

January 8, 2020

His Excellency Charlie Baker
Governor of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts
Massachusetts State House, Room 280
24 Beacon Street
Boston, Massachusetts 02133

**Re: Civil Legal Aid Funding, Massachusetts Legal Assistance Corporation,
line item 0321-1600 FY21 Budget Request: \$29 million**

Dear Governor Baker,

We, the general counsel of many of the Commonwealth's leading institutions and companies, would like to extend our thanks to you for approving \$24 million in appropriation for the Massachusetts Legal Assistance Corporation (MLAC) in FY20. Your unwavering support has enabled the legal aid organizations to serve more low-income Commonwealth residents in civil legal matters, paving the path for a more equitable access to justice. To ensure the maintenance and sustenance of this important work, we urge you to show your support of civil legal aid by appropriating \$29 million for MLAC through line item 0321-1600 in your FY21 budget recommendations.

Your support for increased appropriations in the past has enabled legal aid lawyers to take on more complicated and more expensive extended service cases. In FY19, legal aid organizations were able to assist clients in 94% of Massachusetts cities and towns, serving more than 88,000 local residents. Although those are promising numbers, considering the more than half of eligible clients who sought assistance but had to be turned away, we feel the gravity of the work that still lies ahead. It is a tragic reality that legal aid organizations are forced to make the difficult decision of accepting many eligible clients while rejecting the other half because of budget constraints. These organizations are part of a well-established, innovative and collaborative network, which uses technology and information-sharing to aid residents seeking civil legal aid. Their commitment to providing quality legal service to all eligible clients benefits from your continued support.

Thanks to your support, in FY20, legal aid organizations were able to provide quality assistance to clients with various civil legal issues such as housing, immigration, healthcare and education. We would like to share with you one of the many legal aid success stories that you made possible. A mother contacted Greater Boston Legal Services, an MLAC-funded legal aid organization, for help with her intellectually disabled son. She had been providing care and assistance to him since birth, so when he turned 18, she no longer had the authority to keep him

at home and provide care. She needed assistance in navigating the complex and extensive Probate and Family Court proceedings, and her legal aid attorney was with her every step of the way. She successfully gained the authority to provide care for her son in the comfort of their home. We can only imagine the everyday challenges of families in such situations and the probability of having to navigate the court system on their own could only exacerbate the issues at home. Thank you for helping to make the lives of our local residents better, one family at a time.

In our state today, affordable housing crisis has made it difficult for residents with housing vouchers to find homes. There has been an increase in the number and complexity of immigration cases, and an increase in the number of older adults living in poverty and facing many serious civil legal issues. The issues facing the most vulnerable of Commonwealth residents are varied and require different legal guidance and representation. The legal aid organizations strive to achieve the Commonwealth's aspirations for equal access to justice for all, and although the path is long and arduous, their commitment has never been stronger. We urge you to continue to keep your commitment to civil legal aid a priority as you consider your budget recommendations.

Sincerely,



Alejandra V. Carvajal
Chief Legal Officer
Momenta Pharmaceuticals, Inc.



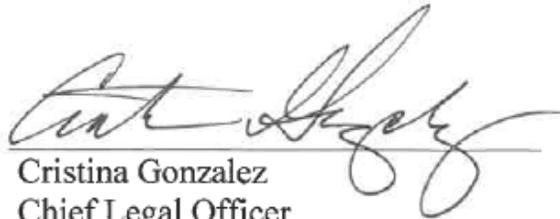
Aaron M. Grossman
General Counsel
ZOLL Medical Corporation



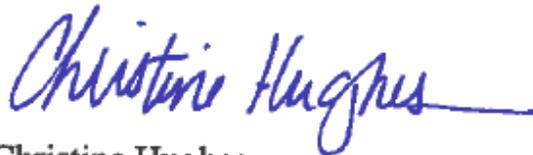
Anne K. Trinke
General Counsel
Fiduciary Trust Company



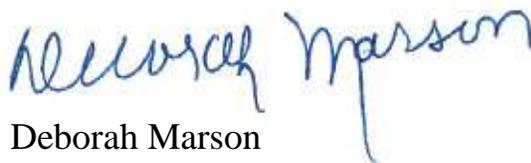
Craig Barrows
General Counsel
ImmunoGen, Inc.



