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February 21, 2018

Hon. Ralph D. Gants
Chief Justice
Supreme Judicial Court
John Adams Courthouse
One Pemberton Square, Suite 2200
Boston, MA 02108

Re: Proposed Amendment to S.J.C. Rule 3:15 *Pro Hac Vice* Admission Fee

Dear Chief Justice Gants:

I am writing on behalf of the Boston Bar Association (BBA) to express our support for the Massachusetts IOLTA Committee's proposed amendment to SJC Rule 3:15 *Pro Hac Vice* Admission Fee. The proposed amendment would increase the current \$301 fee to \$451. The BBA continues to be keenly aware of the worryingly low projections for IOLTA revenue, and the ever-increasing need for civil legal aid in the state, and supports sensible proposals that seek to increase funding for legal services in the Commonwealth.

In 2011, the BBA Council voted to support the establishment of the original *pro hac vice* admission fee, and in November 2017, the BBA Council voted to support the proposed amendment to increase the fee. The Council felt the rise was reasonable in the context of the fee rates in other states. In addition, the rise would result in a net increase of nearly \$90,000 to legal services programs, which would help to expand access to justice in the Commonwealth, at a time of great state, and federal, uncertainty in legal aid funding

As such, we respectfully urge you to approve the Massachusetts IOLTA Committee's proposed amendment. Thank you for your long-standing support of access to justice. Please do not hesitate to contact me should you have any questions or concerns.

Very Truly Yours,

Mark D. Smith
BBA President