

My name is Anne Stevenson and I am a Marblehead attorney and parent who would be honored to receive your vote for Marblehead Board of Selectmen in June 2021.

### **About Anne Stevenson**

My family has lived on the North Shore since the 1700's. My dad grew up in Swampscott and my grandfather was assistant principal at Swampscott High School back in the 1960's. My grandparents lived in Marblehead for 40 years until my grandmother passed in 2015, so I've been coming to Marblehead my whole life. I grew up in New Hampshire and moved to Marblehead in February 2019 to be closer to my son's school (Landmark High School).

It is important for you to know that I am passionate about Marblehead and no stranger to hard work and the challenges facing Marblehead families. Since my son Reece was born in 2002, I've been raising my son as a single parent, while working to support my family and get my education. In 2007, I graduated from Tufts University with my bachelor's degree in Political Science. At the time, my son Reece was 4. In May 2017, I graduated from Suffolk Law School and in November 2017 I was sworn into the Massachusetts Bar as a lawyer. This year I'm proud to say my son is 18 now and graduating from High School as well.

Since I became a lawyer, I've worked as a court appointed attorney representing juvenile court involved families and people living with disabilities. Just four years after I graduated from law school, last week the Massachusetts Bar Association awarded me the Outstanding Young Lawyer of the year award for demonstrating outstanding character, leadership and legal achievement, and because of the public service I contributed right here to this community.

Although the MBA award was the biggest honor of my professional life, it came with a lot of sacrifice. It's not always easy to get up every day and ask powerful people to explain themselves, to listen to your ideas and do things differently. Change and progress can be uncomfortable for some, but my demonstrated history of bravely engaging in meaningful discussions with leadership show I am up to the task. Following my moral compass through a path of public service has always been my calling. This is what I intend to bring to the table if I am elected to be your next selectman.

### **Why I'm Running**

The reason why I am running for Marblehead Board of Selectmen is that I'm passionate about Marblehead and committed to DOING something positive for my community. Marblehead's bylaws give the Board of Selectmen general supervisory powers "over all matters affecting the interests or welfare of the Town." Some of the priorities I would like to see succeed include:

- Protect and support Town workers
- Transparency, Accountability
- Celebrate Marblehead history, preserve historic places
- Diversity, equity, and inclusion
- Keep Marblehead affordable, accessible
- Initiate the Municipal Youth Internship Program

- Preserve and protect Marblehead's conservation land, coastal properties, environmental resources
- Improve infrastructure, pave our roads and sidewalks
- Ensure Town boards and commissions have common goals and objectives, are fully staffed with people who are passionate about Marblehead with relevant skills/expertise
- Celebrate and support local dogs, dog owners

### **STATEMENT ABOUT WRITE IN CANDIDACY**

My demonstrated history as a leader who is brave, authentic, independent and gets things done for Marbleheaders makes me the best choice for Marblehead Board of Selectmen.

The reason why I am doing a write/in sticker campaign is that the Town Clerk's office did not certify my paperwork due to a minor technicality. This is my first time running for office.

- In May 2021, I asked the Town Clerk to look over my nomination papers to make sure they were correctly filled out before handing them in.
- The Clerk's office told me that "everything looks perfect" and that I had "nothing to worry about" because I had "collected more than enough signatures", I turned in 140 signatures (I needed 50).
- The Town Clerk notified me two days after the submission deadline that she did not certify my nomination papers due to a minor technicality (I completely filled out the top sheet, but did not put my street address on the attached sheets).

Had the clerk identified the issue before the deadline, I could have easily obtained more signatures. No complaining, just moving forward staying positive. Since then I have stayed focused on the campaign. My write in campaign committee is registered with the Town Clerk's office and also with the IRS.

It would be an honor to have your vote for Selectman in June. If you want to vote for me then you will have to write my name onto the ballot. Alternatively, you can contact my campaign at [Stevenson4BOS@gmail.com](mailto:Stevenson4BOS@gmail.com) and we will send you a special sticker with my name on it that you can stick right on the ballot.

#### Contacts:

Campaign: [Stevenson4BOS@gmail.com](mailto:Stevenson4BOS@gmail.com)

You can look my Campaign page up on Facebook at "Anne Stevenson for Marblehead Board of Selectmen."

For questions about how to make a donation, fundraising, please contact the Committee to Elect Anne Stevenson at [StevensonMHD@gmail.com](mailto:StevensonMHD@gmail.com)



## Stevenson and Anderson honored with MBA Outstanding Young Lawyer Awards

Thursday, May 20, 2021

The Massachusetts Bar Association presented Outstanding Young Lawyer Awards to Anne M. Stevenson for 2020 and Avana A. Anderson for 2021 at the May 19 MBA House of Delegates meeting. The annual award recognizes a young lawyer who has demonstrated outstanding character, leadership and legal achievement, and has contributed service to the community.

