

# The Review



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## **BIDDING FAREWELL TO RETIRING JUSTICE Peter W. Agnes, Jr.**

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With a combination of gratitude, admiration, respect, and sadness, we note that on April 12, 2020, Justice Peter W. Agnes, Jr. concludes his remarkable tenure on the Massachusetts Appeals Court. Justice Agnes has left his profound mark on the judiciary in more ways than most any jurist in recent memory. A decade as First Justice of the Charlestown District Court, a decade on the Superior Court, and a final decade on the Appeals Court. Educator of judges, adjunct professor at the Massachusetts School of Law for more than twenty years, and Editor-in-Chief of the Massachusetts Guide to Evidence. The list of his commitments to the practice of law, and devotion to the rule of law goes on and on. Justice Agnes has authored myriad cases of first impression. He has



demonstrated a willingness and unique ability to tackle the most complex issues in civil and criminal cases, invariably with an eye toward aiding and guiding trial judges to perform their difficult jobs, and with an eye toward ensuring that anyone involved in or exposed to the court system -- defendant and Commonwealth, plaintiff and defendant, probation department and clerk, lawyer and litigant -- can understand why and how to do their jobs or navigate court procedures. Indeed, Justice Agnes's written work shows that he has never forgotten his roots in the daily grind of the courtroom. Although we could speak ad nauseum about his accomplishments, it is Justice Agnes's kindness, passion for the law, and consideration of his colleagues that we will miss most. He has been a consensus-builder and advocate for collegiality throughout his tenure. Even on the rare occasion

where his (customarily correct) view of the law has called for a dissent, he has managed to do so with respect and deference for the views of his companion justices, without undermining the view of others.

Please join us in celebrating the wonderful (and ongoing) career of Justice Peter Agnes. The Commonwealth will miss his dedicated public service.

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## LONGTIME STAFF ATTORNEY **Ann Jones** RETIRES AFTER 32 YEARS OF SERVICE TO THE APPEALS COURT

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On the eve of Ann Jones' official retirement from the Appeals Court and after a long and distinguished career, we asked Ann if she would share some thoughts about her time with the Appeals Court. We wanted to pass Ann's thoughts on to our readers and also wanted to share our appreciation for all that Ann has given to the Appeals Court over the past three decades.

Ann Jones was hired as a staff attorney in 1988. When asked what she liked most about her position, Ann responded that she "always appreciated working collaboratively with the judges, law clerks, and other staff attorneys to resolve the issues that come before the court." One of Ann's primary functions was to review and polish decisions, a role she deeply valued. "The importance of the work of the judicial branch is so apparent, and I hope I was able to contribute constructively to this work. I have always enjoyed working with the other staff attorneys; it is a great and very supportive group of colleagues."



Ann offered some interesting perspective about the changes to the Appeals Court over the three plus decades she has been here. "The change in the working conditions over the years I have been here is quite remarkable. I started out in a carrel in the Appeals Court library on the fifteenth floor of the high rise (now Suffolk County Courthouse); there were a number of law clerks in the same room with me. There was

no IT department because there were no computers or word processors. Instead, we had an abundance of yellow legal pads and pencils."

Ann is regarded as one of our most seasoned staff attorneys. Ann has been a versatile and invaluable asset to the court over her career as both an editor and a gifted writer in a number of difficult cases. During her tenure, Ann has also been called upon to work on special projects, such as our coordinated response to the sea change brought about by the Melendez-Diaz decision, and coordination of the separate appeals in the various Fernald cases. Finally, in addition to her many legal skills, Ann's kindness and ready laugh will be sorely missed.

The Appeals Court family wishes to extend our gratitude to Ann for her many years of dedication and service. Congratulations on your retirement, Ann! We wish you all the best in this next chapter!

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## APPEALS COURT STAFF GIVES BACK DURING THE HOLIDAYS

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Former Justice Andrew Grainger began an annual tradition of gathering a group of Appeals Court Judges and staff together to volunteer at Pine Street Inn -- a Boston homeless shelter and provider of 1,600 meals each day for shelters throughout the city -- at holiday time. This past December several Judges, Law Clerks and Staff Attorneys volunteered their time chopping vegetables and serving the

homeless during the busy holiday season at the Pine Street Inn. This tradition has become an Appeals Court favorite.

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## UPCOMING 2020 APPEALS COURT "OFF-SITE" SITTINGS:

April 1: Western New England Law - Springfield

April 7: Suffolk University Law - Boston

May 1: Worcester Justice Center

June 3: Barnstable County Superior Court

September 10: Essex County Superior Court

September 17: UMass Law School, Dartmouth

October 8: UMass Amherst

October TBD: Western New England Law - Springfield

November 5: Mass School of Law - Andover

**Stay Tuned for Additional Information!**

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# REMINDER ABOUT THE NEW PUBLIC CASE INFORMATION WEBSITE

The appellate courts public website ([www.ma-appellatecourts.org](http://www.ma-appellatecourts.org)), which provides the case dockets and oral argument calendars, was recently updated in late 2019. The new website provides hourly updates and has a different appearance and functionality that is more "mobile friendly" for use on cell phones, iPads, etc. We hope the public has been enjoying the website's new timeliness and navigability. Updating docket entries by the hour, instead of only once overnight, now allows the public to view in near real-time the court's entries.

Commonwealth of Massachusetts  
Appellate Courts



Public Case Search

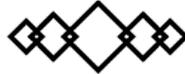
Last Name

First Name

# Docket Number

Court Calendar

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