



SUPREME JUDICIAL COURT  
JOHN ADAMS COURTHOUSE

RODERICK L. IRELAND  
CHIEF JUSTICE

March 3, 2014

His Excellency Deval L. Patrick  
Governor of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts  
State House, Room 272  
Boston, MA 02133

Dear Governor Patrick:

It has been an honor and great privilege for me to lead the third branch of government as Chief Justice of the Massachusetts Supreme Judicial Court since you appointed me to that position in December 2010.

As you know, I am fast approaching mandatory retirement and will reach age 70 before the end of this year. Understanding the critical work of my Court and wishing to facilitate a smooth transition for my successor, I have decided to step down before the new term begins in September. Thus, I am writing to inform you that my last day on the bench will be Friday, July 25, 2014.

I have been blessed to be a member of the judiciary for almost thirty-seven years. Serving the people of Massachusetts in this great office of public trust has been a truly humbling, challenging, stimulating – albeit sometimes difficult – but always rewarding experience, and I have enjoyed each and every day of my work.

I thank you for the wonderful opportunity you gave me which has been the capstone of my career, and I hope that over the years I have helped to improve the delivery of justice in our great Commonwealth.

Sincerely,

Roderick L. Ireland