### **Anne M. Stevenson**

#### ***2020 Outstanding Young Lawyer Honoree***

A practicing attorney and bar advocate since 2017, Stevenson (pictured right) has dedicated herself to protecting the rights of youth in Children Requiring Assistance (CRA) cases and adults with mental illnesses in civil commitment hearings. Notably, in serving as trial and appellate counsel on a matter that reached the Supreme Judicial Court (SJC), Stevenson helped address an urgent need for CRA case law to ensure due process for children before they are placed in state custody. In another case, Stevenson supported an appeal to the SJC by raising the important issue of indefinite hospitalization for clients who require psychiatric treatment, inspiring fellow mental health attorneys to follow suit in their own practices.

In conjunction with her work for the Committee for Public Counsel Services (CPCS), Stevenson led an MBA program on the defense of CRA cases that prompted CPCS to update its practice standards for bar advocates. She has also shared her institutional knowledge with new attorneys completing certification training for the CPCS Mental Health Litigation Division, and with MBA members seeking to join CPCS panels.



### **Avana A. Anderson**

#### ***2021 Outstanding Young Lawyer Honoree***

Anderson (pictured left) is an associate at Peabody Arnold LLP, focusing on professional liability and insurance coverage litigation, and a committed advocate for survivors of domestic violence. Since her admission to the bar in 2016, Anderson has provided pro bono representation to domestic violence victims in restraining order and family law matters as part of the Women's Bar Foundation's Family Law Project. Similarly, as an "Innbassador" for Pine Street Inn, Anderson works to increase community awareness regarding the strong correlation between domestic violence and homelessness, while also assisting the



Politics & Government

## Mass. Bar Association Honors Marblehead's Anne Stevenson

Anne Stevenson was named the Massachusetts Bar Association's 2020 Outstanding Young Lawyer.

By Scott Souza, Patch Staff

May 21, 2021 12:06 pm EDT | Updated May 21, 2021 12:07 pm EDT

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Marblehead lawyer Anne Stevenson was honored for her commitment to fighting for the legal rights of her clients, who often suffer from severe mental and physical disabilities, during the coronavirus health crisis. (Anne Stevenson)

MARBLEHEAD, MA — The Massachusetts Bar Association honored Marblehead resident and lawyer Anne Stevenson this week for her commitment to "represent the underrepresented" amid the immense challenges of the coronavirus health crisis.



Stevenson, whose clients include the mentally ill, severely disabled and children in need of assistance, was chosen as the MBA's 2020 Outstanding Young Lawyer and was presented the award at a virtual ceremony on Wednesday.

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"COVID didn't slow Ms. Stevenson down, but it did create grave hurdles for her clients, which she dedicated her time and efforts to overcoming," the MBA said in announcing her award. "Commitment hearings were initially conducted via phone only, which limited her clients' ability to meaningfully participate, and it limited her ability to adequately represent them. So, Ms. Stevenson donned her protective gear and entered hospitals filled with COVID patients to better represent her clients, and at the same time, she pressured local courts to hold commitment hearings via Zoom, which provided better due process.

"It worked, and her local Essex county courts were some of the first to hold commitment hearings remotely."



Stevenson told Patch her clients' disadvantages were exacerbated immensely at the start of the coronavirus crisis when they faced neglect and the risk of not having due process because of visitation and other restrictions. She said her clients often have trouble with communication skills, which makes assisting them on the telephone or remotely very difficult.

She said she was proud to be recognized for helping those clients have their legal rights recognized during the pandemic and beyond.

"The award is important to me because these are people who live in our community whether we often like to admit it or not," Stevenson told Patch. "This award is acknowledging that they exist and they matter."

Stevenson said she quickly found out there were "no rules in place and no law" to deal with the pandemic shutdowns when it came to the courts and she was determined to "push every day to hold the state accountable when it didn't provide services or things didn't go as we would hope they would."

"People don't always like to hear that," she said. "Going over people's heads doesn't always make you popular. But sometimes that's what you have to do."

She allowed she was first confused when the Bar Association called before learning it was for the Outstanding Young Lawyer award.

"Usually, you only hear from them when you're in trouble," she said.

But the MBA's praise for Stevenson's work, which includes having two cases heard by the Massachusetts Supreme Judicial Court in 2019, was effusive.



"Stevenson's passion for representing the underrepresented was immediately apparent from the moment she was admitted to our bar," the MBA said. "She actually arranged to be sworn in early so that she could attend training on civil commitment hearings, and she signed up as a bar advocate immediately after. Basically, she was so eager to represent the underrepresented that she accelerated the process.

“Stevenson's trial advocacy was so good that she's developed a reputation for excellence in preserving an appellate record at trial."

Stevenson graduated from Suffolk Law in 2017 after a gap in schooling while she raised her son as a single mother.


She has been vocal in supporting the rights of the underserved in town and is currently running a sticker campaign for Board of Selectmen.

*(Scott Souza is a Patch field editor covering Beverly, Danvers, Marblehead, Peabody, Salem and Swampscott. He can be reached at Scott.Souza@Patch.com. Twitter: @Scott\_Souza.)*

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