



City of Cambridge

57.

IN CITY COUNCIL

May 10, 1999

COUNCILLOR TRIANTAFILLOU
COUNCILLOR SULLIVAN
VICE MAYOR GALLUCCIO
COUNCILLOR BORN
COUNCILLOR DAVIS
MAYOR DUEHAY
COUNCILLOR REEVES
COUNCILLOR RUSSELL
COUNCILLOR TOOMEY

WHEREAS: This City Council was deeply saddened at learning of the death of Paul J. Liacos, retired Chief Justice of the Massachusetts Supreme Judicial Court on May 6, 1999 at the age of sixty-nine; and

WHEREAS: Justice Liacos was born in Peabody, the son of a Greek immigrant who was also a lawyer, he graduated from Boston University and its law school and earned a master's degree in law from Harvard; and

WHEREAS: Justice Liacos practiced law with his father and sister and wrote "Handbook of Massachusetts Evidence," the definitive volume in the topic, before being appointed to the SJC in 1976; and

WHEREAS: Justice Liacos was appointed Chief Justice of the SJC by Governor Michael Dukakis in 1989; and

WHEREAS: During his twenty years on the SJC, Justice Liacos wrote approximately eight hundred opinions; he was proudest of Commonwealth v. Soares, where he wrote the opinion in which the Court prohibited the exclusion of a prospective juror based on gender, race and ethnicity; and

WHEREAS: During Justice Liacos' tenure, the Court ruled that the state constitution prohibits the death penalty, it provided greater protection to woman's rights to abortion, and it gave defendants greater protection against search and seizure; and

WHEREAS: In the words of the current Chief Justice of the SJC, Herbert P. Wilkins, as reported in the May 6, 1999 *Boston Globe*, "Paul Liacos was a dedicated scholar, a tireless defender of constitutional rights and a committed advocate for the improvement of the administration of justice;" and

WHEREAS: Justice Liacos's passing will leave a void in the lives of all his surviving family, his wife Maureen McKean; three sons James, Mark and Gregory; his daughter Diana; his sister Katherine Liacos Izzo; his five grandchildren and his nephew Jonathan Izzo; and

WHEREAS: Justice Liacos will be sorely missed by all he touched and loved; now therefore be it

RESOLVED: That this City Council go on record extending its deepest sympathy to the family of Justice Paul J. Liacos at this time of such personal loss; and be it further

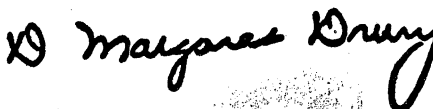
RESOLVED: That the City Clerk be and hereby is requested to forward a suitably engrossed copy of this resolution to the Liacos family on behalf of the entire City Council.

In City Council May 10, 1999.

Adopted by the affirmative vote of seven members.

Attest:- D. Margaret Drury, City Clerk.

A true copy;

ATTEST:- 

D. Margaret Drury
City Clerk

57

Stuck with
nothing

PAUL J. LIACOS on MAY 6, 1999; and

WHEREAS: _____
_____, and

WHEREAS: _____
_____; and

WHEREAS: _____ passing will leave a void in the lives of all his/her surviving family, _____

_____ and

WHEREAS: _____ will be sorely missed by all he/she touched and loved; now
therefore be it

RESOLVED: That this City Council go on record extending its deepest sympathy to the family of _____ at this time of such personal loss; and be it further

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

VV7

KT @ 8:30 5/10/99

Awens.

KT
MS. Paul Lealos

Sylvia Walker

Donna 5-10-1999

9:08am

Order

from Michael

On The Death of Chief

Justice Liacos.

Appeared on Saturday's papers.

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CNTL# 10128052

FN dialog(R)File 631:Boston Globe

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AN 10128052

Title PAUL J. LIACOS

Newspaper name Boston Globe

JC (BG)

Date - SATURDAY, May 8, 1999

Edition Third

Section heading Editorial Page

Page number A18

word Count 322

Lead paragraph The death of Paul J. Liacos, retired chief justice of the Supreme Judicial Court, at the age of 69 leaves a fresh personal legacy as colorful, and at times as controversial, as that of any leading state jurist in modern times. He also leaves a series of groundbreaking decisions that are still defining state policy.

Few of the 200,000 students taking MCAS tests this month will make the connection, but Liacos was as responsible as any governor or legislator or school official for the Education Reform Law passed in 1993 and still being implemented.

TX_TX Liacos, whose Greek immigrant father was also a lawyer, stepped onto the SJC in 1976 and rose in 1989 to chief justice, where he served for seven years. An unabashed liberal, Liacos was seen by some in the legal community as overly ideological, with a haughty and nettlesome personality that made the Liacos court not as collegial as some. Other judges and lawyers found in Liacos a brilliant mind able to cut through distractions to deal effectively with core legal issues. Each side could proffer opinions to support its view.

5/19/99 10:19 A

prospective juror based on gender, race, or ethnicity.

In the 1979 opinion on the case that led to the ruling, *Commonwealth v.*

Soares, he wrote that state law forbids the "use of peremptory challenges to exclude prospective jurors solely by virtue of their membership in or affiliation with particular defined groupings in the community." Sitting in his office on the 13th floor of the Suffolk Courthouse beneath an oil portrait of Lemuel Shaw, the 19th-century chief justice who ruled that any slave who arrived in Massachusetts would be set free, Justice **Liacos** described the death penalty as "torture in the guise of civilized business."

