



UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
DISTRICT OF MASSACHUSETTS
OFFICE OF THE CLERK
1 COURTHOUSE WAY
BOSTON, MASSACHUSETTS 02210

Robert M. Farrell
CLERK OF COURT

PRESS RELEASE

August 14, 2013

U.S. District Court Judge, Joseph L. Tauro today advised President Obama that on September 26, 2013, he intends to retire from regular active service as a United States District Judge. Tauro also advised the President that he intends to continue to render substantial judicial service as a senior judge. Having served as a judge in active service for over forty years, Judge Tauro this year became the judge serving the longest in active service on the court since the United States District Court for the District of Massachusetts was created by the First Congress in 1789.

Tauro has served as a Judge of the United States District Court since 1972. He was elevated to the position of Chief Judge in January 1992 and served in that capacity until January 1999. His public service prior to being appointed to the bench included that as United States Attorney for Massachusetts, Chief Legal Counsel to the Governor of Massachusetts, and two years in the Army as a Nike Guided Missile Officer.

A graduate of Brown University and of the Cornell Law School, Judge Tauro practiced law for a number of years with his own firm, and is admitted to the Bar Associations of Massachusetts and the District of Columbia. He was a Visiting Professor of Law at the Boston University School of Law, and is a member of the Brown University Corporation. For many years, Judge Tauro served as a trustee of The Children's Hospital Medical Center in Boston, as well as of the Massachusetts General Hospital. He has been a member of the Judicial Conference of the United States, and has served on the Judicial Conference Committees on Codes of Conduct, as well as The Jury System.

Judge Tauro has received Honorary Degrees from Brown University, Boston University, Northeastern University, Suffolk University, The University of Massachusetts, and the New England School of Law. He has also received the Cornell Law School Distinguished Alumnus Award, the Brown University Brown Bear Award, the Massachusetts Bar Association Hennessey Leadership Award, and the Boston Bar Association Citation of Judicial Excellence.

Judge Tauro's family includes his wife June Tauro, daughter Beth Saunders, sons Joe Tauro, Jr., Chris Tauro, Daughter-in-law Claudia Tauro, grandchildren Amanda Saunders, Jessica Saunders, Elizabeth Tauro, Bridgette Tauro, Emily Tauro and Agustin Groppa-Venzal.



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Chief Judge Statement

August 14, 2013

Earlier today, United States District Judge Joseph L. Tauro notified President Obama of his decision to retire from active service on September 26, 2013. Judge Tauro will take senior status and remain with the court. In response, Chief Judge Patti B. Saris states:

“Judge Tauro has a lasting legacy as one of the great judges in Massachusetts. He has ruled in favor of protecting the rights of the mentally disabled and of gays and lesbians. With his common sense, he led this court as a wise chief. But, just because he is no longer an "active" judge does not mean he is leaving the bench. We are all pleased that Joe Tauro will continue to preside over cases as a senior judge.”