
Chief Operating Officer

cc: Jeffrey N. Catalano, President