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## **Mass. Bar Association: Justice Duffly's Invaluable Perspective will be Missed**

### *Multiple SJC vacancies will deplete court's institutional knowledge*

BOSTON, Mass. — The Massachusetts Bar Association (MBA) has issued a statement in reaction to the news that Supreme Judicial Court Justice Fernande R.V. Duffly has announced her retirement from the court, effective July 2016.

“Justice Duffly has contributed an invaluable perspective as a former Probate & Family Court judge, which informed her ability to grasp complex issues and understand the human element in the cases before the court,” said MBA Chief Legal Counsel Martin W. Healy. “While she blazed her own trail as the first Asian-American on the Supreme Judicial Court, Justice Duffly should also be commended for her efforts to increase the number of women and minority lawyers, law firm partners and judges. Our legal system is better today because of her contributions.”

With retirement announcements from three SJC justices this month and two others — Justice Margot G. Botsford and Justice Geraldine S. Hines — due to reach the mandatory retirement age of 70 in 2017, Governor Charlie Baker will be able to appoint as many justices (five) in one term as his predecessor, Governor Deval Patrick, did in two terms.

“These retirements create a historic opportunity for Governor Baker to make an immediate and lasting impact on the future makeup of the SJC,” said Healy. “This will be a brand new court with very little institutional knowledge, so it will be interesting to see how things play out. We’re not likely to see this again for quite some time.”

*Incorporated in 1911, the Massachusetts Bar Association is a non-profit organization that serves the legal profession and the public by promoting the administration of justice, legal education, professional excellence and respect for the law. The MBA represents a diverse group of attorneys, judges and legal professionals across the commonwealth.*