



## Angelini named Thomas winner

### Years of community service a hallmark for law firm chief

By Bronislaus B. Kush  
TELEGRAM & GAZETTE STAFF

Michael P. Angelini's credentials within the law community are impeccable.

Mr. Angelini is chairman of Bowditch & Dewey, one of Worcester's top law firms. He has argued cases before the Massachusetts Appeals Court, the Massachusetts Supreme Judicial Court and the U.S. First Circuit Court of Appeals.

He even has been asked to serve on the panel that picks judges for the state's highest court.

Mr. Angelini's reach, however, goes far beyond the courtroom.

He helped organize, for example, a community walk that netted \$325,000 for the American Heart Association.

The city's success in bringing back the American Hockey League to Worcester was due, in large part, to Mr. Angelini, who was part of the leadership team that spearheaded the effort.

For his many professional and community accomplishments, Mr. Angelini has been named the 2005 Isaiah Thomas Award winner in the Telegram & Gazette's 2005 Visions Community Awards program.

"I believe there is no one who has volunteered his or her services to so many community organizations and who has held so many important positions in them," said Fairman Cowan, a retired general counsel at the former Norton Co., who also worked with Mr. Angelini at



T&G Staff/PAUL KAPTEYN

Michael P. Angelini, chairman of the law firm Bowditch & Dewey, has been selected winner of the 2005 Isaiah Thomas Award in the Telegram & Gazette's 2005 Visions Community Awards program.



T&G Staff/STEVE LANAVA

Paul Hernandez, center, youth program coordinator at Great Brook Valley Health Center, was selected the Young Leader Award winner in the T&G Visions program. He is shown with his Leadership students.

Bowditch & Dewey.

Mr. Angelini will receive the coveted prize during the Visions program's award ceremonies, which will be held Feb. 2 in Mechanics Hall, Worcester.

The program was launched by the newspaper in 1991 to promote change, encourage community involvement and recognize achievements by individuals and organizations.

Three other individuals and one organization also will be recognized.

J. Stephen Teasdale, executive director of Main South Community Development Corp., will receive the Public Service Award while Paul Hernandez, youth program coordinator at Great Brook Valley Health Center, will be given the Young Leader Award.

Meanwhile, the Joy of Music program will be the recipient of the Cultural Enrichment Award, and Kenny Lin, a senior at Shrewsbury High School, will get the Academic Achievement Award.

Deval Patrick, one of the Democratic gubernatorial candidates, will be the keynote speaker.

"I enjoy helping out the community when I can," Mr. Angelini said. "I don't get involved out of any sense of obligation. It's just a pleasure to help out."

Mr. Angelini said Worcester is unique in that it is a tight-knit community where people know each other.

"You can walk down a street and recognize someone," he said.

Mr. Angelini has been a familiar face at the Worcester County Courthouse.

He is a 1964 graduate of Wesleyan University, and he earned his law degree at Duke University School of Law.

Mr. Angelini joined the firm, then known as Bowditch, Gowetz & Lane, in 1968, becoming a partner five years later.

He has practiced as a trial and business lawyer, representing bankers, insurance companies and manufacturing interests, as well doing pro bono work on behalf of the needy.

Mr. Angelini was managing partner of the firm from 1990 to 1996 and became chairman in 1997.

Over the years, he has served as master and mediator in the Massachusetts Superior Court system and as an arbitrator

with the American Arbitration Association.

He was president of the Worcester County Bar Association in 1983 and 1984 and was founding director of the Worcester County Bar Foundation.

Mr. Angelini also received the Massachusetts Bar Association's Community Service Award in 1986 and 1993 and served as a member of the Supreme Judicial Court Search Committee.

He chaired the local Advisory Committee of The Salvation Army.

Meanwhile, Mr. Teasdale, the Public Service Award recipient, is considered to be the architect of the multimillion-dollar revitalization of Worcester's blue-collar Main South neighborhood.

The Main South CDC was founded in the mid-1980s and operated out of a former laundromat on Main Street. At the time, Mr. Teasdale was the organization's sole employee.

Since then, the CDC has created about 260 units of affordable housing with a market value of at least \$10 million, fulfilling the dreams of home ownership for many low-income families. It also manages 100 housing units and a number of commercial properties.

