



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

ROBERT M. FARRELL
CLERK OF COURT

PRESS RELEASE
November 30, 2018

The Judges of the United States District Court for the District of Massachusetts announce with deep sorrow the passing of former Chief U.S. District Judge Joseph L. Tauro. Judge Tauro passed away peacefully in his home in Marblehead at the age of 87.

Chief Judge Saris stated: "Judge Tauro was an energetic, vibrant trial judge with a passion for justice. He spent fourteen years presiding over litigation involving the state schools for mentally disabled children and left a lasting legacy by improving their quality of life and treatment. He was Chief of our Court for seven years. At the time of his retirement from active service, he had served on the trial court for over forty years, the longest time in active service of any judge in this District. We will miss him."

Judge Tauro became a Judge of the United States District Court in 1972. He was elevated to the position of Chief Judge in January 1992 and served in that capacity until January 1999. He assumed senior status on September 26, 2013. Prior to being appointed to the bench, he served as United States Attorney for Massachusetts, Chief Legal Counsel to the Governor of Massachusetts, and in the Army as Nike Guided Missile Officer.

A graduate of Brown University and Cornell Law School, Judge Tauro practiced law for a number of years with his own firm, and was admitted to practice in Massachusetts and the District of Columbia. He was a Visiting Professor of Law at Boston University School of Law, and a trustee of Brown University. For many years, Judge Tauro served as a trustee of Boston Children's Hospital, as well as of the Massachusetts General Hospital. He was a member of the Judicial Conference of the United States, and served on the Judicial Conference Committees on Codes of Conduct, and 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 is survived by his wife, three children, and many grandchildren.

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