



Chief Justice Roderick L. Ireland

Honorable Roderick L. Ireland was appointed Chief Justice of the Supreme Judicial Court by Governor Deval L. Patrick in 2010, and is the Commonwealth's first African American Chief Justice. In 1997, he was the first African American to sit on the Massachusetts Supreme Judicial Court. Previously, he served as an Associate Justice of the Appeals Court and as an Associate Justice of the Boston Juvenile Court. Justice Ireland received his B.A. degree from Lincoln University in Pennsylvania, his J.D. degree from Columbia University Law School, and his LL.M. degree from Harvard Law School. Justice Ireland earned his Ph.D. at Northeastern University in its Law, Policy and Society Program. Highlights of Justice Ireland's legal career include: staff attorney at Neighborhood Legal Services in New York City; staff attorney at the Harvard Center for Law and Education; chief attorney, deputy and executive director at the Roxbury Defenders Committee; hearing officer for the Massachusetts Civil Service Commission; legal counsel for the Roxbury District Court Clinic; associate at Burnham, Stern and Shapiro; Assistant Secretary and Chief Legal Counsel for the Massachusetts Executive Office of Administration and Finance; and Chairman of the state Board of Appeal on Motor Vehicle Liability Policies and Bonds. Justice Ireland is an adjunct faculty member at both the School of Law and College of Criminal Justice at Northeastern University, and also serves as a faculty member of the Appellate Judges Seminar at New York University Law School. He is the author of *Massachusetts Juvenile Law*, volume 44 of the Massachusetts Practice Series, published by West Publishing Company in 1993. Justice Ireland is active in his community and has been an advisor and teacher for the SJC's Judicial Youth Corps, a court education program for high school students. He has been a member of the Eliot Church of Roxbury. Among his many awards are the Boston College Law School's St. Thomas More Award; several Honorary Doctor of Law degrees; The Judicial Excellence Award from the Massachusetts Bar Association and Lawyers Weekly Newspaper in 2001; the Judicial Excellence Award from the Massachusetts Judges Conference in 1996; the prestigious Haskell Cohn Distinguished Judicial Service Award presented by the Boston Bar Association in 1990; and the Boston Covenant Peace Prize in 1982 in recognition of his efforts to promote racial justice.