The CDC is also the lead partner in the \$35 million rehabilitation effort in the Gardner-Kilby-Hammond area, which includes construction of a new Boys & Girls Club, athletic fields and 80 units of housing.

The CDC's projects, under Mr. Teasdale's leadership, have been recognized as model community-based planning and development initiatives by a number of groups and agencies including the Ford Foundation and the state Department of Housing and Community Development.

Mr. Hernandez, the Young Leader Award recipient, was 11 when he immigrated with his family to the United States from the Dominican Republic. Though he knew no English, he worked hard to better himself.

As the youth program coordinator at Great Brook Valley Health Center, Mr. Hernandez has tried to change the public's perceptions of the public housing project.

He also has worked to increase educational opportunities for the project's



J. Stephen Teasdale, executive director of Main South Community Development Corp., will receive the Public Service Award. He is standing in front of some affordable housing units on Beacon Street in Worcester.

T&G Staff/DAN GOULD

youngsters, especially Latinos.

Mr. Hernandez has mentored dozens of teenagers, and many of his charges have taken on projects of their own, such as staging block parties and providing outreach to their peers.

Mr. Hernandez is a member of Building Brighter Futures with Youth, Youth First, the Central Massachusetts Adolescent Substance Abuse Coalition and Common Pathways.

The 19-year-old Joy of Music Program, which will receive the Cultural Enrichment Award, was founded by Wendy Ardizzone, its executive director.

The nonprofit community school started as a program of music and movement classes for preschoolers. Today, it has 500 students and 37 faculty members.

It has provided about \$600,000 in financial aid since 1992 and many of its graduates have been accepted to some of the nation's most prestigious music schools including the New England Conservatory of Music and the Juilliard School.

Besides its educational mission, the school offers a number of community outreach programs.

Students and faculty offer about 60 performances annually at nursing homes, First Night Worcester, Holly Days at Tower Hill Botanic Gardens and other venues.

Mr. Lin was selected as the recipient of the Academic Achievement Award by the T&G on the basis of an essay contest open to seniors designated by their schools as Telegram & Gazette Student Achievers.

His essay, "Reassessing the College Campus as a Marketplace of Ideas," was published in the Sunday Telegram on May 29.

"The marketplace of ideas is both consistent with the ideals of democracy and truth-seeking. Full freedom to express any idea, accepted or controversial, is necessary for a dynamic democracy committed to autonomous self governance,"

wrote Mr. Lin. "An open dialogue in which ideas are shared and critiqued from all perspectives fosters an active citizenry that will make informed decisions and hold governments responsible."

The Isaiah Thomas Award is named after the American patriot printer and was created in 1950 by the Advertising Club of Worcester. The T&G became custodian of the prize in 1999 and its awarding became part of the Visions program.

The award is given to a citizen who has substantially improved the quality of life in the Worcester area.

The Public Service Award is bestowed upon an elected or appointed public official or employee of a social service agency who has excelled in the performance of his or her duties.

The Young Leader Award is given to individuals younger than 35 and in the early stages of their careers. It recognizes service in business, professional life or community leadership.

The Cultural Enrichment Award is given to a person or group for contributions to the arts or cultural life.

The Young Leader, Cultural Enrichment and Public Service awards carry \$2,500 cash prizes.

Mr. Lin will receive a \$2,500 scholarship.

The award winners were chosen by a panel made up of: Bruce S. Bennett, the T&G's publisher; Harry T. Whitin, the newspaper's editor; George R. French, the newspaper's editorial page editor; Nancy B. Cahalen, the newspaper's director of marketing and new business development; James F. Paulhus, executive vice president and senior lending officer at UniBank for Savings; Gladys Rodriguez-Parker, director of community and government relations for U.S. Rep. James P. McGovern, D-Worcester; Ellen Dunlap, president of the American Antiquarian Society, and Ann T. Lisi, executive director of the Greater Worcester Community Foundation.



T&G Staff/STEVE LANAVA

The Joy of Music program will be awarded the Cultural Enrichment Award. Shown here are Richard and Wendy Ardizzone and several participants in the program.



Kenny Lin, shown with his family, is a graduate of Shrewsbury High School and will receive the Academic Achievement Award.