

# Margaret Hilary Marshall

## Senior Counsel

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Margaret H. Marshall rejoined Choate, Hall & Stewart in January 2012. As Senior Counsel, Marshall focuses on the Firm's extensive community outreach, pro bono and diversity programs, mentors lawyers and provides senior level counsel to clients on special projects. She is a member of the Firm's Complex Trial and Appellate Litigation practice group.

### EDUCATION

Yale Law School  
JD, 1976

Harvard University  
Ed M, 1969

Witwatersrand University  
BA, 1966

Before rejoining the Firm she served for eleven years as Chief Justice of the Supreme Judicial Court of Massachusetts. She was the first woman to hold that position in the Court's more than three hundred year history. Governor William F. Weld first appointed her as an Associate Justice of the Court in 1996. A graduate of Witwatersrand University (Johannesburg, South Africa), Harvard University and Yale Law School, Marshall gained a national reputation for both her landmark decisions and her reforms of the Massachusetts court system. Chief Justice Marshall is presently a senior research fellow and lecturer at Harvard Law School.

During her fourteen years on the Supreme Judicial Court, Chief Justice Marshall wrote more numerous opinions, many of them groundbreaking, including the 2003 decision in *Goodridge v. Department of Public Health*, which declared that the Massachusetts Constitution prohibits the state from denying same-sex couples access to civil marriage. The ruling made Massachusetts the first state to legalize gay marriage. She is recognized as a champion for an independent judiciary and as a leader in the promotion of administrative reforms within the judicial branch. Her reforms greatly improved the delivery of justice, with significant decreases in case backlogs and in the length of time between the filing and resolution of cases, as well as in cost-savings throughout the system. A long-time advocate of access to justice for all, she implemented innovative procedures for self-represented litigants and strengthened pro bono services by the bar.

Prior to her service on the Supreme Judicial Court, Marshall was in private practice for sixteen years, and was a partner at Choate, before joining Harvard University as Vice President and General Counsel in 1992. She has received numerous awards recognizing her judicial and other accomplishments, including the ABA Commission on Women in the Profession's Margaret Brent Women Lawyers of Achievement Award, the ABA's Pursuit of Justice Award, the Massachusetts Bar Association's Chief Justice Edward F. Hennessey Award for outstanding leadership in the administration of justice, and the Boston Bar Association Award for Judicial Excellence. She was the first recipient of Harvard University's Professional Women's Achievement Award. Marshall served as president of the Boston Bar Association from 1991-1992 and as President of the United States Conference of Chief Justices from 2008-2009. She is a member of the council of the American Law Institute, and a fellow of the American Academy of Arts and Sciences. A recipient of many honorary degrees, she served as a Fellow of the Corporation of Yale University, the governing board and policy making body for the University, from 2004 to 2010. She was appointed to serve a second term in 2012 and was appointed Senior Fellow in 2013, the first woman to hold that position.

## PUBLICATIONS AND PRESENTATIONS

- “A Solution To The Long War Over Boston’s Long Wharf,” *Law360*, October 27, 2016.