



City of Cambridge

R-33.

IN CITY COUNCIL

~~February 7, 2000~~

February 14, 2000

COUNCILLOR SULLIVAN
COUNCILLOR BORN
COUNCILLOR BRAUDE
COUNCILLOR DAVIS
COUNCILLOR DECKER
COUNCILLOR GALLUCCIO
COUNCILLOR MAHER
COUNCILLOR REEVES
COUNCILLOR TOOMEY

WHEREAS: It has come to the attention of this City Council that Justice Joseph P. Warner, Chief Judge of the Massachusetts Appeals Court, is stepping down from that position after a 27-year tenure on the bench; and

WHEREAS: In 1973 Judge Warner was appointed to the Probate and Family Court in Suffolk County, where he established a reputation for listening carefully, reading everything submitted and consistently making intelligent and reasonable decisions; and

WHEREAS: In 1989 he was appointed Chief Judge of the Appeals Court, where he continued to build his reputation as a well-prepared, practical and intelligent judge; and

WHEREAS: Judge Warner played a key role in improving the quality of justice in Massachusetts in his many years as chairman of the Flaschner Judicial Institute (FJI) a center of judicial training and education which received much acclaim during his tenure, including an award from the American Bar Association in 1990; and

WHEREAS: Judge Warner also provided an outstanding example of courage and perseverance in his struggle to recover from a stroke which paralyzed one side of his body in the early 1990's and left him permanently disabled; and

WHEREAS: In the words of the January 31, 2000 editorial of the Massachusetts Lawyers Weekly, "the bar has been extremely lucky to have Joe Warner as a trial judge, as chief of the Appeals Court and as chairman of the FJI. Others can do those jobs, but none will quite fill his shoes;" now therefore be it

RESOLVED: That the Cambridge City Council go on record expressing its appreciation to Chief Judge Joseph P. Warner for his 27 years of outstanding public service as a member of the Massachusetts judiciary, both as a trial judge in the Probate and Family Court and as Chief Judge of the Appeals Court; and be it further

RESOLVED: That the City Clerk be and hereby is requested to forward a suitably engrossed copy of this resolution to Justice Warner on behalf of the entire City Council.

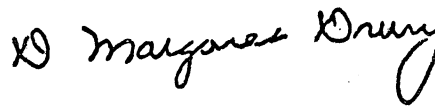
In City Council February 14, 2000.

Adopted by the affirmative vote of nine members.

Attest:- D. Margaret Drury, City Clerk.

A true copy;

ATTEST:-

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "D. Margaret Drury". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

D. Margaret Drury
City Clerk

MA

R-33 ✓

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Association in 1990; and

W/A Judge Warner also provided an outstanding example of courage and perseverance in his struggle to ~~overcome~~ recover from a stroke which paralyzed one side of his body in the early 1990's and left him permanently disabled; and

W/A In the words of the ~~Editorial~~ January 31, 2000 editorial of the Massachusetts Lawyers Weekly, "[T]he bar has been extremely lucky to have Joe Warner as a trial judge, as Chief of the Appeals Court and as chairman of the FJI. Others can do those jobs, but none will quite fill ~~the~~ his shoes;" now therefore be it

Resolved: That the Cambridge City Council go on record expressing its appreciation to ^{Chief} Judge Joseph P. Warner for his 22 years of outstanding public service as a member of the Massachusetts judiciary, both as a trial judge in the Probate and Family Court and as Chief Judge of the Appeals Court; and be it further

Resolved: SEC to ^{Justice} Judge Warner on behalf of the entire C.C.

January 31, 2000

Cite this page 28 M.L.W. 11

EDITORIAL

Joe Warner

Joseph P. Warner's decision to step down, effective Feb. 1, as chief judge of the Massachusetts Appeals Court marks a premature end to a sterling 27-year tenure on the bench.

For 16 years, beginning in 1973, Warner served on the Probate & Family Court in Suffolk County, where he was viewed by lawyers as a judge who listened to the parties and their counsel, read all submitted memos and made considered decisions that were well within the range of what experienced lawyers would consider reasonable. Although it was somewhat hard to "read" Warner on the bench (he rarely changed expression), outside of the courtroom he was extremely personable and engaging.

As chief of the Appeals Court, a job he was appointed to in 1989, Warner was very open to educating the public, including lawyers, on how the court operated. Warner's enthusiasm for improving the quality of justice in Massachusetts was also apparent in the crucial role he played with the Flaschner Judicial Institute. For years, Warner, as chairman of the FJI, was the intellectual leader of this "self-help judges' organization" and the FJI received numerous accolades during his tenure, including an award from the American Bar Association

in 1990. A hands-on kind of guy, Warner has been largely responsible for the type and amount of training available today for judges in all courts in Massachusetts.

Beyond his strengths as a judge and educator, however, are the personal characteristics Warner, now 63, exhibited when he was cruelly afflicted with a stroke in the early 1990s. With one side of his body paralyzed, Warner had to undergo considerable physical rehabilitation and had to overcome the natural disinclination to venture out in public with half of his body disabled. Fortunately, Warner conquered those challenges and came back to lead the Appeals Court for several more years.

Lawyers know better than most how much Warner did to improve the practice of law in Massachusetts. Unfortunately, the general public, which rarely hears anything about judges except when they are criticized, does not, and probably never will, know how much Warner did for them over the past three decades.

The bar has been extremely lucky to have Joe Warner as a trial judge, as chief of the Appeals Court and as chairman of the FJI. Others can do those jobs, but none will quite fill his shoes.

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COUNCILLOR SULLIVAN

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- RESOLVED: That the Cambridge City Council go on record expressing its appreciation to Chief Judge Joseph P. Warner for his 27 years of outstanding public service as a member of the Massachusetts judiciary, both as a trial judge in the Probate and Family Court and as Chief Judge of the Appeals Court; and be it further
- RESOLVED: That the City Clerk be and hereby is requested to forward a suitably engrossed copy of this resolution to Justice Warner on behalf of the entire City Council.

R 110

Resolution #33

Appreciation to Appeals Court
Chief Judge Joseph P. Warner for
his 27 years of outstanding public
service as a member of the
Massachusetts Judiciary.

Councillor Sullivan

~~In City Council February 7, 2000~~

In City Council February 14, 2000

ORDER ADOPTED