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GOVERNOR PATRICK ANNOUNCES NOMINATION OF HIGHLY RESPECTED JURIST AS ASSOCIATE JUSTICE OF THE MASSACHUSETTS SUPREME JUDICIAL COURT

BOSTON - Tuesday, December 21, 2010 - Governor Deval L. Patrick today announced the nomination of Appeals Court Justice Fernande R.V. ("Nan") Duffly to serve as an Associate Justice of the Massachusetts Supreme Judicial Court. Justice Duffly, a highly respected Associate Justice of the Appeals Court and former Probate and Family Court judge, is slated to fill the vacancy created by the appointment of Roderick L. Ireland as Chief Justice of the Supreme Judicial Court.

"I am honored to nominate Judge Duffly to our highest court," said Governor Patrick. "She brings a wealth of legal and life experience, and an extraordinary dedication to the Commonwealth's judicial system and the people it serves."

Justice Duffly has served the Commonwealth as a member of the judiciary for eighteen years, beginning with her 1992 appointment to the Probate and Family Court. She joined the Appeals Court as an Associate Justice in 2000. From 1978 to 1992, Justice Duffly was a litigation attorney at the Boston firm of Warner & Stackpole (now K & L Gates LLP). She has an extensive track record of public interest work, with a strong commitment to *pro bono* matters during her years in private practice and many activities as a judge aimed at increasing diversity on the bench and improving access to justice for vulnerable populations.

Justice Duffly currently serves as a Commissioner on the American Bar Association's Commission on Women in the Profession and is a member and past president of the National Association of Women Judges. She has served on the Boston Bar Association's committees on *pro se* litigation and attorney volunteerism; the Probate and Family Court's committee on *pro se* access to the courts; the American Bar Association's subcommittee on representation of children; and the Supreme Judicial Court's Standing Committee on substance abuse. Justice Duffly has written articles and taught seminars on a wide range of topics, including appellate decision-making, family law, trusts, parental rights, and ethnic and racial bias. She received the 2009 Boston Bar Association Citation of Judicial Excellence. Other honors include: 2008 induction into Massachusetts Lawyers Weekly/Women's Bar Association Women of Justice; 2007 Trailblazer Award from the National Asian Pacific American Bar Association; 2004 Distinguished Jurist Award from the Massachusetts Association of Women Lawyers; and 2000 Distinguished Service Award from the Probate Judges Association.

Justice Duffly is a graduate of the University of Connecticut (B.A., Highest Honors, 1973) and Harvard Law School (J.D., 1978). She was born in Indonesia and immigrated to the United States with her family at the age of six. She is a resident of Cambridge. She is Governor Patrick's fourth nomination to the state's highest court, following his 2007 nomination of Justice Margot G. Botsford, his 2008 nomination of Justice Ralph D. Gants and his recent nomination of Chief Justice Roderick L. Ireland.

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