"What dignity can remain for the government that countenances its use?" he asked. Yesterday, US Supreme Court Justice Stephen G. Breyer described Justice **Liacos** as "a good friend, a brilliant lawyer and teacher, a humane judge, and a great chief justice who contributed enormously to our nation's judicial system. We shall all miss him very much indeed." A second-generation lawyer, Justice **Liacos** was born in Peabody, where his father worked his way through law school in a leather factory. Justice **Liacos** graduated from Boston University and its law school and earned a master's degree in law at Harvard University. A veteran of the Air Force, he practiced law in Peabody with his father and sister as a member of the firm **Liacos & Liacos** before being appointed to the SJC. He was the author of "Handbook of Massachusetts Evidence," the definitive volume on the topic.

Yesterday, state Attorney General Thomas F. Reilly described Justice **Liacos** as a "lawyer's judge" who "brought practical experience to his decision-making on the bench" and understood the "real-life implications of the cases before him."

Justice **Liacos**, who was sometimes referred to as "King Paul" in the hallways of the courthouse by some who saw him as abrasive and arrogant, said he was proud to have forced the court out of its "ivory tower" by holding oral arguments in courthouses around the state and by asking justices to sit on commissions studying racial bias, substance abuse, and other social issues.

"I think I've turned the system around," he said. Last year, Justice **Liacos** was named to the state Ethics Commission, which provides legal advice and information to public officials and public employees and administers the financial disclosure process for state and county officials.

Yesterday, the current chief justice of the SJC, Herbert P.

Wilkins, said, "Paul Liacos was a dedicated scholar, a tireless defender of constitutional rights, and a committed advocate for the improvement of the administration of justice."

He leaves his wife, Maureen (McKean); three sons, James, Mark, and Gregory; a daughter, Diana; a sister, Katherine Liacos Izzo, a former Superior Court justice; and five grandchildren.

Funeral arrangements are private. A memorial service is being planned. LONG ;05/07 CAWLEY;05/10,09:36 LIACOS08

Caption PHOTO

1. PAUL J. LIACOS

2. JUDGE PAUL J. LIACOS DIES -- The former chief justice of the Massachusetts Supreme Judicial Court, whose opinions helped the state retain its reputation for liberalism, died Thursday at Massachusetts General Hospital. He was 69.
PHOTO RAN PG. A1. / GLOBE FILE PHOTO

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AN 10128066

Title PAUL J. LIACOS, FORMER CHIEF JUSTICE OF
SUPREME JUDICIAL COURT; AT 69

Newspaper name Boston Globe

JC (BG)

Date - SATURDAY, May 8, 1999

Author Tom Long, Globe Staff

Edition Third

Section heading Obituary

Page number B7

word Count 667

Lead paragraph Paul J. Liacos, a former chief justice of the Massachusetts Supreme Judicial Court whose opinions on abortion, the death penalty, and jury selection helped the state retain its reputation as a bastion of liberalism, died Thursday in Massachusetts General Hospital. He was 69. Justice Liacos was appointed chief justice by Governor Michael S..

Dukakis in 1989 and held the post for seven years. He had been an associate justice of the SJC for 13 years.

TX_TX During his tenure, the court ruled that the state constitution prohibits the death penalty, it provided greater protection for a women's right to an abortion, and it gave defendants greater protection against search and seizure.

Justice Liacos wrote about 800 opinions during his 20 years on the bench. In a Globe story on July 21, 1996, he said he was proudest of the opinion that prohibited the exclusion of a

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Full Record,

It was a **Liacos** decision, for instance, that gave gay activists the right to march in South Boston's St. Patrick's Day parade in an opinion unanimously overturned by the US Supreme Court.

But it was also the **Liacos** court that pointed to narrow differences between the state and federal constitutions that had broad policy implications -- temporarily barring all death penalty statutes here. Most significant was the decision requiring the state to take responsibility for equalizing educational opportunity among rich and poor communities. This led directly to state education reform here -- and also in New Hampshire, whose constitution is based on ours.

One **Liacos** quality beyond question was his commitment to public service. Last year, only two years into retirement, he accepted appointment to the State Ethics Commission, where his expertise will be hard to replace.

TURNER;05/07 CAWLEY;05/10,12:10 ELIACOS08

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City of Cambridge

57.

IN CITY COUNCIL

May 10, 1999

COUNCILLOR TRIANTAFILLOU
COUNCILLOR SULLIVAN
VICE MAYOR GALLUCCIO
COUNCILLOR BORN
COUNCILLOR DAVIS
MAYOR DUEHAY
COUNCILLOR REEVES
COUNCILLOR RUSSELL
COUNCILLOR TOOMEY

ORDERED: That The City Clerk be and hereby is requested to prepare a resolution on the death of Paul J. Liacos, former Chief Justice of the Massachusetts supreme Judicial Court.

In City Council May 10, 1999.

Adopted by the affirmative vote of seven members.

Attest:- D. Margaret Drury, City Clerk.

A true copy;

ATTEST:-

D. Margaret Drury
City Clerk

600 R

Consent Order #57

Councillors Triantafillou, Sullivan,
Vice Mayor Galluccio and entire
membership re: prepare a resolution
on the death of Paul J. Liacos, former
Chief Justice of the Massachusetts
Supreme Judicial Court.

In City Council May 10, 1999

ORDER ADOPTED