Cristina Gonzalez
Chief Legal Officer
Staples, Inc.



Christine Hughes
General Counsel
Emerson College



Deborah Marson
General Counsel
Iron Mountain Incorporated



Erika Geetter
General Counsel
Boston University

Elizabeth M. McCarron
Vice President, General Counsel
Kronos Incorporated

Edward J. Weiss
General Counsel
Fenway Sports Group/Boston Red Sox

Frank R. Jimenez
General Counsel and Corporate Secretary
Raytheon Company

Gerald E. Quirk
Chief Legal Officer
Syros Pharmaceuticals, Inc.

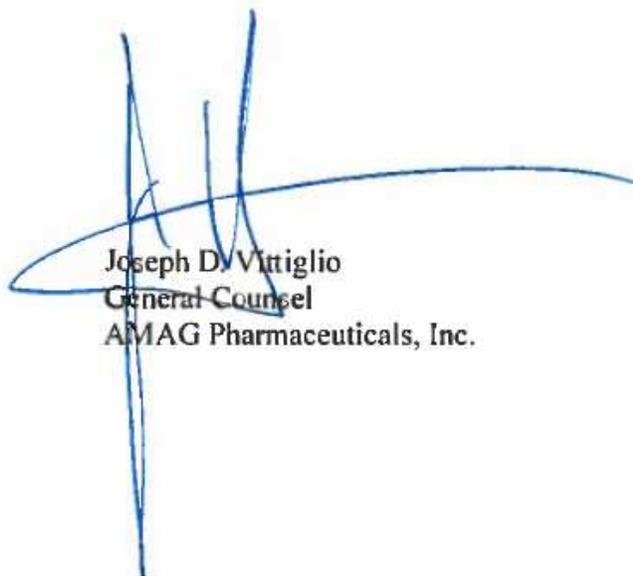
Jennifer B. Clark
General Counsel
The RMR Group LLC



Jessica H. Collins
General Counsel
Athenahealth, Inc.



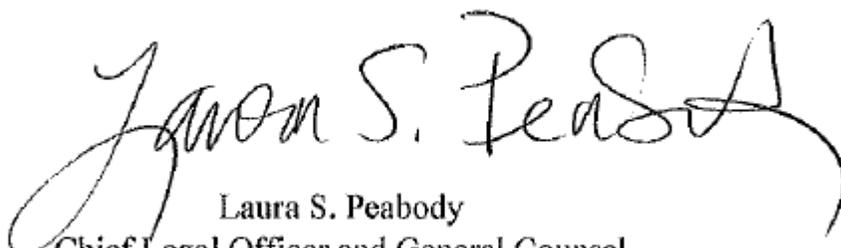
Lynnette C. Fallon
General Counsel
Axcelis Technologies, Inc.



Joseph D. Vittiglio
General Counsel
AMAG Pharmaceuticals, Inc.



Maria D. Buckley
General Counsel
Joslin Diabetes Center



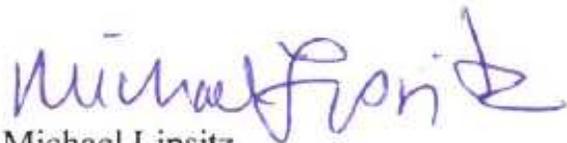
Laura S. Peabody
Chief Legal Officer and General Counsel
Partners HealthCare System, Inc.



Mark R. DiOrio
General Counsel
The Bulfinch Companies, Inc.



Michael J. Holston
General Counsel
General Electric Company



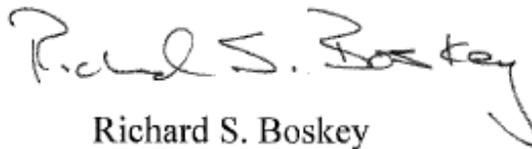
Michael Lipsitz
Chief Legal Officer
Santander Holdings USA, Inc.



