

**Presentation to the Supreme Judicial Court
of the Portrait of Honorable Margaret H. Marshall**

**Remarks of John A. Nadas, Esq.
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**Seven Justice Courtroom
John Adams Courthouse
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Chief Justice Gants, the Justices of the Supreme Judicial Court, so many other judges and the many friends of Chief Justice Margaret Marshall. I don't mean to create confusion, and with apologies to the many Chiefs in the room, but I won't today be able to break my habit of referring to Margie as The Chief. So, today, when I say "The Chief," Margie I am talking about you.

Good afternoon. It's a great privilege to be here on this special occasion.

I'm John Nadas, a litigation partner at, and Chairman of, Choate, Hall & Stewart. I've known The Chief for more than 25 years. We were litigation partners at Choate in the late 80's and early 90's, before she became General Counsel at Harvard. In 2012, we were thrilled to have The Chief return to Choate where, among many other things, she provides advice to our appellate group led by her very good friend, and Choate's new partner, Joan Lukey.

Although we have all watched with awe, over the years, her many accomplishments and the remarkable arc of her career, now that she has returned to Choate, and we are with her day-to-day, it's given us an opportunity to better observe and appreciate the breadth and depth of who she is, what she has done, the many lessons she has taught us and how she has inspired us. I will try now to speak from my perspective as her colleague, as a member of the Bar and as her friend.

I do not believe I am exaggerating when I say that the Chief is a giant in our community. She is a person of true historic significance, for her student activism in her fight against Apartheid in South Africa; for her accomplishments as a trial lawyer; for her service as the General Counsel of Harvard; for her leadership as a Justice and then as the Chief Justice of the SJC; for her authorship of more than 300 opinions including some landmark decisions; and for her service as the Senior Fellow of the Yale Corporation. She has had a profound impact on history, on many communities, families and individuals. And she has helped us stay on the right side of history. Yet she is one of us, walks with us and has taught us so much.

The Chief has taught us from her perspective as an immigrant who left her home, without a rule of law, to come to this country and a life centered by the rule of law.

Throughout her life, The Chief, perhaps more than anyone, has helped us to understand that the rule of law is one the greatest strengths of this country.

She has helped us all to understand the importance and the critical role which we, as lawyers, play in a society which is based on the rule of law. We have often heard her challenge the common perception that we have too many lawyers, by reminding us of the essential, indeed necessary, role which we play in a society based upon the rule of law.

And all of this has made us even more proud to be lawyers and even more proud of our country. Chief, we thank you for all of that.

As members of the Bar there are so many standards and values we have learned, and continue to learn, from The Chief. She teaches us the importance of excellence in the legal profession. Excellence in our analysis. Excellence in our writing. Excellence in our advocacy. Excellence in our service. Excellence in our presentation and even our appearance. As she would say -- all non-negotiable.

She teaches us about the importance of working to mentor and develop new lawyers. She sees it as her, and our, great responsibility to develop the next generation of outstanding lawyers. As you can imagine, at Choate the new lawyers are thrilled to interact with and learn from her, and she serves as a unique role model, particularly for women lawyers.

She teaches us about the need to constantly strive to improve ourselves and the value of constructive, candid and direct feedback. We have all heard her ask to be told, directly and candidly, how can she do a better job; how can she improve? So often she'll say "tell me two things I can do better." And she's sincere when she asks for that feedback.

And, she teaches so much about respect and grace. No one pays more genuine attention, at a very personal level, to every individual she encounters. You see it in the halls of the Firm, in the courthouse, in the elevators. She stops to say hello, to introduce herself and to genuinely see and learn about people. She has the extraordinary ability to make real connections, every day. It is unusual and powerful. It is one of the attributes which has made The Chief so effective throughout her life. I have sat with her at countless banquets and galas and watched her interact, not just with honorees and luminaries, but with everyone. The service staff know her, look for her, are thrilled when they see her and are proud when they have the opportunity to interact with her. When we walk through security in our building; she stops to talk to the guards and they want to talk to her (not to me).

And, finally, the Chief has made us even more proud of the SJC, which she frequently reminds us is the oldest appellate court in continuous existence in the Western Hemisphere. As she has made us even more proud to have and to enforce the oldest, still functioning, written constitution in the world -- the Massachusetts Constitution. And she's made us even more proud of this beautiful courthouse, which she helped renovate and rename the John Adams Courthouse.

It is so fitting that her portrait will be here in this beautiful courthouse, where it will continue to remind us all of who she is, what she has done and continues to do every day, and all that she has taught, and will continue to teach us.

Thank you, Chief.