

**PUBLIC INFORMATION OFFICE
SUPREME JUDICIAL COURT
John Adams Courthouse
One Pemberton Square
Boston, Massachusetts 02108**

PRESS RELEASE

**CONTACT: Joan Kenney/Charlotte Whiting
617/557-1114**

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
February 4, 2008**

**Honorable Martha P. Grace Reappointed Chief Justice of the Juvenile Court
by Chief Justice for Administration and Management Robert A. Mulligan**

Chief Justice for Administration and Management Robert A. Mulligan today announced the reappointment of Chief Justice Martha P. Grace to the Juvenile Court for a five-year term, in accordance with G.L. c211B, §5. Chief Justice Grace first was named Chief Justice in 1998 and has served the Juvenile Court since 1990.

Chief Justice Mulligan said, "I am very pleased to announce the reappointment of Chief Justice Martha Grace. Under her leadership the Juvenile Court effectively introduced significant management reforms which have enhanced the delivery of justice. She brings tremendous energy and insight to the sensitive issues faced by the Juvenile Court. She is a tireless advocate focused on the children impacted by the court's practices and decisions."

Chief Justice Mulligan said that Chief Justice Grace received extraordinary support from the judges in the Juvenile Court. She has received numerous honors from child welfare agencies and community organizations for her work on behalf of children, including the Distinguished Service Award from the Massachusetts Department of Mental Health.

Chief Justice Grace said, “It has been an honor and privilege to serve in this capacity and I thank Chief Justice Mulligan for his confidence in me. I plan to build on the gains made in case management, the use of court metrics and uniform practices.

“The past ten years have been a time of movement from full establishment of the Juvenile Court’s infrastructure to a unified and cohesive department,” she added. “I am proud of the work of the Juvenile Court and of our judges, clerks, probation officers and employees at all levels, individually and collectively.”

The Juvenile Court Department is comprised of 11 Divisions with 41 authorized judicial positions across the Commonwealth. The Massachusetts Trial Court includes seven court departments with 379 judges who deliver justice in 106 courthouses across the state. Comprehensive management reform is underway in the courts to increase efficiency, accountability and transparency in this large, complex organization that delivers access to justice to thousands of people daily.