Mark L. Neil
General Counsel
Dassault Systemes Americas Corp.



Paul T. Dacier
General Counsel
Indigo Agriculture, Inc.



Richard S. Boskey
General Counsel
Dana-Farber Cancer Institute, Inc.



Ryan Darrah
Chief Legal Officer
Forrester Research, Inc.



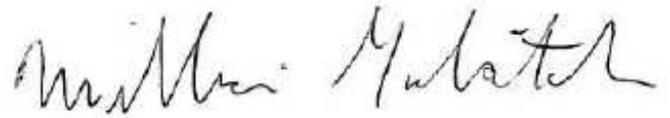
Susan H. Alexander
Chief Legal Officer
Biogen Inc.



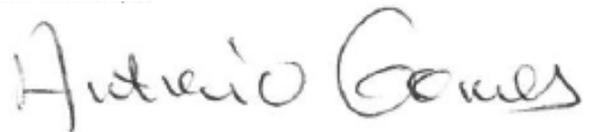
Thomas H. Dolan
General Counsel
ABP Corporation



William F. Bayers
General Counsel
Houghton Mifflin Harcourt Company



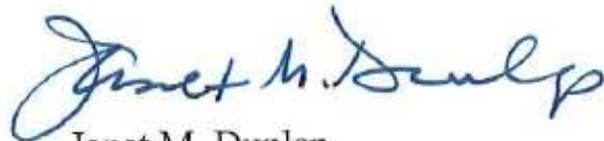
William Gabovitch
General Counsel
Primark US Corp.



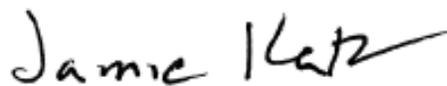
Antonio Gomes
Executive Vice President & Chief Legal Officer
Citrix Systems, Inc.



Frank D. Burt
Chief Legal Officer
Boston Properties, Inc.



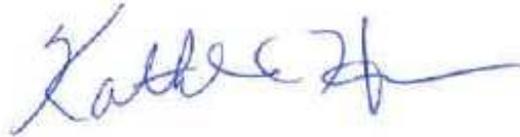
Janet M. Dunlap
General Counsel
Monotype Imaging Holdings, Inc.



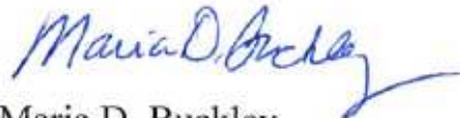
Jamie Katz
General Counsel
Beth Israel Lahey Health



James F. Kelleher
Chief Legal Officer
Liberty Mutual Insurance



Kathleen Henry
General Counsel
Eastern Bank



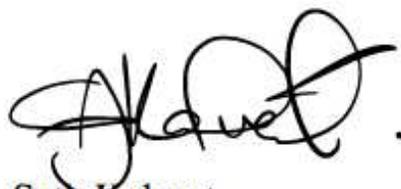
Maria D. Buckley
General Counsel
Joslin Diabetes Center



Michael W. McCurdy
General Counsel
Brookline Bancorp, Inc.



Paul C. Nightingale
General Counsel
HP Hood LLC



Seth Kalvert
SVP & General Counsel
TripAdvisor, Inc.



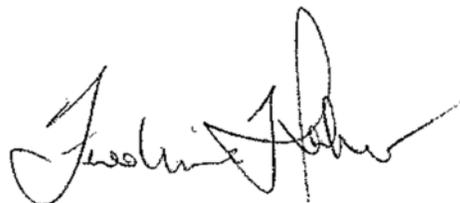
Tisa Hughes
Chief Legal Officer
Harvard Pilgrim Health Care, Inc.



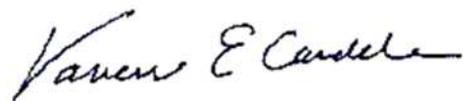
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General Counsel
The MathWorks, Inc.



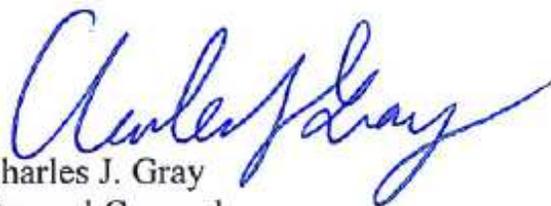
Shirin Philipp
General Counsel
Lesley University



Frederic Haber
General Counsel
Copyright Clearance Center, Inc.



Vanessa Candela
General Counsel
Netcracker Technology



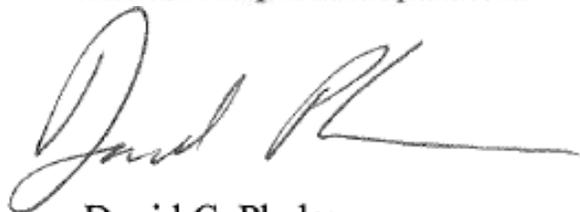
Charles J. Gray
General Counsel
Teradyne, Inc.



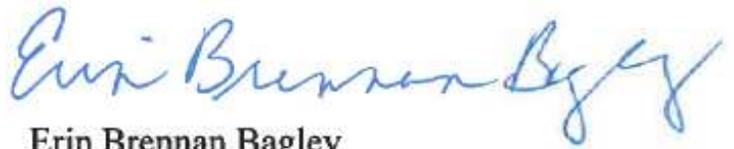
Craig J. Ziady
Senior Vice President & General Counsel
Cummings Properties, LLC



David P. Hutchinson
General Counsel
EMD Millipore Corporation



David C. Phelan
General Counsel
State Street Corporation



Erin Brennan Bagley
General Counsel
Coverys

Christopher G. Green

Christopher G. Green
General Counsel
Bain Capital, LLC

Richard Rothberg

Richard Rothberg
General Counsel
Dell Technologies



Richard P. Schwartz
General Counsel
National Development



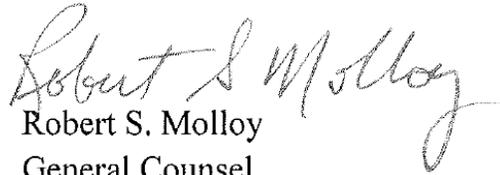
Conor Kilroy
General Counsel
Ironwood Pharmaceuticals, Inc.



Mark R. Young
General Counsel
TravelCenters of America Inc.



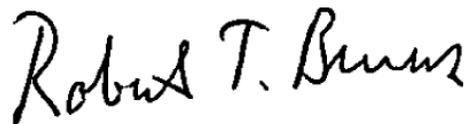
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General Counsel
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Robert S. Molloy
General Counsel
Destination XL Group, Inc.



Michael MacDougall
General Counsel
EMD Serono, Inc.



Robert T. Burns
General Counsel
Putnam Investments LLC



Kate Eshghi
General Counsel
UMass Memorial Health Care



William J. Lundregan
General Counsel
Starry, Inc.



Beth H. Kinsley
General Counsel
Northland Investment Corporation



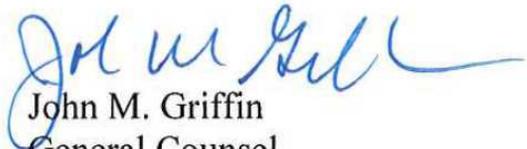
David Beck
Chief Legal Counsel
Boston Medical Center Corporation



Anne Marie Cook
General Counsel
Sage Therapeutics Inc.



Rodney Pratt
General Counsel
Converse Inc.



John M. Griffin
General Counsel
Hologic, Inc.



Gail Eagan
General Counsel
Arbella Insurance Group

cc:

Lieutenant Governor Karyn Polito

The Honorable Ralph D. Gants

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Secretary Mike Kennealy

Kristen Lepore, Chief of Staff

Robert Ross, Chief Legal Counsel

Elizabeth Mahoney, Policy Director

Katherine Holahan, Legislative Affairs Director

John Stephen, General Counsel Executive Office for Administration and Finance